

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2025**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Joshua Jones, Pro-Temp Kenneth Johnson, Council Members: Jill Nickerson (Absent), James Rakoski (Absent), Robert Bowens, Kallie Wickman, Mayor, Timothy Martin, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Thomas Yankowy and Joseph Stitz, Kristie Bowles – Tioga Publishing.

Mr. Yankowy wanted to know what the Borough was going to do about saving Ward Manufacturing. The Mayor said we are doing everything in our power. Local, state and federal representatives have been contacted and are in discussions. There are a few parties that seem very interested in purchasing the facility which is a positive outlook. Mr. Yankowy wanted to know why the Borough doesn't purchase it. We do not have the means or expertise to purchase and operate a manufacturing facility explained the Mayor.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report:

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of J. Jones, Second R. Bowens. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor wanted to thank Chief McCurdy for his quick and professional handling of the Ward announcements. The Chief had all of his officers on hand and the state police were also on site in the event the announcements did not end civilly. The Mayor is very proud of the handling of this potentially dangerous situation.

The Mayor also stated that he has had several discussions with the County Commissioners regarding the closure and has spoken with a former owner regarding who can/should be targeted about the purchase of the facility.

The Mayor was excused at this time.

Police:

Both of the new officers are driving police cars while on duty. They are acting as the primary contact with the 2nd office on duty their backup. They are doing well. Within the next month or so, with five (5) full-time officers, the Department will have 24 hour coverage Monday through Friday.

Police Committee:

No Meeting.

Borough Manager:

Spring Clean Up was discussed. There are two (2) dates available for clean up, April 29th and 30th or May 13th and 14th. After discussion it was determined that May 13th or 14th maybe the best dates pending NTSWA calendar.

During the most recent Rec Board meetings, discussions revolved around possible renovations to the football field and track by the School District to incorporate an all weather track and fencing.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

Nothing at this time.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

No Meeting. Prior to the Council Meeting UPMC met with a group to discuss the new AED machine that will be mounted on the outside wall of the new restrooms on Island Park. This machine will be in a locked case and also tourniquets and Narcan. The case is a digitally locked case. If the AED is needed, someone must call 911 to get the code to open the case. The AED machine itself costs around \$1,650.00 and was donated to the Borough through UPMC and Ward Manufacturing.

Penelec has set the new electric pole at the entrance to Island Park and we will be getting power to the electric building by February 13th or 14th.

Fire and Ambulance:

Nothing at this time.

Library:

A report was received from the Librarian. There were over 60 people who attended Community Night on February 11, 2025. Pizza and Valentine's day crafts and games were enjoyed. Yoga classes have resumed on Tuesdays through April 29, 2025. There will be a STEM afternoon for children five and up with the Bloomsburg Children's Museum on February 27th. Pre-school story hour will begin March 25th at 11 am through April 29th. The Library is once again participating in the Raise the Region on March 12th and 13th. Summer programs are being planned.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Nothing.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Insight Pipe is back televising the leaking laterals in the area that was recently lined along N. Williamson Road. They are looking for leak locations in the laterals that would need to be lined and/or replaced.

The generator at the Hillside well was started on February 11, 2025 and is operational.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Emailed Penelec again, still no schedule for the remaining sodium lights.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** The electric pole was set and George will begin contacting the property owners along McIntyre and Water Streets about putting sidewalks in.
- b. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

Concepcion – Maple Hill: This is currently in Litigation. A Motion for Injunction is scheduled for February 13, 2025.

FEMA/PEMA Grant Update: A group from Pema/Fema were here and inspected the footbridge. The current footbridge cannot be placed back into service. Livic has been contacted about options for a new footbridge, but putting it on the opposite side of the vehicle bridge. That side of the bridge does not have water lines to deal with. We are working on the damage area information to be provided to Fema/Pema.

NEW BUSINESS:

Closure of Ward Manufacturing. This was discussed previously in the meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

J. Jones discussed research he has been doing regarding fraud in local government. His research found that fraud occurrences in government are easy. There are a few things that can be done to prevent fraud in daily processes. He suggests that at least two (2) people receive copies of the monthly bank statements and review them to put a second pair of eyes on the statements. No comments from Council were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by K. Johnson, Second by K. Wickman to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary