

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

The September 14, 2022 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 Timothy Martin, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson (Absent), James Rakoski (Absent), Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson, Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Sara Kelly (Absent).

Guests: Reneé Carey from the Northcentral PA Conservancy (NPC), Roger and Michelle Somerville, Paul Hosszu and Natalie Kennedy from Tioga Publishing.

Reneé Carey discussed the meeting held September 13, 2022 which reviewed the infrastructure and the mine drainage system. Tom Clark from SRBC and Sami Pretzel from Kleinfelter Engineering both spoke at the presentation and answered questions from the public. The meeting was very well attended. Based on the current investigative work, the project seems to be on schedule for a completion date in 2025.

Erica Tomlinson with the Tioga County Conservation District is looking for places along the Tioga River which are unstable for possible construction/repair in 2023 and 2024. There will also need to be public access to the River once the drainage system is in place for fishermen.

PA Wilds and DCNR will be starting to plan for developing the land east of Blossburg for hiking, biking and atv trails, etc., once the AMD Treatment Plant is online. They will probably want to meet with members of the Council in October of this year to start discussions regarding trail work in the short-term. Reneé thanked everyone for their time and excused herself from the rest of the meeting 6:42 pm.

Mr. and Mrs. Somerville came to answer any questions regarding the proposed subdivision involving their property.

Mr. Hosszu came to express his concern about the lack of available police officers in the area. Mayor Nickerson explained that we will be addressing some of his concerns in the next few meetings and thanked Mr. Hosszu for his concern.

Natalie Kennedy had no comment

Solicitor called an executive session to discuss legal matters at 6:44 pm and no action was taken.

The Meeting was restarted at 6:55 pm.

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

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

Mayor:

The Mayor thanked the Borough for the clean-up along the bridge and the sidewalks.

Police:

Nothing

Police Committee:

A Police Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Borough Manager:

We have marked road repair areas with cones and will be paved on Friday, September 19, 2022, if the weather holds. Borough Manager said he talked with Hawbaker, who will be repairing Granger Street where the gas lines were replaced. Hawbaker is marking spots for paving and the Manager has also had our crew marking additional places affected by the gas line work for repair. Councilman Bartlett said there were a few places on Lynd and Granger that need to be marked as well. The Manager said he will look into that and mark those as well.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

VIBE preparing for Fall Festival to be held October 9, 2022.

Planning Commission Report:

The Planning Commission met on September 12, 2022 and recommended that the Council approve the subdivision of property owned by Dreese which would result in a lot addition to Roger and Michelle Somerville property. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Timothy Martin to approve the proposed subdivision and authorize the President and Secretary to sign the subdivision maps. All in Favor.

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Recreation:

The sewer issue at the bathhouse has been repaired. The Borough Manager reported that the Bloss Area Swim Association is working on drawings to replace the existing bathhouse following the 2023 swimming season. The existing bathhouse was constructed in the 1950s and has served the community well.

There have been requests for the installation of pickleball courts. The Rec Board is determining if an existing tennis court can be modified for this purpose.

The Varsity Football team has asked if they can use the Borough Garage during halftime of their home games. The trucks are moved out prior to the game starting and then moved back in after halftime. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara to allow the varsity football team to use the garage during half time. All in Favor.

There was also a discussion at the last meeting about raising the current rates for the pavilion rentals and the KCC Building rentals. The large pavilion will be raised from \$80.00 to \$100.00

per day, the small pavilion will be raised from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per day and the KCC Building from \$125.00 to \$150.00 per day. Pool use with the rentals will be raised from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

Fire and Ambulance:

No Minutes were received. President Hall said if the fire department is looking to increase the millage assessed for fire protection for the 2023 real estate taxes, we need something in writing prior to accepting the budget.

The Mayor reported that the fire department had agreed to help with a Halloween parade and suggested that VIBE and the fire department work together on the parade.

Library:

The Library is doing well. The annual book sale will be held at the same time as the Fall Festival.

Street Committee:

Nothing

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

A second meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Borough Hall.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Taylor Run tank is up and is filled with water. Currently disinfecting and backfilling. There have been no leaks reported.

The Municipal Authority, at their meeting on September 6, 2022, appointed Frank Wasowicz to fill the remaining term of John Eckman, who retired from the board. Once the term expires, the Council can appoint him to the Municipal Authority. A short discussion was held regarding increasing the number of members on the Authority. The Borough Manager will discuss this with the Authority's solicitor.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Penelec is still working on making the LED replacements.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): The second payment was received and deposited into the ARPA bank account. This item can now be removed from Old Business. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett to remove this item from the Agenda. All in Favor.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): The Resolution authorizing the sale of the property and directing the President to execute the Deed was reviewed. The sale was previously authorized during the Jun 8, 2022 meeting. A clarification was made that the purchase offer was made by John Martin, individually, however, it was submitted on Bloss Beverage letterhead. All

members understood this clarification. Resolution was executed by the President, Mayor and Secretary.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). This will be discussed at the Police Committee and it was suggested that a sliding scale for repeat offenders of the Ordinance be added to the Ordinance. Solicitor is working on this amendment.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** We are waiting for Blue Ridge and Penelec to work through their processes.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Livic has received the authorization to proceed with design of the sidewalk.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** The Borough will be working with the Southern Tioga School District through their workforce program to design the new facility and will be working on the construction of the facility.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic working on options.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Halloween:** A discussion was held regarding time and date for Trick-or-Treat for 2022. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second Tonya McNamara to hold Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All in Favor.

DISCUSSION:

The Borough Manager asked that the following items be added to the October Agenda under new business:

1. 2023 Police Pension Resolution
2. 2023 Budget Review

Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Kenneth Johnson to add these items to new business. All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:33 p.m. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary