

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

April 11, 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 (absent, Jerome Ogden and Timothy Martin), James Rakoski, Paul Hosszu; Mayor Shane Nickerson; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Natalie Kennedy Wellsboro Gazette; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee; Sharon Breitenbeck representing League of Women's Voters.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting were accepted on motion of James Rakoski; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Sharon Breitenbeck representing League of Women's Voters spoke to clarify new information related to the Fair Districts PA solution, to the extreme gerrymandering problem in Pennsylvania. Ms. Breitenbeck presented a simplified Resolution and asked Council to pass the Resolution in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional redistricting to end gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

Reports:

(A) **Junior Council Person:** 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.

V.I.B.E. proposed upcoming events: April 28, 2018 – Community Yard Sale – 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
October 14, 2018 – Fall Festival
November 24, 2018 – Small Town Christmas

Tonya McNamara reported on Kerry Miller, Tioga County Planning Director is exploring a potential group PA Downtown Center Membership of communities along Route 15 corridor (Liberty to Lawrenceville). A meeting is scheduled on April 18, 2018 in the Mansfield Borough Office to discuss this opportunity.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson informed Council that supervised community service people will be working around town (i.e. painting curbs yellow, etc.).

Mayor Nickerson, Jill Nickerson, and John Vogt are working on a Blossburg Home Page that will include surrounding communities.

Reports:

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total: \$319.86.

Three applicants applied and were interviewed for the job of part-time police officer. The Police Committee recommended two (2) candidates be hired to fill the 32 hour gap in coverage per weekly schedule. Motion to hire part-time Officers Michael Bostwick and Jose Sanchez was made by Paul Hosszu; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

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

(F) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd sent electric utility billing information to APPI Energy for their 2018 Energy Recommendation to see if Borough and Municipal Authority can get better electric rate charges. There could be a possible 10% - 25% annual savings.

(G) **Planning Commission:**

A meeting was held on March 27, 2018. Board members reviewed and approved subdivision of Borough property at 245 Main Street with a lot addition to Borough property at 241 Main Street. Council's approval is required on subdivision, then information will be filed at Tioga County PA Register and Recorder.

Ralph Mundis submitted his resignation on January 11, 2018, effective immediately. An ad was published in the Penny-Saver requesting any Borough resident wishing to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest. No responses were received. Replacement was discussed with Board members and they recommended Josh Wolf to fill the Board vacancy.

Appointment to Planning Commission: Motion to appoint Josh Wolf to Planning Commission was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) **Recreation:**

Island Park cleanup, by school students, is scheduled for April 26, 2018.

Holly Berguson was approved to take a lifeguard instructor class.

John Mays is working on KCC Building remodeling.

Reports:

Playground:

Opening of Garden Plantings Bids:

Received as advertised:

The bids as listed were accepted as follows:

Dane's Lawn Care & Landscaping:	\$ 9,780.00 Accepted
Ettingers Landscaping:	\$10,450.00
Martin's Landscape Service:	\$ 9,830.60

Motion was made by James Rakoski to accept Dane's Lawn Care & Landscaping bid; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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 February 26, 2018 and the Transaction Report 02/27/2018 to 03/23/2018.

(J) **Library:** The Blossburg Memorial Library / "Turning Outward" to host conservation events on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. and Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Memorial Library's Community Room.

(K) **Street / Building Committee:** Nothing to report.

(L) **Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.

(M) **Budget:** Nothing to report.

(N) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

BMA working with Repsol to look for more water sources on East side of Tioga River.
One (1) site is on Harold House property and two (2) sites are on DCNR property by Carpenter Run.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

2. **Borough Website:** Timothy Martin is working with website designer.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 1 2018 Fair Districts PA – Gerrymandering in PA – Fair Districting Process:**

Motion to adopt resolution Fair Districts PA – Gerrymandering in PA – Fair Redistricting Process was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2. **Opening of Island Park Plantings Bids:** Opened and discussed earlier.

3. **Jill Nickerson Projects:**

- (1) Garbage / Recycling brochure.
- (2) Go paperless with Council information. Checking with other boroughs to see if they went paperless.
- (3) New billing / software program.
- (4) Personnel Policy review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 AT THE PARKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOCATED AT 302 WEST MAIN STREET, ELKLAND, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018.

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH SPRING CLEANUP IS ONLY ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED GARBAGE DAY, EITHER MAY 1 or MAY 2.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall closed the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, James Rakoski. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOLENE HALL AT END OF MEETING. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.