

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. Meeting was held by Conference Call due to Covid-19 concerns.

A moment of silence was requested in remembrance of former Council Member, Raymond Kaminski who recently passed away.

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

Guests: Natalie Kennedy of Wellsboro Gazette, Heather Dietrick from First Citizens Community Bank and Annette Thompson

Annette Thompson: The Baptist church has a youth group, 316 Your Group, with between 25 and 30 members ranging in age from 6th to 12th grades. The group has 7 leaders. Annette is wondering if there is a place where the Group could meet to plan projects, etc. There is a financial sponsor, who wants to remain anonymous. She also wondered if Council knew of any Grants available for this type of Group. President Hall said that we will look into this for her and let either her or Pastor Parsons know of our findings.

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

Mayor:
The town looks great with all of the houses decorated for the holidays. They are visible from the highway, which makes the town look very inviting. From the Task-Force Conference Call on December 8th, the numbers are not looking good. The County seems to be in quite dire straits. The vaccines are coming, but will probably not reach the general public in our area until the early summer. The first to receive the vaccine will be health care workers, first responders, nursing home residents and others with medical complications.

Police:
Received the quote for the keyless entry to the backdoor of the Borough Hall. The quote was all inclusive of labor and parts for a total of \$1,136.00. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Henry Bartlett to proceed with installation of keyless entry for backdoor. All in Favor.

Police Committee:
A Police Committee meeting will be scheduled by the Mayor next week.

Borough Manager:
The Borough received an acknowledgement from the Census Bureau for our responsiveness during the 2020 Census.

The Borough removed the battered and faded Veterans' Banners from the light poles last week. The Borough has a list of the Banners that were removed as does Ralaine Mundis.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

The Light up the Holidays decoration contest is underway. The winners will be selected on December 20, 2020. The top 3 winners will receive gift cards from local businesses.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

Two (2) properties were transferred during November and one (1) new resident.

Recreation:

No Meeting

Riverwalk: Nothing.

Fire:

Did not receive Minutes or Treasurer's Reports from either the Fire Department or Ambulance Association.

Library:

The Library is closed for the remainder of this week. They have gone back to the Grab and Go system.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

The Ordinance for the 2021 Millage was read, total millage for 2021 will be 7.875 made up of Borough 6.807 mills, fire department 0.568 mills and library 0.500 mills. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second James Rakoski to pass the 2021 Millage Ordinance. All in Favor.

Ward Manufacturing filed an Assessment Appeal with the County disputing the current valuation of the properties. The Borough did not dispute the Appeal, however, the School District is. If the Appeal stays as the County approved, it will mean an approximate \$19,000 tax receipt decrease for the Borough.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Crew has completed their work at Taylor Run for this year and they will start back up in the Spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning:

Nothing

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

EV Charging Station

The Charging Station is up and running and is on Plugshare.com. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Henry Bartlett to remove this item from the agenda. All in Favor.

New Loader

The Municipal Authority agreed at their December 1st meeting to the purchase of a 2020 Cat Loader in conjunction with the Borough. The cost for each of the three (3) entities would be approximately \$55,000. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Henry Bartlett to purchase the loader with the Municipal Authority. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

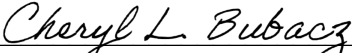
Lease Agreement – Repsol

The Borough has received a proposed Lease Agreement for non-surface rights for the lands of Island Park and the old Union Cemetery. It would be approximately 41.91 total acres and the price offered is \$1,000/acre. Borough Manager will check with Repsol to see why the price has decreased. In 2019 the Lease signed by Arbon Cemetery and for the Borough Office building was for \$1,500/acre. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by James Rakoski to accept the Lease pending (1) approval by our Solicitor and (2) follow up on price per acre. All in Favor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 6:51 p.m. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor


Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary