

PUBLIC HEARING
September 10, 2007

AS ADVERTISED A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE BOROUGH BUILDING, 245 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO CONSIDER A MODIFICATION TO THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING CODE FOR THE BOROUGH OF BLOSSBURG. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO TAKE PUBLIC INPUT FOR A PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO THE ORDINANCE THAT WILL EXPAND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING CODE TO INCLUDE UTILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS USE STRUCTURES OF 600 SQUARE FEET OR MORE WILL BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH THE PERMIT PROCESS. CURRENTLY UNDER THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING CODE BUILDINGS OF 1,000 SQUARE FEET AND LARGER MUST MEET THAT CRITERIA. THE BOROUGH COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 402, WHICH ADOPTED THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE AT THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON OCTOBER 8, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M.

Attendance: Council President Jerome Ogden; Vice-President Tonya McNamara; 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.

No public comment. Hearing closed 6:29 P.M.

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 10, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called the 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, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Bev Jones Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment).

Minutes: The minutes of the August 13, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Councilmember Tonya McNamara sent a letter to Principal Mr. David of the North Penn High School inviting a student to attend regular scheduled Council meetings, but no student responded.

(B) **KCC:** No report. Charles Freeberg did not attend tonight's meeting.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.B.E. meeting are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for August 15, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

A Financial Report was received from Heidi Jones and copied for Councilmembers.

Projects V.I.B.E. is working on: (1) Design and cost, for a new Blossburg sign, which will replace the old sign by the green bridge at the north end of Main Street. (2) Working with N.T.S.W.A. on distributing reusable grocery bags. N.T.S.W.A. has a grant to cover the cost of this project.

(3) Josh Jones is working on a wireless network for the Blossburg Borough downtown business district. (4) A newsletter.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported on the U.S. Department of Labor proposing the possibility of the late William B. Wilson being inducted into the U.S. Department of Labor Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. on November 13, 2007. The Department of Labor would like to have family members and a good representation from the community of Blossburg present for this honored event. Dave and Bev Jones need to compile a list of who should get an invitation, including names and addresses, which will be forwarded to the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor will send out the official invitations. If anyone is interested in receiving an invitation please e-mail Dave and Bev Jones at djones@epix.net or telephone (570) 638-2763. They will need your contact information.

Reports:

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

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

2007 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date:

The Blossburg Borough will hold Halloween on Wednesday, October 31, 2007. The parade is at 5:00 P.M. – starting by the former Blossburg Ambulance Building located at the corner of Hannibal and Morris Streets. The parade will proceed west on Hannibal Street – then turn right onto Main Street and proceed North to the Fire & Ambulance Building, 324 Main Street, where the judging of costumes will take place. Halloween hours are Wednesday, October 31, 2007, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Borough Secretary Mary Signor is to apply for a parade permit from PennDOT.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

Work is to begin on a storm drain project on Granger Street.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** Excessive vandalism is occurring on Island Park. Blossburg Police Department to patrol more often.

The check from Southern Tioga School District for the "Island Park User Agreement" was received.

The new Bob & Marian Jones sign was completed at the cost of \$700.00, which was paid by the Recreation Board. The old sign will be touched up and moved to the football visitor's side bleachers.

Two rental portable toilets are now located on the visitors side of the football field. Southern Tioga School District is paying these rentals from September – October.

On Labor Day the pool closed for the season.

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

No Councilmember attended the meeting.

Blossburg Fire Department is waiting on new truck.

Reports:

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

Bev Jones asked if "The Blue Screen" could be added to Blossburg's cable system. The Board reviewed this before and found it would be very expensive to install.

The Board is discussing Internet availability to the cable system.

(L) Library: The Friends of the Library will hold their third annual book sale October 15 – 20, 2007, in the community room of the library. To donate books, contact the library at (570) 638-2197.

(M) Street Committee:

At the August 13, 2007 meeting Councilmember James Bogaczyk questioned the design of the downtown plaza parking lot spaces. With the present 90° parking space layout, parking is more difficult. The layout was changed from 60° to 90° parking spaces to gain more parking spaces for the Dollar General. The Borough Manager evaluated both 60° and 90° layouts of the plaza parking lot and reported back to Council that if the Plaza parking lot was changed back to 60° parking spaces 21 parking spaces would be lost. Councilmembers decided to leave the Plaza parking layout as is, because the downtown business district can't afford to lose the parking spaces. Councilmembers suggested letters be sent to all businesses in Riverside Plaza to have their employees park behind the stores in parking lots located next to the Tioga River. This should free up more parking spaces in front of the stores for paying customers.

(N) Budget: A budget meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. Budget Committee members suggested scheduling Doug Werley from Thomas J. Anderson & Associates, Inc. to come this same day to review pensions.

2008 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plans (Pension Municipal Minimum Obligations (MMO's)): 2008: Police - \$10,698.00 / Non-Uniform - \$24,718.00.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority:

The water line project on Schuylkill Street is installed. The water needs to be tested for safety. After water test is approved the water will be turned on to homes. In the meantime, all water customers affected are being served water through temporary lines.

The Taylor Run Gas Lease was received - \$100.00 / acre for 658 acres.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:

The Borough Manager to get information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. Additional Railroad Property:

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Mr. Barrett is working with Tioga County Tax Office in identifying the property lots and including the Borough's request to have these lots tax-exempt.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor is working on.
4. **Engine Brakes Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor is waiting to hear from State Representative Matthew Baker's office.
5. **Building Permit Fees:** Ordinance drafted to lower the square footage of accessory buildings needing inspections from 1,000 Square Feet to 600 Square feet. A Public Hearing was held tonight, September 10, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. The Borough Council shall consider amending Ordinance No. 402, which adopted the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code at the regular scheduled meeting on October 8, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.
6. **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:**

Councilmembers discussed findings / suggestions of the Temporary Committee that was assigned.

Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz presented a proposed ordinance the Temporary Committee had prepared.

Bev Jones reported on research she did on outdoor wood burners. Mrs. Jones stated there are currently 7 outdoor wood burners. Three of the outdoor wood burners are located separate from the house. 63 homes in the borough have "possible" inside wood stoves. Another discussion was held on the pro and cons of outside wood burning stoves.

Borough Solicitor to review all findings and complete a final ordinance. Councilmembers suggested to reconvene the October 8, 2007 Council meeting to October 15, 2007. New ordinance can be advertised and then adopted accordingly.

7. **Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:** Nothing to report.
8. **Phelps Property on Davis Street:** Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution Implementing the National Incident Management System (NIMS):**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is now considered the law of the land and has several new requirements being phased in over a period of years. In order to meet NIMS compliance for the current year a letter attesting we are compliant is needed and resolution adopting NIMS in the Blossburg Borough must be passed.

A motion was made by Tonya McNamara to adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS); second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. North Penn High School Homecoming Activities:

A letter was received from Sarah Brion, NPHS Student Council Co-Advisor asking Council's approval on the upcoming Homecoming activities. This year some new events are planned. The parade is scheduled to start at 6:00 P.M. on October 5, 2007. Traffic control and a parade permit from PennDOT are requested. A Block Party is to take place on Morris Street, which will require a portion of Morris Street (Carpenter Street to Hannibal Street) to be closed from 12:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 5, 2007. The Block Party will only be open to school staff and students from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. From 3:30 P.M. 5:00 P.M. the Block Party will be open to the community.

Motion to approve NPHS Homecoming activities on Friday, October 5, 2007 was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

3. Octoberfest:

No Octoberfest is scheduled for this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE TIOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN THE BASEMENT OF THE TIOGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE. PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 11, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary