

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2021

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (Absent), Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jerome Ogden, Henry Bartlett, Tim Martin (Absent), James Rakoski (Absent), Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (Absent), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Sara Kelly.

Guests: Natalie Kennedy (*Wellsboro Gazette*).

Natalie Kennedy - Nothing

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

Mr. Bartlett asked a question about a disbursement for the TNR Project. Borough Secretary acknowledged that receipts representing the disbursement total were received. Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor swore in Sara Kelly, a Senior at North Penn Mansfield as the new School Representative for the Council. Everyone welcomed Sara to the Board.

The Mayor asked the Chief of Police to please have the Officers on the nightshift to make a list of the street lights that need to be replaced. The Chief said that one of the Officers had started doing this and he will have them finish it.

As a follow up to the properties discussed during the October 13, 2021 meeting, the Mayor and the Chief each spoke to the property owners in question regarding the issues.

Some of the individuals who had graffitied around town were caught and were made to scrub and remove the graffiti. The individuals who were caught said that having to clean up the mess makes them think twice before doing it again.

Police:

Chief McCurdy reported that Hamilton Township had executed their new Contract effective January 1, 2022. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tonya McNamara that the Borough execute the new Contract as well. All in Favor.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

Hydro Recovery was sold to Highland Field Services. Nothing will change as far as the Borough and Municipal Authority are concerned.

Repsol update: they are currently drilling at the Johnson Pad and will be drilling at the Signor Pad in December. Access to both pads is by using William B. Street.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing to report at this time.

VIBE:

The Island Park 150 will be Saturday, November 13th. Small town Christmas will be Saturday, November 27th. Santa Claus has said that he may be coming to town that day. Keeping it low key due to COVID.

VIBE would like to host something for New Year's Eve in the Plaza or parking lot. Lights, music, gas heaters to draw people to town. All weather permitting.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing

Recreation:

The Skate Park addition is completed for this year. There is a crack forming on the basketball court that will need to be addressed in the spring.

Riverwalk: The Williamson Road Foundation made a donation of \$6,053.00 for the upkeep of the Riverwalk. It is greatly appreciated.

Skate Park Addition: Phase One is complete.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received for both the Fire Department and the Ambulance Association. The Gun Show on November 6th and 7th had a great turnout.

Library:

The Library Board hired a part-time person, Laura Mullens. The annual basket raffle is in full swing.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Borough Manager asked that a meeting is scheduled to discuss the ARPA monies. It was decided that the meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Authority will be opening timber bids on November 19th for controlled timbering in part of the Taylor Run property. The Forester has prepared the bid package for terms and conditions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shared Services Agreement (June 2020):

Borough Manager reviewed the draft provided by Attorney Barrett. He would like the Agreement to be for Emergencies only, not day to day activities.

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting on Penelec to hire a project manager.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): Will discuss during Budget Meeting on November 16, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): Attorney Barrett reviewing.

Old Hospital: The owners are moving forward.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). Attorney Barrett is reviewing the revisions suggested to the Ordinance.

2022 Budget Ordinance/Resolution

Budget was duly advertised and is available for adoption. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Tonya McNamara to accept the Budget as presented and advertised. All in Favor.

2022 Tax Ordinance/Resolution

The millage for the 2022 real estate taxes in the Borough shall remain the same as 2021, Borough 6.807 mills; Fire Department 0.568 mills and Library 0.50, for a total of 7.875 mills. Motion to advertise the Tax Resolution made by Tonya McNamara, Second Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

2022 Tioga TCC Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

Once the elections are over and the Council members are seated, this can be completed.

Resolution for Garbage Fee Increase

The proposed resolution for the garbage fee increase was reviewed. Rate increase is 5% and for residential customers the base rate will increase from \$37.44 to \$39.00. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tonya McNamara to advertise the Resolution. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

General Discussion:

Mr. Ogden stated that he had been contacted by various people regarding the Arbon Cemetery and its present condition. He said he would like to see the road graded and the ditches cleared. He asked what could be done about resetting stones that have fallen? Borough Manager said that the perpetual care fund for the Cemetery is for lawn maintenance, not for resetting stones. However, Borough employees have been repairing roads and cleaning ditch lines as time allows. Mayor Nickerson said that during the late spring and early summer there were several work bees held at the Cemetery and probably 70 to 100 stones were at least setup. There was a lot of work done during those work bees. Mr. Ogden suggested that a donation request be sent to the Williamson Road Foundation.

Additionally, he said that we previously discussed a mini park on property on Main Street owned by the Borough. What is the status of that? Originally there was a discussion about a water feature but with the electric lines we had decided that wasn't a good idea. We will discuss this further at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:24 p.m. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary