

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2006

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: (absent, Vice-President Tonya McNamara (attending a retirement dinner)); Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee.

Guests: Holly Berguson a student at North Penn High School.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 8, 2006 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked to have the Treasurer's Report sent out before the Council meetings so Councilmembers can review the report before the meeting.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests: Holly Berguson, a student at North Penn High School, attended the meeting to ask permission to use borough property as her senior project and have an Athletic Complex built on Island Park. For Holly to achieve this, she has written and nominated Island Park for an Extreme Makeover by Extreme Makeover Home Edition, Lock & Key Productions. She needs Council to sign a form giving permission to use Island Park, which is borough property.

An Athletic Complex on Island Park would benefit not only Blossburg but many surrounding communities as well. For that reason, Blossburg Borough Council commends and supports Holly Berguson in her unselfish efforts to obtain an Athletic Complex Extreme Makeover, as her senior project.

A letter of support is to be written stating Council's support. This letter is to accompany the permission form Council signed tonight. Also, Council suggested Holly contact the Recreation Board and Southern Tioga School District for additional support.

A motion for Holly Berguson to pursue Island Park for an Extreme Makeover as her senior project was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Holly thanked council for their support and left the meeting.

Reports:

(A) NPHS Students: No student present.

Reports:

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$618.80.

The utilities for the KCC building are high because the building was used for football / track season and the Coal Festival. The electric bill was \$160.94. Council suggested this bill be taken to the Recreation Board for reimbursement.

Partners in Progress started renting the building today.

All the chairs in KCC Building have been repaired and covered with new vinyl by Chuck and his helpers. Council acknowledged Mr. Freeberg in his involvement of the maintenance at the KCC Building. Their volunteered hours of hard work have not gone unnoticed.

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

V.I.B.E. Minutes for May 17, 2006 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Cheryl Bubacz questioned if V.I.B.E. had filed a Federal 990.

Tonya McNamara was absent tonight, the requested financial report for the Main Street Program was not available. The finances for the Main Street Program to be discussed at next month's Council meeting.

Again, Councilmembers stated how important it is they receive a monthly financial report from the organization.

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing to report.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

A discussion was held on the sample ordinances Chief Steffen presented on the use of engine brakes. Chief Steffen is to check with PennDOT on the use of signs, enforcement and court rulings. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to do a sample ordinance with the wordings that Councilmembers preferred from the sample ordinances. The sample ordinance is to be ready for the next Council meeting.

A Pooper Scooper Ordinance was discussed. Blossburg Borough Ordinance No. 352, which was adopted August 5, 1991, may address owners letting their dogs defecate on someone else's property and not cleaning it up. The Borough Solicitor to review.

The Main Street Bridge will be closing on Monday, June 19, 2006 for repairs. The signed detour route will use Main Street, Williamson Road, Taber Street and the Old Route 15. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2006. The proposed detours may create problems and Chief Steffen will discuss issues with PennDOT.

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

Reports:

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

There are complaints from walkers about the tree limbs hanging too low over the sidewalks on North Williamson Road. Borough Manager George Lloyd to contact a tree trimmer for a quote on trimming the trees.

On Island Park there are trees planted that were dedicated to or in memory of certain people. Each tree had a nameplate on a board by each tree. Some of these boards are missing for whatever reason. Nameplates that have been found are as follows: Thomas Bell, Charles B. Ward, Oscar H. Sparling, John & Frances Fleming, Charles W. Fleming, John G. Kuster "Hap" and John G. Kuster "Grampy". There are some trees that are missing nameplates. Mr. Lloyd will contact a few people to ask about the missing names. Council suggested to have one sign installed on the back of visitor bleachers at the football field, with all the names of past people that trees were planted for. Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz stated this would be a good scout project.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk reported the light for the flagpole on the football scoreboard is not on at night. Mr. Lloyd to check light and repair.

The Borough Manager reported the grant application from the Pennsylvania Governor's Center for Local Government Services for funding through the Shared Municipal Services Program (SMS) was denied, because the demand for funds was "extraordinarily heavy and competition for funds keen". They urge the Borough to resubmit another application beginning in July 2006.

It was reported that church services are being held in the basement of the Blossburg Memorial Library and questioned if this was permissible. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett confirmed the church services are permissible.

A letter was received from First Citizens National Bank (FCNB) in reference to an unnoticed lien against 209 Parkhurst Street. Mr. Lloyd to contact FCNB in regards to monies that weren't received. All Councilmembers agreed to get 50% of total owed and lawyer fees paid.

(H) Planning Commission:

Meeting of May 30, 2006.

Reviewed and recommended approval on an application from Kevin Shelman to operate a PC Repair Shop at 317 Granger Street.

The Planning Commission did a preliminary review of Nextel Cell Tower application. Changes are needed on application before recommendations can be made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:35 P.M. RECONVENED 8:00 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation: Discussed pool repair.

Lifeguards are hired for the summer.

Reports:

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

Councilmember Raymond Kaminski did attend the last Blossburg Fire Department meeting. He had nothing to report.

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

James Lamonski is staying on Board as Executive Secretary with pay.

(L) **Library:** Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk had nothing new to report.

The annual book sale went very well. There was plenty of help this year. Lida and John Kaiser did an outstanding job with all of their labors.

The annual Library Garden Party fund raiser will be held on July 30, 2006 at the Hamilton Club in Morris Run from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Price is \$25.00 / couple and \$15.00 / single.

(M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(N) **Budget:** The Borough Manager has been checking with other municipal insurance companies dealing with wood stove coverage. There will be a meeting with H. A. Thomson on June 22, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.

2. **Additional Railroad Property:** Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.

3. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett and Thomas Bogaczyk are working on.

4. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Ordinance is done and is ready to review.

5. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** Borough Solicitor to meet with the Borough Manager.

6. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor working on zoning changes.

Nextel is not interested in Blossburg Municipal Authority property, but is looking at Granger Street property to install cell tower.

Cell Tower Ordinance needs to be revised.

7. **Outdoor Burning Ordinance:** The Borough Solicitor to is modify ordinance per Committee suggestions. Mr. Barrett didn't bring for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

8. **TCAB By-Laws:** Council reviewed TCAB By-Laws.

Motion to accept the new TCAB By-Laws was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Jake Brakes / Engine Brakes:** Discussed earlier.

2. **Dog Leash Ordinance:** Discussed earlier.

3. **Pension Modification Resolution:**

A proposed increase of ½% / year for employees working over 25 years in the Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Presently there is no retirement credit for employees working over 25 years. This Pension modification requires a resolution. Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to modify the Blossburg Non-Uniform Employees' Pension Plan PSAB Master Retirement Trust; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

4. **Blocking off Carpenter Street:**

A letter of request was sent by First Baptist Church, Vacation Bible School Director Donna M. Lougher to block off Carpenter Street from Main Street to the entrance of Borough Hall parking lot from June 24 – June 29, 2006. They would like the street blocked off for the safety of the children. The church will be responsible for putting up and taking down the barricades. All Councilmembers agreed that Carpenter Street could be blocked off for the times requested by the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2006 AT THE TIOGA AMERICAN LEGION LOCATED ON RT. 15 NEXT TO THE EWR GRAVEL PIT AND ACROSS FROM THE WILLIAMSON HIGH SCHOOL. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006.**

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:36 P.M.

Next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.