

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2022

Reorganizational Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Shane Nickerson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Nickerson swore in the Council Members from the 2021 Election, Jolene Hall, Kenneth Johnson and Timothy Martin. James Rakoski was previously sworn in.

Mayor Nickerson accepted nominations for Council President, Jolene Hall was nominated by Timothy Martin, Motion by Timothy Martin and Second by Jill Nickerson that Jolene Hall remain Council President through 12/31/2023. All in Favor.

Mayor Nickerson passed the Meeting to the Council President. The following Nominations and Appointments were made:

Council Vice-President, Nominee Timothy Martin. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor.

Council President Pro-Temp, Nominee Tonya McNamara. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

Borough Solicitor, Nominee Patrick Barrett, III. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin. All in Favor.

Borough Engineer, Nominee Scott Bray. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer, Nominee Cheryl L. Bubacz. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor.

Local Service Tax Collector, Nominee Keystone Collections Group. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin. All in Favor.

Borough Depository, Nominee First Citizens Community Bank. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

Borough Insurance Agent, Nominee Gannon Insurance Co., Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

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

Guests: Barbara Sargent

Barbara Sargent would like to hold the Annual Tioga County Craft Show on Island Park on September 10th and 11th. The show hosts approximately 100 craft vendors and Blossburg was recommended as a place for this annual event to be held. The Mayor said that we would love to be the host site. Jill Nickerson stated that she will complete the necessary request form for the Rec Board and will present the information to the Board at the next meeting. Once the Rec Board approves the event, then the Borough Council reviews. This is an outdoor event. Councilman Johnson will check the Varsity Football Schedule to determine if there is a conflict and report back.

Mrs. Sargent stated that the event is held for the benefit of Partners in Progress and it is her goal for it to be the largest craft show in Pennsylvania. She is very excited about the event and one of the items is a “golden ticket” that will be in a Highland Chocolate candy bar and the person with the golden ticket must come to the event to see what they have won. She will be advertising within a 55 mile radius of Blossburg.

Minutes, Treasurer’s Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager’s Report:

Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Mayor:

There is a new radio station in town. It is at 88.7 FM and is the work of Brian McClure. It is a mix of music. Advertising is available. Right now the service area is a 2 mile radius of Main Street. Once sponsors and advertising revenues come in, a booster will be purchased for a larger service area.

Police:

The Chief stated that all of the officers have been recertified for the year. Also stated that the Police Department had recently purchased two (2) additional security cameras which are motion detectors and sends photos to his Phone. The Chief was asked about the recent fire at the Old Hospital. The Chief said that he was not at liberty to discuss the fire because it was under investigation.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

Nothing.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

There was no meeting in December. The House Decoration Contest winners were (1st) Ed Berguson; (2nd) Pastor Reeve and (3rd) Waltz.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing

Recreation:

There was no meeting in December. The appointees to the Board were discussed. The Borough Manager will check the Ordinance to see how many Board Members are directed and how many are appointed by the Borough and from the School District. We would also like to check into the Lease agreement on the Rec Building with the School District.

Fire and Ambulance:

Received minutes for the Ambulance Association.

Library:

The Library has received a donation from a former school teacher. The donation is greatly appreciated.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Scott Bray, the Municipal Authority and Borough's Engineer is going to retire from most projects. We are currently working on projects with him, which he will continue with until December 31, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shared Services Agreement (June 2020):

Motion to Remove this item from the Agenda by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin, All in Favor

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting on Penelec to hire a project manager.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): There is an article about the uses of these funds in the most recent *Borough News*, page 60. Based on that article, parks and recreation is another option for use of the funds.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): After a discussion, a question was raised if the building could be transferred to the Blossburg Improvement Association and have them lease the building similar to the store fronts on the Plaza. Borough Manager will check with the Solicitor.

Old Hospital: The Mayor talked with the owners and architects following the fire and they are not too concerned about the damage that was done as they were going to gut the building

anyway. Borough Manager needs to schedule a Planning Commission meeting to discuss the current zoning for that building.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). In review.

2022 Tax Ordinance/Resolution

Motion by Henry Bartlett Second by Kenneth Johnson to remove this item from the Agenda.
All in Favor

2022 Tioga TCC Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

Motion to remove Jill Nickerson from this delegation, move Mr. Bartlett to the primary contact Mr. Rakoski as the secondary contact, by Henry Bartlett, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Resolution for Garbage Fee Increase

Nothing new

NEW BUSINESS:

Tioga County has prepared and adopted the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once it is reviewed by PEMA/FEMA, we need to review and adopt the same. Borough Secretary will email everyone a list of the Borough projects that fall under this Plan. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin to adopt the County's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan, once approved by PEMA/FEMA. All in Favor.

Tioga County has prepared and adopted a Non-Residential Solar Energy Ordinance. We should review the same. The County has prepared and adopted a Non-Residential Solar Energy Ordinance. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara to adopt the County's Non-Residential Solar Energy Ordinance. All in Favor.

General Discussion:

A revised Committee list together with a list of the subordinate Borough Boards and Commissions will be provided to Council for their review and consideration. This list will include term ending information.

2022 Goals:

A list of project goals for 2022 was discussed. They are:

1. Mini Park on Borough property at the corner of Main Street and Nevins Street;
2. Dog Park on Borough property across from the Community Garden;
3. LED Street Light installation
4. Reviewing the WiFi on Island Park and what can be done to increase the bandwidth. The Mayor had a discussion with Blue Ridge. The first step is to determine who owns the electric poles on Island Park.
5. Sidewalk from the corner of S. Williamson Road and Water Street to Island Park.
6. New Gate and Entrance onto Island Park

7. Signage to Island Park.
8. Obtain email addresses for Council Members. Such as Jhall@blossburgborough.org.

Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tonya McNamara to add the 2022 Goals to the Agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mansfield Borough will be hosting the TCAB Meeting for January. It will be January 20, 2022 at the Thin Line Tavern located at 21 North Main Street. Speaker will be Erica Tomlinson the Soil Conservation Director for the County.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 8:16 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary