

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## August 8, 2005

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

**Attendance:** Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, Timothy Roupp and Thomas Bogaczyk (out of town)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee.

**Guests:** Kathy Brooks and Pam Berguson.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 11, 2005 meeting, were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

**Guests:** Kathryn Brooks, 263 South Williamson Road, Blossburg, PA and Pam Berguson, 267 South Williamson Road, Blossburg, PA (Tim & Kathy Bogaczyk, 255 South Williamson Road planned to attend tonight's meeting, but were out of town) attended the meeting to discuss safety concerns they have with Martha Lloyd Community Services possibly purchasing the William Carlson property located at 206 South Williamson Road to build a new home for persons with development disabilities. Council reported to Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Berguson that they are not aware of Martha Lloyd Community Services plans to purchase the Carlson property. As of the July 11, 2005 Council Meeting, which Greg Patryna, Susquehanna Valley Development Group, Inc., Richard S. MacIntire, President/C.E.O. of Martha Lloyd Community Services attended, the new home is to be constructed on Granger Street.

Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Berguson thanked Council for their time and left the meeting.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,462.72. Next week KCC should get \$1,000.00 from Partners in Progress.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

No representative present.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for July 20, 2005 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

**Reports:**

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman attended the Blossburg Municipal Authority meeting held on August 2, 2005. Mayor Backman reported Blossburg Municipal Authority members had a discussion on billing calculations for multiple family dwellings. There is no standard procedure to bill multiples. There is the question about being able to do anything to a landlord if only one (1) out of six (6) units pays. If there is only one meter, you cannot shut off all the tenants for one non-payment. At the present time, the ordinance states the landlord is responsible for the bills. Blossburg Municipal Authority members suggested a separate meter for each apartment, at the landlord's expense. Also, when a request is made to change a home from a single family, to a duplex, it should be required that separate meters are put in. Mayor Backman stated if each apartment had it's own meter the billing would be more fair to the tenant, because they would be charged for only what their household is using. Blossburg Municipal Authority members request Council to modify changes to the present ordinance.

There is a possibility of increasing the water rates in January 2006. If rates are increased, the monies would go towards a capital reserve.

(E) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

Chief Steffen reported the department was busy this month with bad checks, theft and child abuse cases.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

(F) **Police Committee:** Nothing further to report.

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Bellman reservoir cleanout to be the next project.

A permit was applied for to remove gravel from Tioga River.

(H) **Planning Commission:** No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. to hear a request for a variance from William and Gloria Clark to build a deck on their home at 163 Joseph Street within rear yard setback requirements.

(I) **Recreation:** No meeting.

(J) **Fire:** No report received.

Councilmembers on Fire Committee: Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski and Cheryl Bubacz. Fire department meetings are held the last Monday of the month.

(K) **Television:** No July meeting.

Jerome Ogden reported Television Company is waiting on contracts for new channels.

**Reports:**

- (L) **Library:** No report.
- (M) **Street Committee:** Maple Hill Road/Schuylkill Street storm drains and catch basins project is completed.
- (N) **Budget:** Budget meeting to be scheduled at September Council meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Evaluation:** More of personnel policy reviewed before Council meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled before next Council meeting if no Public Hearing meeting is scheduled.
2. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.
3. **Additional Railroad Property:** Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is working on.
4. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on.
5. **Home Occupation:** Borough Solicitor to prepare for advertising.
6. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** "Dead End" signs installed. Ordinance and Deed of Dedication needed. Borough Solicitor to do.
7. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** New rates to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to do.
8. **Ward Manufacturing Petition Requesting Zoning Change:** Needs to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to do.
9. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** To be reviewed. Council suggested to add windmills to ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:40 P.M. RECONVENED 7:54 P.M. LITIGATION DISCUSSED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

THE UPPER PINE CREEK C O G MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 16, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE GAINES TOWNSHIP BUILDING ON RT. 6 IN GAINES, PA. TIOGA COUNTY COMPEHENSIVE PLAN TO BE PRESENTED BY JIM WEAVER.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary