

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 13, 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, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Tim Martin, (absent James Rakoski) Mayor Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett, Chief Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary Cheryl Bubacz. Guests included Corporal Bob Scott, Officer Ronald Warren, Henry Bartlett, Uni Hicks-Lee, Tiffany Cummings, Wendy Shattuck, Josh Jones, Dennis Gee and Natalie Kennedy.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting were accepted as presented. Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Report accepted subject to audit by motion of Tim Martin; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Bills:

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

Guests:

Tiffany Cummings – Tiffany is a former resident of Blossburg and is currently a candidate for the office of District Magistrate in Mansfield. She introduced herself and gave a brief account of her history and why she wants to be the District Magistrate.

Henry Bartlett – Mr. Bartlett came to discuss parking issues on Ruah Street between Hannibal and Lynd Streets during functions at the Elementary School. He had contacted the Tioga County Communications Center in December 2018 regarding parking in the area during a wrestling tournament. His concern is that people are not only parking in a no parking area, but are also parking such that emergency vehicles would not be able to access several of the houses in that block should an emergency arise. He also brought up that tonight, March 13, there were cars again parked on the street, some parking the wrong way, for another function at the Elementary School. He said that there are no parking signs in the area that he has concerns about, but didn't see any action with writing of tickets. Chief McCurdy stated that they had given warnings to a group of the cars in the past. Mr. Bartlett thought there should be tickets issued. Mayor Nickerson said that he understood the complaint, however, any event that brings people into town is great. Additionally, the warnings were issued at his direction. First time offenders were to receive a warning with tickets to follow. An alternative solution is to take the car license numbers for cars parked in the no parking areas or parked the wrong way and go to the event, announce the license number and ask for the car to be removed. The no parking signs were installed between 15 and 20 years ago for parking during athletic events at the high school. With the high school being gone, Mayor Nickerson and George Lloyd will look at the area and determine if the signs can be removed. Guest Wendy Shattuck then stated that her car was the car parked facing the wrong direction tonight and that she did receive a ticket for \$5.00.

Mr. Bartlett next addressed an issue that dates back to an August 8, 2018 letter that was read during a council meeting regarding un-kept properties. He stated that the property that was the subject of the August 8th letter was still unsightly and now has an unregistered car on the property. He went on to say that on Morris Street there is another unregistered car with the last registration being from 2013. Chief McCurdy said that he will check this area and give warnings if required. Wendy Shattuck also said that there were cars across from her house parked facing the wrong direction. Additionally, there is an un-kept property as well as an unregistered car. Borough Manager said that he will check the Borough Code regarding junk and trash on porches and would proceed accordingly. The Mayor stated that he would go around town and talk to the various property owners to see if they will clean up the properties without having a Code violation. He further states that parking facing traffic in high traffic areas is definitely an issue, however, if it is in a low traffic area and in front or near someone's residence, he didn't have as much of an issue.

Reports:

Junior Council Person:

Nothing to report. Chief McCurdy asked if the teacher in charge of the Art Project had the Chief's number and Eion stated that he did.

Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) confirmation that the Community Yard Sale will be held April 27, 2019;

Next meeting will be March 27th at 6:30 at the Library.

Mayor: The Mayor commented about the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Blossburg. The "Sesquicentennial" celebration should mirror the Bicentennial celebration in August 1971. He would like to get a committee to start planning. He would like to see a week-long celebration in August 2021.

At an upcoming chicken BBQ, the Mayor would like to "pardon a chicken". He will provide the chicken to be pardoned and would like the paper to be present.

The Mayor said that he will start going around town next week to look at unsightly properties and will talk to the landowners as required.

Police

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

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

2. Chief McCurdy stated that Officer Ron Warren should be recognized for the training he setup and lead, being the "Officer Rescue Class". This training was to train fellow officers how to attend to, and actions to be taken, when a fellow officer was down and the perpetrator was not in custody and EMS was not able to respond. There were eight (8) different departments that participated in the 2 day training. The Department received positive responses from the participants.

3. The Officers will be attending other training over the next several months. Monday through Thursday, March 18 – March 21, the Chief as well as Corporal Scott would be receiving training on an intoxilyzer machine. Chief is looking for more training for himself and the Officers. He looks for the ones that are given at no charge, however, there may be some down the road that he will need to work into the budget.

Police Committee:

No Meeting. The Solicitor will set a meeting date for the Committee to meet to review ongoing business.

Borough Manager:

1. Borough Manager report accepted on Motion from Paul Hosszu; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.
2. Spring Clean-up has been scheduled for April 30th and May 1st. Trash and cleanup items to be kept separate and only picked up on their regular garbage day.
3. The Union has approached the Borough about possibly using the lobby of the old Borough Hall as their headquarters should there be a strike. The Contract vote is set for March 31th. The headquarters would be a place for the union members to check in, get information, etc. The cost would be any increase in the utilities used. After discussion, it was agreed that the Union could use the old Borough Hall, pending the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Borough and the Union. Attorney Barrett will work on an Agreement.
4. In the December 12, 2018 Council Minutes, Mary Signor was listed as “Absent”. At that time she had resigned. Therefore the Minutes shall be amended to delete Mary Signor – Absent by Motion of Tim Martin, second by Paul Hosszu.

**Planning Commission
Report:**

No Meeting

**Zoning Hearing
Board:**

No Meeting

Recreation:

The Board is getting ready for the United Fund mailing.

The Rec Board discussed allowing a summer concert be held on Island Park in late July. Dennis Gee, the concert promotor spoke about the concert held in 2018 at the Tyoga County Club in Wellsboro. The concert was widely attended, being approximately 500 people. There were no incidents with the crowd during or following the concert. He would like to hold the concert on Island Park this year. The stage would be approximately 32’ x 40’, the width and length of 2 flat beds together. At this time, Dennis will work with the Rec Board regarding the logistics of the concert, including location of the stage, security, fire department/ambulance association and partnering with another entity to obtain a special event liquor license. Once the logistics were worked out, the Rec Board would come back to Council with the details to be put before Council for a vote. At this time a

Motion was made by Jill Nickerson and seconded by Paul Hosszu to host the concert pending further meetings and approved logistics. All in favor. Jerome Ogden added that an agreement would need to be made concerning insurance coverage and liability to protect the Borough. The Solicitor agreed to prepare an agreement once the details have been worked out.

The Summer Pool positions have been advertised in the Penny Saver. Advertisement was for a Pool Manager, Swimming Instructor, Lifeguards and Concession Stand Operator. Applications to be obtained from Borough

The Island Park 150 is planned for November 9, 2019 pending approval by Council. Motion made by Jerome Ogden and seconded by Paul Hosszu to allow the Island Park 150 to be held on November 9, 2019.

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

Tennis Court: The high school tennis coach, Ted Stamin, contacted Jill regarding fixing the fencing around the tennis courts and adding benches for spectators. The tennis team has approximately \$5,000.00 to be used. Motion made by Tim Martin and seconded by Paul Hosszu to allow the Tennis Team to make the necessary repairs and add benches with the monies that they have raised.

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 continues to be used. Once we are into spring, there may need to be some gravel put in in some locations.

The signage for the horseshoe pits, corn-hole game and bocce ball have been ordered.

Fire: Minutes received.

The Fire Hall will host a Fish Fry on March 22nd and again on April 5th at the Fire Hall. Take outs available.

Library: The Library Board has been meeting often. The Community conversation with the Teens and Tweens continues and the Teens and Tweens have been coming up with Initiatives to be completed.

Street Committee: The Borough Manager and Chief of Police will look at the parking signs on Ruah Street between Hannibal and Lynd Street. They will check the ordinances for the signs to determine if a modification needs to be prepared.
Nothing to Report

**Shade Tree
Commission:**

Budget: A Budget meeting was held on February 20, 2019 to review the reports available from QuickBooks.

During the meeting, a discussion was held concerning changing payroll from weekly to bi-weekly. As there is no cost savings, the employees would rather stay with weekly. Council Agreed to keep the weekly payroll.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Engineering work being done for a new water storage tank on Taylor Run Property adjacent to the old sand bank.

OLD BUSINESS:

Borough Website:

Borough has teamed with PSAB to create a new website. The new website will be Blossburgborough.org. A special thank you to Josh Jones for all of his help with the technology. The website should be up and running in 4 to 6 weeks. The Borough will be looking for photos, old and new, of the Borough for the website. Additionally, Jill has spoken with a local photographer to take pictures around the community, as well as the employees, council members, etc. The photographer will charge \$150.00 for all of the pictures that she will take. Motion made by Paul Hosszu, seconded by Tonya McNamara to authorize payment to photographer, all in favor.

The Communication Team has prepared a new logo for the Borough (see attached). The logo has the “green bridge” with Blossburg written underneath and Small Town, Big Heart under that. The logo was put to a vote by motion of Paul Hosszu and seconded by Tim Martin, all in favor.

The Communications Team has met and will be preparing a quarterly newsletter.

Other communication items will be discussed in future meetings.

A questionnaire is going out with the Sewer Bills on March 15th. This questionnaire is to obtain information on how the residents want to receive information and news from the Borough. As well as how they would like to receive future municipal bills and contact information for residents. In addition, the Water Company included information about volunteer water testing.

QuickBooks and Diversified Technology Utility Billing Programs:

Diversified doing 3rd parallel with sewer bills that are going out. Should go live in April with water billing. Need to send letter to Freedom terminating the contract.

Consent Agenda:

A form was passed around to Council Members to obtain their preferred contact information.

Baptist Church Light:

Completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit Agreement with Covington Township:

The revised Building Permits for Covington Township have been prepared, presented and accepted by Covington. The forms are much more user friendly.

Advertise Council Meeting Dates for 2019:

The Council, Municipal and Rec Board meetings were advertised in January. A discussion regarding setting a monthly work session date and time for committees to meet when a committee had issues to be discussed. The Solicitor suggested that we advertise the Work Sessions. It was determined that the monthly work sessions will be held the first Monday of each month, except for holidays, at 6:30 p.m. in the Borough Council Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The TCAB Meeting for March will be held at KCC Building on Island Park, in Blossburg on March 21, 2019, starting at 6:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Shane Nickerson.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm by motion of Tonya McNamara and seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary