

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of this date and the terrorist attacks on the US.

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

Guests: Henry Bartlett, Derek Lindquist, Uni Hicks-Lee, Natalie Kennedy from Tioga Publishing, Betty Woodard, Jackie Smith, Luke Tanner, Jamie McCurdy, Officer Ron Warren, Corporal Bob Scott and Josh Jones.

Minutes The Minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting were accepted as presented, by Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report Report accepted subject to audit by Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid by Motion of Tim Martin; Second Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Guests: Uni Hicks-Lee: His neighbor is letting their dog out without a leash or on a lead. It has come into his yard when people are leaving his pet salon business and the dog has gone after his clients. Solicitor Barrett suggested that Mr. Hicks-Lee file a police report following the meeting.

Jackie Smith: On behalf of the First Baptist Church of Blossburg, she invited the Council Members to the dedication of the newly constructed ramp to the Church on September 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Secondly, the amount of cigarette butts around the Veterans' Monument have increased tremendously. She wondered if "butt cans" could be placed in that area. It was suggested that the Police Department have a talk with the gentlemen that frequent the benches around the Monument regarding the same. Officer Warren suggested to make that area a no smoking area, however, that may be very difficult to enforce. Solicitor Barrett said to try putting up the butt cans first.

Luke Tanner: The number of stray cats around his residence has increased, what can be done. Council stated that they were budgeting money to help with the catch and release program for spaying and neutering. Additionally, Betty Woodard added that the cats are causing issues with outdoor furniture as well as landscaping. The Borough had sent a letter previously to the Doris Day Foundation, but to date had not received a response. The Borough will send another letter to the Foundation. Ms. Woodard said from previous experience it may take up to 6 months to obtain a

grant from the Foundation. Mr. Hicks-Lee is still willing to help with the catching of the cats, but will need additional traps. Right now, there seems to be four (4) cells of strays roaming.

Derek Lindquist: Reporting for the Fire Department, he wanted the Council to know that they have inducted eleven (11) new members into the Fire Department. The cost to outfit each member is approximately \$4,150.00. The Fire Department will be holding a fund drive to assist with the purchase of this equipment. The Fire Department will also be holding smoke training for members to specifically get the members acclimated to being in a smoke filled building/room.

Secondly, he wanted to thank the Borough for the recent order he received as the local contact for 911 Rapid Response for the purchase of the new Police Vehicle. He appreciated the ability to provide the Borough with a quote and obtain the order.

Josh Jones: Wondering if the Borough would look into accepting e-checks for online payments. The Borough is currently looking into that possibility and will get back to the public once an answer has been determined.

Secondly, he was concerned that the bills are being sent out early for the next month. If he looks online at his account, it appears that he has two (2) bills currently due, when in actuality one bill is due September 15th and the second October 15th.

Thirdly, he was wondering about switching to billing all three municipal utilities monthly and/or having the ability to make a monthly payment similar to a budget payment. The Borough Secretary said that monthly budget payments are always accepted and if someone wanted to have their payments annualized, she would be happy to help. Additionally, many customers pay a flat amount every week or two and the payments are applied to the bills outstanding or carry a credit balance.

REPORTS:

Junior Council Person:

The marching band is back! The Council said that they have heard the Band and it sounded great and they had heard good comments from the public.

Committee Business Development:

Tonya McNamara reported that VIBE is working on the Fall Festival which will be held Sunday, October 13th. Hope for good weather for the Festival. Also working on Small Town Christmas which will be November 30th.

Mayor:

The Library Outward Initiative group has found six (6) sponsors for a Soap Box Derby race to be held on Sunday, October 13th during the Fall Festival. The Group was very excited to be able to get the sponsors. They have the 6 drivers for the cars. The Group has secured insurance and has prepared a Waiver form to be signed by the participants. It is hoped to use Carpenter Street from the intersection of Davis Street to Ruah Street as the race area. A test run will be held to insure the distance needed to stop the cars. The streets would need to be closed at approximately 11:00 a.m. on October 13th. Motion by Jerome Ogden and Second by Tim Martin to allow the Soap Box Derby

Race to be held on October 13th as described. If another location for the Race needs to be selected, the Motion included that ability.

The Police Department was asked about getting a radar gun for that day to speed check the racers. Chief McCurdy said that he could get a radar gun.

Police The Police Report was accepted on Motion of Tonya McNamara, Second Tim Martin. All in favor.

The new police car has been ordered and it is anticipated it will be delivered in December.

Chief McCurdy was asked about the SUV that is at Blaise Alexander and what is going to be done with it. That car needs a motor. It was suggested that the Borough either bid the SUV out or send it to Auction. After discussion, by Motion of Jerome Ogden and Second by Tim Martin, it was determined to send the car to Auction. The Auction Company will go to Blaise Alexander and pick up the SUV.

Police Committee: A Meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Room

- Borough Manager:**
1. Borough Manager's Report accepted by Motion of Paul Hosszu, second by Jerome Ogden. All in favor.
 2. The Monument repairs are almost complete and Mr. Wise is doing a very nice job.
 3. On September 23, 2019 there will be an Open House from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Mansfield Borough Building for a DEP Connects Event.
 4. A letter was received from the Wreaths Across America group to have a short ceremony at the Monument on December 14, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon prior to the laying of the wreaths. Motion made by Tim Martin, Second by Jill Nickerson to allow a short ceremony at the Monument on December 14, 2019 prior to the laying of the wreaths on the cemeteries.
 5. The Borough received an Oil & Gas Lease for 39 acres owned by Arbon Cemetery. The Lease is for \$1,500 per acre, 15% royalties, no deductions. Solicitor Barrett was given the Lease. He said it is in order and can be signed. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Paul Hosszu for the Borough to execute the Oil & Gas Lease with Repsol.

Planning Commission Report: No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

Properties Sold There were no transfers during the month to report.

During Month: Recreation: Waiting for Southern Tioga School District to appoint a replacement representative to the Recreation Board. The Borough Secretary will follow up with the School District.

The Security Cameras have been installed.

Additional No Parking signs need to be installed in front of the Borough Garage on the inner side. During activities on the Park, people are parking in front of the Garage which does not allow for the trucks and/or Police car to be removed from the buildings.

It was brought up that there needs to be additional picnic tables purchased. The Borough will look for funding for this.

The Pool was closed and the Rec. Board was very pleased with the operation of the Pool this year. There were great comments about the facility, employees and the Concession Stand Operation. For the first time in a very long time, if ever, the concession stand turned a profit for the Borough.

Playground: The final Progress Report is almost complete.

Tennis Court: Nothing

Island Park River Walk: Additional screenings were placed on the walk path in low areas. The Ash Trees are being checked on for removal.

Fire: Minutes received

Library: No Meeting; The Librarian and two (2) Board Members will be attending a conference in State College in the near future. The Library was also one of the sponsors for a Soap Box Derby Car.

Street Committee: The Borough crew has been sweeping the loose stone from the tar and chipping.

Shade Tree Commission: Nothing

Budget: Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report: It is anticipated that DEP will finish their review of the New Sewer Plant Application by November 1, 2019. The bidding would then be sent out for construction to commence in the spring of 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: _____

Borough Website: The initial content was submitted; waiting for mock up to review.

Consent Agenda: Nothing

Codification: American Legal Publishing working on the Codification

Ordinances: Solicitor said the three (3) draft Ordinances would be sent for publication and be ready to adopt at the next meeting.

Cybersecurity: Borough Secretary to discuss the results of the systems review with Vice-Chair of the Municipal Authority. May need to contact an additional computer company which specializes in Cybersecurity.

On-line Bill Pay: The on-line bill pay went live on September 4th. Customers can now, if they desire, pay their municipal bills on-line using either a credit card or debit card. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Jill Nickerson to remove this item from the Agenda. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS: _____

Halloween Parade: The Halloween Parade will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2019 starting at 5:00 p.m. with costume judging at the Fire Hall immediately following. Trick or Treat hours will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Thanksgiving Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Paul Hosszu for the Borough to purchase
Turkeys : Thanksgiving Turkeys for the Borough Employees. All in favor

COAL FESTIVAL: The Coal Festival will be held from May 21 through 23, 2020. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Paul Hosszu to approve the Coal Festival dates and to apply for the Parade Permit. All in favor.

The 5K which runs in conjunction with the Coal Festival has been approved under the same Motion and Second pending receipt of the confirmed date and time and course of the run. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Jerome Ogden.

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS CALLED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. EXECUTIVE SESSION MET FROM 7:43 p.m. UNTIL 8:55 p.m.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary