

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 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.

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

**Guests:** Henry Bartlett and Natalie Kennedy, Tioga Publishing.

**Minutes,** Through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting were  
**Treasurer's** accepted as presented, Treasurer's Report accepted, subject to Audit, Bills to be paid,  
**Report, Bills, Police** and the Police Report and Borough Manager's Report were all accepted by Motion of  
**Report and** Paul Hosszu; Second James Rakoski. All in favor.  
**Borough**  
**Manager's Report**

**Guests:** Henry Bartlett: Henry said that the Veteran's Monument looks great for the holidays and the volunteers, Ken and Paula Johnson and Bob Metarko, should be commended. Council Members agreed.

**Committee** There will be no meeting in December, the next meeting will be January 23, 2020.  
**Business** The Small Business Saturday seemed to go very well; there were 110 people that  
**Development** attended the movie and the Church 5K had 30 people participating. VIBE also  
**VIBE:** handed out over 80 packages to children

The Christmas Lighting Contest will be judged on December 15, 2019. First prize is \$150.00 and Second prize is \$50.00. If you take first or second prize one year, you are not eligible to win the following year.

**An Executive Session was called at 6:43 P.M.; Meeting reconvened at 6:58 P.M.**  
**Personnel issues were discussed.**

**Mayor:** There is an opening for a full-time Police Officer. The Mayor and the Police Committee recommend that the Borough offer the position to Brian Isaacson, who has been a part-time officer in the Borough for over 8 years. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Tim Martin that the full-time Police position be offered to Brian Isaacson. All in Favor.

The Small Town Christmas was very nice and it was great to see the store fronts occupied and looking good. Also, the "snowball" fight during Small Town Christmas was a lot of fun.

Finally, Mayor Nickerson wanted to personally thank Paul Hosszu for his participation on the Council. The help and input Paul provided was greatly appreciated.

**Police:** Nothing at this time.

**Police Committee:** A meeting will be held on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm. To review part-time police officer applications and conduct interviews.

- Borough Manager:**
1. The American Legion on South Williamson Road has a food donation the first Tuesday of each month. Currently there are approximately 150 Veterans that take advantage of this service. With the growth of this service, the congestion on South Williamson Road can be impassable during the pickup times. The Borough Manager would like to offer the use of the Borough Garage on Island Park to the Legion the first Tuesday of each month. The Veterans can come onto the Park, go around the Park to the garage, have their box put in their car and then continue off the Park. The Commander of the Legion thought this would be a great solution at this time. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Jill Nickerson to allow the use of the Borough Garage on the first Tuesday of each month for the American Legion Veteran food donation. All in favor.
  2. The Borough has been approached by an energy broker to sign a natural gas contract for the supply of natural gas. After discussion, this has been put on hold.
  3. The Borough has made payments for various Act 13 purchases, namely, purchase of the Street Sweeper, Codification, tree removal on Park, Security System for Island Park, new Computer and external hard drives for backups. The total for reimbursement is \$14,910.68. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tonya McNamara to authorize the reimbursement to the Borough from Act 13 funds. All in favor.

**Planning Commission Report:** Nothing

**Zoning Hearing Board:** Nothing.

**Properties Sold During Month:** There five (5) properties transferred in November, with three (3) new families coming to town. A discussion was held regarding a welcome card and or welcome basket that would contain information about Town, municipal utilities, gift certificates, etc. for new residents. VIBE is going to discuss this further.

**Recreation:** The Rec. Board is reviewing the large Pavilion for repairs and maintenance. There have been individuals jumping from the ledges around the Pavilion onto the new shrubs and other plantings. They are trying to come up with a way to address this issue, without making the Pavilion look un-inviting.

The Multrum restroom was discussed and the possible removal of that facility and replacing it with regular restrooms now that water and sewer are available to that location.

The Board is discussing improvements to the Park in general. Jill Nickerson and the Borough Secretary recently attended a DCNR Grant seminar and additional grants will be written for Park improvements.

Following the November Meeting, the Rec. Board received a proposed Eagle Scout Project from Jericho Sexauer which is to place tree identification signs along the River Walk which provided education about the trees that are local to our area and to add a leaf rubbing plate. The President of the Rec. Board accepted the Project on behalf of the Board. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Jerome Ogden, to support the Eagle Project. All in favor.

**Playground:** Waiting for final DCNR reimbursement payment.

**Tennis Court:** Nothing

**River Walk:** Jerome Ogden reported that the trail was icy in places in the last week or so.

**Fire:** Minutes received prior to the meeting. Jolene Hall requested that a Meeting of the Fire Committee be set. Solicitor recommended that a potential meeting be discussed in an Executive Session.

**Library:** The Library is being used heavily by young adults after school. The Librarian said on average there are between 30 and 40 young adults at the Library each day after school. The Basket Raffle that was held in November went very well.

**Street Committee:** Paul Hosszu reported that the sidewalk along Hannibal Street between Diehr and Main Streets is in very rough shape and is a fall hazard. Borough Manager said he would look at it.

**Shade Tree  
Commission:** Nothing

**Budget:** Since there was no tax increase for 2020, the Budget can be accepted by Resolution rather than Ordinance. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second James Rakoski that the Tax Resolution be accepted as presented. All in Favor.

**Blossburg  
Municipal Report:** The Borough crew has been cleaning up the trees, stumps and undergrowth at the new Sewer Plant site. The use of the Borough crew to do this work is very cost effective and saves the Municipal Authority money.

**OLD BUSINESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Borough Website:** Motion by Tonya McNamara, second by James Rakoski to remove this item from the Agenda. All in Favor.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by Tonya McNamara, second by James Rakoski to remove this item from the Agenda. All in Favor.

**2020 Fuel Bids:** Fuel Bids were opened. Bids were received from WOC Energy and Superior Energy Services. After discussion, this was tabled as the bids require clarification. The bids will be readdressed at the January 6, 2020 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advertise 2020 Meeting Schedule:** Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Tim Martin to advertise the Council Reorganization meeting to be held Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and the remaining meeting dates for the Council, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission and Recreation Board. All in favor.

**Paul Hosszu:** The Council President, Jolene Hall, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Paul Hosszu for his service to the Council and the residents of the Borough.

**Adjournment:** President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion by Paul Hosszu, Second by Tonya McNamara.

Executive Session called to start immediately following adjournment. Executive Session adjourned at 8:28 p.m. Personnel Issues were discussed.

/s/ *Cheryl L. Bubacz*

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary