

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2024

The Reorganizational Meeting of the Blossburg Borough Council was called to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd. New Members, Jill Nickerson and Joshua Jones were sworn in by Notary Public, Cheryl Bubacz.

Borough Manager accepted nominations for Council President, Jolene Hall was nominated by Kenneth Johnson and Second by Joshua Jones to appoint Jolene Hall President of the Borough Council for 2024 and 2025. All in Favor.

Council President presided over the remainder of the Meeting.

The following nominations and appointments were made:

Council Vice-President: Nominee Joshua Jones. Motion by Jill Nickerson and Second by Robert Bowens. All in Favor.

Council President Pro-Temp: Nominee Kenneth Johnson. Motion by Robert Bowens, Second by Joshua Jones. All in Favor.

Borough Solicitor: Nominee Patrick J. Barrett, III, Esq. Motion by Joshua Jones, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Borough Engineer: Nominee W. Scott Bray. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer: Nominee Cheryl Bubacz. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor.

Local Services Tax Collector: Nominee Keystone Collections. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Robert Bowens. All in Favor.

Borough Depository: FCCB (First Citizens Community Bank). Motion by Joshua Jones, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Vehicle, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Carrier: Nominee Gannon Insurance. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Joshua Jones. All in Favor.

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session was called by Solicitor Barrett to discuss legal matters. Executive Session ended at 6:25 p.m.

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

Guests: Ian Hicks-Lee, Uni Hicks-Lee, Tonya McNamara, Tom McNamara, Theresa Smith, Scott Smith, Kallie Wickman, Renee Carey – Northcentral PA Conservancy and Kristie Bowles from Tioga Publishing.

Renee reported that DEP and SRBC will be holding public Meetings in late January. There will be two (2) times for the meetings, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The landowners who will be affected by the project will each receive a personal invitation to the meeting. A general notice of the meeting, once times and dates are confirmed, will be posted by the Borough for anyone who wishes to attend. This meeting will review the project followed by individual question and answer sessions.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of Jill Nickerson, Second Kenneth Johnson. All in favor.

Mayor:

Absent.

Police:

Both the Chief and Officer Isaacson have completed their 2024 certifications.

Both of the current police vehicles are 4 years old and each has over 60,000 miles on them. Chief believes the vehicles will last for at least 6 years, but wants to let everyone know the current status of each vehicle and the need in the future for new vehicles. The current vehicles cost a total of approximately \$120,000 to purchase.

Police Committee:

Nothing at this time.

Borough Manager:

Nothing at this time.

Junior Council Person:

Absent.

VIBE:

No Meeting in December.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

No Meeting.

Fire and Ambulance:

Nothing.

Library:

Nothing at this time.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Nothing at this time.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The sewer plant construction is moving along quite well. The Borough crew has been painting the inside of the buildings and are almost done.

Taylor Run has a tentative start-up date of January 22, 2024, which would be followed by DEP inspection and approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting for Penelec to review the updated list from the Borough of lights not converted.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Waiting for Spring.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Waiting for Spring.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Waiting for spring.

Sidewalk Ordinance: The Borough Secretary has provided the draft to the Solicitor for review.

Garbage Rate Increase Resolution: The Resolution for the garbage rate increase was reviewed. The increase is equal to the increase the Borough received from NTSWA. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Joshua Jones to adopt the new Resolution for garbage rates effective January 3, 2024. All in Favor.

Blue Ridge Franchise Agreement: Under review by Solicitor at this time.

Vacant Council Seat Replacement: There were seven (7) letters received from Borough residents interested in serving the remaining 2-year term left vacant by Timothy Martin being appointed Mayor.

Nominations were opened. Jill Nickerson nominated Tonya McNamara; Robert Bowens nominated Theresa Smith and Jolene Hall nominated Kallie Wickman. A roll call vote was taken. Tonya McNamara received one vote (Jill Nickerson). Theresa Smith received two votes (Robert Bowens and Kenneth Johnson). Kallie Wickman received two votes (Joshua Jones and Jolene Hall). A second roll call vote was held between Theresa Smith and Kallie Wickman. Theresa Smith received two votes (Robert Bowens and Kenneth Johnson) and Kallie Wickman received three votes (Jill Nickerson, Jolene Hall and Joshua Jones. By majority vote, Kallie Wickman was appointed to fill the 2-year term of Timothy Martin.

President Jolene Hall swore in Kallie Wickman as Council Member.

NEW BUSINESS:

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 6:42 p.m. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary