

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jolene Hall 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 Jill Nickerson; Pro Temp Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, (absent, James Rakoski), Paul Hosszu, Timothy Martin; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Corporal Robert Scott; Natalie Kennedy Wellsboro Gazette; Joshua Jones; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee; Janet Gyekis and Arline Buchman representing League of Women's Voters; Susan Blackwell and Husband; Henry Bartlett.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 2, 2018 and January 11, 2018 meetings were accepted on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Timothy Martin. All in favor.

Guests: Janet Gyekis and Arline Buchman representing League of Women's Voters did a five minute presentation by Fair Districts PA on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution so that an impartial, independent, transparent, and nonpartisan citizen's commission would redraw new legislative districts lines after the 2020 census. Ms. Gyekis and Ms. Buchman asked Council to pass a Resolution in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional redistricting to end gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. "Gerrymandering is manipulation of electoral district lines to benefit one political party or person. The party or people in control of the process can choose their own voters and guarantee the outcome of elections long before a vote is cast." Voters should choose politicians – not the other way around. The ladies asked Council to study this redistricting reform in Pennsylvania and please pass the Resolution. After their presentation, Ms. Gyekis and Ms. Buchman thanked Council and left the meeting.

Susan Blackwell discussed the topic of the Giving Back 5K Run that she organized and already advertised to be held on May 26, 2018. This is the 13th year Mrs. Blackwell has done the Giving Back 5K Run on Memorial Day weekend. It was brought to her attention that another 5K race is scheduled on May 26, 2018, an hour after her 5K event starts, which she feels is a problem. In 2015, 2016, 2017 the Coal Festival held their festivities the week after Memorial Day weekend. This year the Coal Festival events are back to Memorial Day weekend. Mrs. Blackwell has tried contacting the Coal Festival Committee, but no one will return her calls. Jill Nickerson is to make some telephone calls and get back to Mrs. Blackwell.

Henry Bartlett is concerned about people living in the house located at 133 Lynd Street, because all utilities are disconnected. Under these conditions, is the home habitable? How do you remove the people from the premise? Borough Solicitor will review Mr. Bartlett's concerns, the property condition, and lawfully what can be done.

Reports:

(A) **Junior Council Person:** Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee was absent tonight. Nothing to report.

(B) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. Meeting locations are different each month. Check the V.I.B.E. website for meeting place.

Minutes were not approved for distribution to Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. proposed upcoming events: April 28, 2018 – Community Yard Sale
October 14, 2018 – Fall Festival
November 24, 2018 – Small Town Christmas

Paul Hosszu made a motion to approve V.I.B.E. upcoming events; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

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

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total: January: \$473.32 – February: \$719.41.

Officer Ronald Warren's last day of employment was February 3, 2018. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to advertise for a part-time police officer; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Putnam Township Ordinance 2018-1, to enter into a Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement in accordance with the Second Class Township Code, and Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement in accordance with the Second Class Township were adopted at the Putnam Township Meeting that was held on February 13, 2018. Putnam Township will pay to Blossburg Borough for the services provided under the Agreement the rate of \$50.00 per hour for 20 hours per month (\$1,000.00). Installments will be paid monthly. The Agreement will run for a period of six (6) months, beginning on February 13, 2018 and ending on August 13, 2018. Agreement will automatically renew for an additional six (6) month term, unless either party has given prior notice of early termination. The Joint Police Committee will meet annually in the month of December to discuss any changes to the terms and conditions of Agreement. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to pass Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the Blossburg Borough and Putnam Township; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

(E) **Police Committee:** Nothing to report.

(F) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Timothy Martin. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd requested the sale of the single axle dump truck at an auction in Waverly. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to take the single axle truck to auction; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Reports:

(G) Planning Commission: No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Ralph Mundis submitted his resignation, effective immediately. Mr. Mundis is moving out of town. An ad will be published in the Penny-Saver requesting any Borough resident wishing to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation: Recreation Board met on January 29, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Topics discussed at Recreation Board Meeting and by Council:

- (1) United Fund mailings.
- (2) Island Park pool is to open on May 27, 2018.
- (3) Mataya Nickerson submitted a letter regarding her FBLA project. She is asking permission to plant three (3) Redbud trees near the skate park.
- (4) Tonya McNamara is working with Mansfield University students on their class project about what Island Park has to offer people of all ages.
Mrs. McNamara stated the next step is students will be doing a community survey. Survey will be printed on Blossburg Borough letterhead.
- (5) 1.6 mile run at Island Park on December 1 or December 8, 2018. Joseph Bubacz is organizing. Paul Hosszu made a motion to approve the 1.6 mile run; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.
- (6) Coal Festival – May 23 – 26, 2018.
- (7) Research funding to renovate KCC (Recreation) Building.

Playground: Nothing to report.

Tennis Courts: Nothing to report.

Trees: Planting of trees at park is on hold until new playground is completed.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

(I) Fire: Reports received: The BFD minutes dated December 18, 2017 and the Transaction Report 11/28/2017 to 12/18/2017.

(J) Library: The Blossburg Memorial Library will host two community conversations events focusing "Turning Outward". The first will be held on Tuesday, February 20, at 6:30 P.M. and the second date is Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

(K) Street / Building Committee: A 5:00 P.M. meeting was scheduled on Monday, February 9, 2018, to discuss the new office building at 241 Main Street.

(L) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

(M) Budget: A Budget meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

Reports:

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

BMA is working on Rural Utility Services (RUS) Application to fund new STP.

Finishing Grant Application for waterline to Taylor Run wells.

In the summer of 2017, BMA requested \$50,000.00 from the Borough's Act 13 Funding to help pay for the relining of wastewater lines to stop infiltration. Borough Budget Committee was to consider BMA request, after the Borough's Tioga County Impact Fee disbursement was announced. The Budget Committee is to discuss BMA request at the Budget Meeting of February 20, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

Remove from agenda. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update Keystate Publishers: Nothing to report.

3. Borough Website: Timothy Martin and Tonya McNamara met to discuss website. They will present their suggestions to the designer the Borough already is working with.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host Meeting for March:

Thursday, March 15, 2018 was decided as the date. Location is to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary to provide the meal. Speaker to be decided on.

2. Spring Cleanup:

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for May 1 – May 2, 2018, same dates as garbage collection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT THE TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6 BOARD STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FEBRUARY 9, 2018.

BLOSSBURG FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY FEBRUARY 13, 2018.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 22nd ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 23, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall closed the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Tonya McNamara. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT END OF MEETING. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary