

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jolene Hall called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Blossburg Borough Building, 241 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice- President Jill Nickerson, Council Members Jerome Ogden, , Paul Hosszu, Tim Martin, Mayor Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett, (absent, Pro Temp Tonya McNamara, James Rakoski), Chief Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary Cheryl Bubacz. Guests included Corporal Bob Scott, Officer Ronald Warren, Henry Bartlett, Natalie Kennedy Wellsboro Gazette, Uni Hicks-Lee, Jackie Smith, Annette Thompson, Cindy Scott and Anna Houghtaling from Lawrenceville Borough.

A Moment of silence was observed in memory and honor of long-time Municipal Authority Member Ben Jones.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2018 and December 20, 2018 meetings were accepted as presented. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Bills:

Bills to be paid on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

Guests:

1. Henry Bartlett wondered if in the future the Borough would merger or incorporate Hamilton Township into the Borough similar to St. Marys, PA.
2. Cindy Smith and Anna Houghtaling, both members of the Lawrenceville Borough Council came as Spectators to see how the Borough ran their meetings.

Reports:

Junior Council Person:

Wondered when the North Penn-Mansfield High School Art Club could begin the wall painting downstairs in the Borough Office between the Police Office Doors for their art project. Chief McCurdy would find out when the project could start after speaking with the Art Club teacher, James States.

Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) No meeting was held in December. The Light-Up-The-Holidays was a success with Dave and April Thompson receiving 1st place and a \$150 prize, Wendy Erding received 2nd place, with a price of \$50. Very pleased with the number of participants, there were many homes to choose from.

Mayor:

1. A letter of resignation was received from Officer Jose M. Sanchez, Jr. A motion was made by Paul Hosszu to accept the Resignation and seconded by Jerome Ogden, All in favor.
2. Officer Warren's training certification for Pistol and Shotguns will expire in September. The cost of renewal for 3 years is \$440.00/year. By receiving this re-certification, Officer Warren will be able to train the rest of the Department as well as other Departments in the County. Previously the training was conducted by Keystone Forces at a cost of approximately \$1,300.00. A motion was made by Paul Hosszu and seconded by Jerome Ogden to authorize the re-certification of Officer Warren
3. A new police car was found and will cost approximately \$8,800.00, which was under the \$10,000 cap previously approved in the December 12, 2018 meeting with the funds for the purchase being paid from the Act 13 funds.
4. A special Thank You to Corporal Bob Scott for the year-end report he prepared. Very nicely done.

Police

1. Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

District Magistrate Fines Total: \$385.50.

2. Chief McCurdy presented contracts with Putnam Township and Hamilton Township on Patrolling for 2019. The Contracts were the same as 2018, with the minor change to each Contract regarding the possibility of Hamilton Township adding or subtracting hours for the months of June through August and Putnam Township adding additional hours for the months of May through September. Currently the Borough Officers Patrol each Township approximately 20 hours per month. Solicitor Patrick Barrett reviewed the additional language added to the Contract. A motion to accept both the Hamilton Township and Putnam Township Contracts made by Jerome Ogden and seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Police Committee:

No Meeting

Borough Manager:

1. Borough Manager report accepted on Motion from Jill Nickerson; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.
2. A special Thank You to Jill Nickerson and Cassidy Fessler for all of their help and hard work during the transition period when the Borough was without a full-time Secretary.
3. The new Secretary started on January 7th and the transition is going well.
4. The signatories on the various bank accounts (8 checking accounts, 4 savings accounts, 10 Certificates of Deposit and the Safe Deposit box) need to be

updated. A motion was made by Paul Hosszu and seconded by Jerome Ogden to amend the signatories on the various bank accounts. All in favor.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

No meeting in December.

A meeting with Kim Gridley will be held on January 17, 2019 at 10:00 am to discuss tree planting at Island Park in the Spring.

Playground: The playground is completed and need to submit the necessary paperwork to the state for funds.

Tennis Court: There are a few cracks on the courts that need to be repaired before Tennis Season.

Trees: Planting of trees by the playground area is on hold until new playground in completed.

Island Park River Walk: Jerome commented that the walk looks very good and there are a lot of people utilizing the walk daily.

Fire:

Minutes received. New President will be installed at the January Meeting. The new President is Kevin Lindquist. The Fire Department continues to plan for the 150th celebration slated for July 13, 2019. The renovations to the Fire Hall are proceeding well.

Library:

No Meeting

Street Committee:

No Meeting

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing to Report

Budget:

The 2019 Tax Ordinance for a total of 7.875 Mills, with 6.807 going to the Borough, 0.568 mills to the Fire Department and 0.5 mills to the Library was accepted on a motion by Jerome Ogden, seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in Favor.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

A comment was made about the letter being sent to customers regarding the Sewer increase that will take place on March 11, 2019. This increase was from \$60.30/quarter base rate to \$85. Which an approximate increase of 41-45%. With, the new sewer plant mandated by DEP, the rates will increase another 50% in 2020.

The Municipal Authority has purchased credits of \$15,000/year until the new plant is completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Borough Website: Nothing to report.

**QuickBooks and
Diversified
Technology Utility
Billing Programs:**

QuickBooks is up and running. Diversified was installed on January 10, 2019 and training will commence shortly thereafter.

Consent Agenda: Discussed to email out packet information prior to meetings.

Baptist Church Light: The Street Committee reviewed the lighting at the back of the Baptist Church. The street light on the pole at the end of the street does work and casts light. Suggestion was made that the Church look into a bigger light outside going into their community room

NEW BUSINESS:

**Building Permit
Agreement with
Covington Township:**

On January 5, 2019 a meeting was held with Covington Township regarding if the Blossburg Permit Officer would be able to handle the Covington Township Permits as well. The Permit Office said that he would be able to handle both the Borough and Covington Township. The Borough Manager prepared an Agreement similar to the one we currently have with Hamilton Township. The Agreement was reviewed by the Borough Solicitor and Approved. A motion was made by Jerome Ogden and seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in Favor.

**Advertise Council
Meeting Dates for
2019:**

Council Meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm in the Borough Council Room at 241 Main Street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The TCAB Meeting for January held at Cast N Crew in Mansfield.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm by motion of Jill Nickerson and seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary