

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2020

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall.

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

Guests: Luke Tanner and Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette - No Comments

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report:
Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Jill Nickerson; Second Jim Rakoski. All in favor.

Henry Bartlett had a question regarding an invoice paid to Stoudt Electric; this was a Water expense that the Borough paid and will be reimbursed.

Mayor:

The Mayor commented on the "slow down" signs there were put on Main Street. They are making a huge difference and he has received many compliments on the signs. Thank you to the Police Department and Borough Manager for obtaining the signs and having them installed.

The small lot behind the old Newsroom store is becoming unsightly. Can we check with the owners to see if they are okay with the Masons cleaning up the space. George Lloyd said that he will check with the owner and report back.

The Mayor was approached by the High School Art Club to paint a mural on the Building he owns, which was the former High School Industrial Shop. The mural will say Community and be colorful. The Mayor has given the Art Club the go ahead.

Lastly, the Covid numbers are creeping up and we need to remind our residents to be more diligent with masking, hand washing and social distancing. We currently have five (5) cases in the Borough, we need to lead by example to prevent a more widespread outbreak.

Police:

All of the Officers have qualified with both their sidearms and the AR-15.

The second 2020 Police SUV should be ready for pickup by the end of October or first week in November.

Currently waiting for a quote from Larry's Locksmith regarding the pin code lock for the downstairs entrance to Borough Hall.

Police Committee:

Nothing.

Borough Manager:

The Borough assisted Mike Ritter with the moving of his giant pumpkin. The pumpkin was taken to the State competition for weigh-in and it took 10th in the State with a weight of 1,204 pounds. Great recognition for the Borough. Last year, Mr. Ritter's entry was a little over 830 pounds.

The mural on the St. Mary's Street wall is coming along nicely. Pictures of the mural were presented to the Council members. Mataya Nickerson is doing a great job.

Jolene Hall asked about the dip going into the Kwik Fill and the Borough Manager reported that is a Penn Dot berm issue. He will contact the local supervisor and see if they can put some blacktop in the dip.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

As reported at the September meeting, Ralaine Mundis has volunteered to work on the Hometown Hero Banners. She is currently sorting out the logistics to upgrade and/or replace banners.

VIBE is looking into upgrading the existing WiFi in town.

Santa Claus has expressed interest in being present during the Small Town Christmas. VIBE and Santa are working on how that will work due to Covid.

Trick or Treating – VIBE has discussed this at length and believes the only safe way to have Trick or Treating is per the attached flyer. Additionally, they ask that people do not allow participants to grab from the same bowl of candy. Bag lanterns have been purchased and will be placed 6 to 10 feet apart along Main Street and Morris Street to alert people of Trick or Treating and to maintain social distancing. If you need masks or gloves to hand out candy, they are available in the Borough Hall lobby for free.

The giant pumpkin will be on display during the Trunk or Treat that will be held on Morris Street. Jolene Hall asked Chief McCurdy if we can get signs to put by the Green Bridge and by the S. Williamson Road Bridge warning drivers of trick or treaters and to slow down. The Chief will check into this and see that we have warning signs.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

Seven (7) properties were transferred during September and three (3) new residents moved into town. Each new resident received the Welcome to Blossburg letter from the Borough with copies of the recycling calendar and school calendar.

Recreation:

The Rec Board filed a grant application with the Jones Foundation to fund another Art class for 2021. The class will be held in either the spring or the summer depending on the Covid epidemic at that time. It was a big hit and well attended this year.

The KCC Building looks great! Thank you to Chad Roupp for his hard work.

The benches on the walking trail were painted and look great.

Playground: Nothing

Riverwalk: The trail is being heavily used this year.

Fire:

Neither Minutes nor a Treasurers Report were received prior to meeting, this is the third month we have not received any reports.

A letter was received from the Fire Department about replacing turn-out gear on a rotating basis. To fully outfit a firefighter, the total cost of equipment for one person is roughly \$6,500. The Fire Department has set a goal to raise \$50,000 this year to start the equipment replacement. Further discussion on this matter with the Fire Department will be required before the Borough makes a commitment. This request was tabled until the November meeting.

Library:

No Meeting

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Budget was presented to Council Members for their review. Motion by Jim Rakoski, Second by Jerome Ogden to advertise the 2021 Budget. All in Favor.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The water line installation at Taylor Run is completed as far as we can go. The Crew is currently working on leveling the 60' sand bank highwall and have dug down about 20' thus far.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning:

The meeting will be held on October 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

School Lease of Park for 2020-2021

Solicitor for School District and for the Borough Solicitor are working on this.

EV Charging Station

The equipment for the charging station is here and the Borough Manager has marked its location in the Plaza. The Electrician will be reviewing the site and start installation in the next few weeks.

Trick or Treating

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fuel for 2021

The Budget Committee discussed the option of utilizing credit cards through CoStars for fuel for 2021. The Borough would obtain 10 cards, one for each Borough Crew member, two (2) for the police department and two (2) for the fire department/ambulance association. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Jerome Ogden to go with the credit cards through CoStars for fuel purchase for 2021. All in Favor.

Wreaths Across America

A letter was received from Annie Brooks, a Wreaths Across America volunteer, asking if the Borough would donate a Wreath. In 2019, a donation was made from the United Fund, however, this may not be available in time for the 2020 placement of the wreaths. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second Tim Martin, that the Borough sponsor two (2) wreaths in memory of deceased Council Members. All in Favor.

A question was raised by Henry Bartlett regarding how the Garbage bills are calculated. It was explained that everyone can put out 2 bags per week. When there is an overage, NTSWA marks down the extra bags and they are then billed. NTSWA will be going to an iPad in the very near future instead of manually writing down the numbers.

It was also noted that there seems to be some issues with recycling of cardboard. Mr. Bartlett watched the recycling truck not pick up cardboard from his neighbors. He wondered if it was due to the fact that the cardboard was not broken down. Borough Manager stated that the cardboard must be broken down for pickup. Additionally, Jerome Ogden noted that he received a request that he separate his recycling, glass, plastic, etc. in a separate container. He wondered

where to get additional recycling containers. Borough Manager said they can be obtained at the NTSWA Office on White Street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

Councilman Tim Martin asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, no action will be taken so the meeting can be adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:03 p.m. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor

Executive Session ended at 7:46 p.m. Discussion was regarding a personnel matter and no action was taken by the Council.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary