

MINUTES FOR BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CONFERENCE MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2020

7:00 PM – Council Chambers, 1 Municipal Plaza, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building



I. Sunshine Compliance Statement

Mayor Venezia called the meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.

Notice of the time, date, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent then known was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Law of 1975 (The Open Public Meeting Act).

1. By posting such notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and
2. By email notification generated by IQM2 software to the offices of the Independent Press, Bloomfield Life, the Star Ledger, Patch, Baristanet and TAPinto Bloomfield

II. Pledge of Allegiance

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jenny Mundell	First Ward Councilwoman	Present	
Nicholas Joanow	Second Ward Councilman	Present	
Sarah Cruz	Third Ward Councilwoman	Absent	
Wartyna Davis	Councilwoman	Present	
Ted Gamble	Councilman	Present	
Richard Rockwell	Councilman	Present	
Michael J. Venezia	Mayor	Present	

Also Present: Louise Palagano, Municipal Clerk; Michael Parlavecchio, Township Attorney; Paul Lasek, Township Engineer; Louis Venezia, Fire Chief; Samuel DeMaio, Public Safety Director; Sean Schwindt, Deputy Police Chief; Bonnie Flynn, Planning Director; John Ditinyak, Treasurer

IV. Presentation

Councilwoman Jenny Mundell read the following aloud for National Gun Violence Survivors Week:

**NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK
FEBRUARY 1- FEBRUARY 8, 2020**

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and 73,000 more are shot and wounded;

WHEREAS, by early February, more Americans are killed with guns than are killed in our peer countries in an entire calendar year;

WHEREAS, a gun violence survivor is anyone who has personally experienced gun violence - whether you have witnessed an act of gun violence, been threatened or wounded with a gun, or had someone you know and cared for wounded or killed;

WHEREAS, forms of gun violence can include, but are not limited to: gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a gun, shootings by law enforcement, and unintentional shootings;

WHEREAS, 58 percent of American adults or someone they care for has experienced gun violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the reach and impact gun violence has in communities across America;

WHEREAS, firearms are the second leading cause of death for children and teens and the first leading cause of death for Black children and teens in America;

WHEREAS, Americans in cities across the nation are working to end the senseless violence by advocating for common-sense gun safety legislation;

WHEREAS, by commemorating National Gun Violence Survivors Week on February 1 to February 8, cities across America will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I MICHAEL J. VENEZIA, as Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield, along with the Township Council, do hereby declare the first February 1- February 8, 2020 to be National Gun Violence Survivors Week to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence. We encourage all citizens to uplift the resilient voices of survivors across the nation and support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

Ollyn J. Lettman, director of the Bloomfield Center Alliance, took to the microphone to present the finalized 2020 BCA budget. Mr. Lettman presented an outline of the accomplishments, events and activities the BCA had last year to the council such as Dinner under the Stars, the Harvest Fest and Small Business Saturday. Mr. Lettman talked about the BCA's growing Facebook page and their façade grant program, which provided capital and incentive for local business owners to obtain a new awning or lighting. He also gave the Council a comparative analysis of the 2019 budget and the proposed 2020 budget as well as a preview of some events the BCA would like to sponsor this year. Councilwoman Mundell and Mayor Venezia asked for more details about the strategic plans for Bloomfield and Councilman Gamble discussed the BCA's marketing budget. Mayor Venezia talked about the importance of the BCA to have a plan for new and existing businesses and how the governing body can work with them and help. Councilwoman Davis stressed the importance of community input to help the BCA with their plans.

3. PSE&G Transmission Line Upgrade

Joe McQueen from PSE&G talked about the growth within the Township of Bloomfield and how in order to manage that some of the existing pole lines should be replaced to meet some of the demands the stations are realizing. He also explained how they plan to inform residents about the upcoming work and how PSE&G will coordinate with the Police Department. He projected that the work would be completed in about three years. Mayor Venezia asked about the radius of notification to residents in the impacted area, which would be along Washington Street near the train tracks. Mr. McQueen detailed how they plan to notify these residents and when they would begin/end their work so they would not negatively impact traffic during this time period. Councilwoman Mundell also recommended that they notify cross streets as well. Councilman Joanow asked that light repairs be moved to the forefront of the short list to be fixed. Mr. McQueen said he would provide a projected timetable and list for the Council.

V. Public Comment

J. Andrew Smith, Bloomfield, New Jersey, took to the microphone to discuss an incident on the prior Thursday in which a school bus went through the intersection of East Passaic and Coeyman almost hitting a crossing guard, student and a SUV making a turn. The school bus swerved and narrowly missed everyone. Mr. Smith wanted to bring this to the attention of the Mayor and Council because he said things happen like this all the time at bus stops. He suggested that crossing guards should have body cameras.. Mayor Venezia said the police department would look into it and see if they could devise a solution.

David Cummings, of the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation, discussed the organization and how they can help Bloomfield residents. He planned to meet with the guidance counselors at the High School on how to teach students about career development. Mayor Venezia said he would like to set up a meeting at a later date to talk more about the organization and how they plan to help the residents.

Maria Probst, Bloomfield, New Jersey, took to the microphone to talk about the reval letters and wanted to know more about appointments. Mayor Venezia and Township Administrator Matt Watkins provided more details about the time and how long until residents can file an appeal.

Norm Sutaria, Bloomfield, New Jersey, asked about the online appointments for the assessments. Mr. Suttera also discussed pedestrian safety in town and said some kind of committee should be established and now is a critical time to do so because Bloomfield is growing. He also talked about his support for body cams for crossing guards and wanted to know if Bloomfield could mirror Montclair's Pedestrian Safety Committee. Mayor Venezia said they would look into this committee.

VI. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Request to Rezone Properties Surrounding 113 Washington St. Block 224 Lots 7,9, 10, 11 to M1 Zone

Township Administrator Matt Watkins said there is a request by PSE&G about the above properties to rezone them to a M1 Zone while the PSE&G project takes place. This Ordinance would be introduced with a resolution that would send it to the Planning Board for consideration and recommendation before the Ordinance goes to Second reading. Planning Director Bonnie Flynn would prepare the recommendation.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance and Resolution.

RESULT:	FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/4/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

2. Discussion of Short Term Lease Alternatives

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about the growing trend in town of Short Term Rental properties. Mr. Watkins said at the moment there is no regulation for this and residents have expressed concern. Mr. Watkins said Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio put together an ordinance that would restrict some of the short term rentals in the township. Mr. Parlavecchio said that some of the issues concern residential zoning, safety and health. Bloomfield surveyed other towns to see what they had in place and it seemed that short term rental ordinances restricted people from renting their properties for less than 30 days. However, it doesn't restrict month to month renting for those coming off a one year or six month lease. These ordinances also restrict advertising for the short term rentals.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following.

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

3. Discussion of Property Maintenance and Abandoned Properties

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about a review of the property maintenance code as well as the health code. Mr. Watkins expressed the need to cleanly integrate them both and now is the time since the Township Clerk is working on a recodification. Mr. Watkins said there is a need to fix the code surrounding abandoned and vacant properties and the fees associated with them. The Township is proposing that the Council considers changing the Ordinance regarding the certification of occupancy code in conjunction with the Fire Department. Mr. Watkins would like to move this code from the Health Department over to Building and Fire and the fees would change as well.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Ted Gamble	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

4. Revisions to Standard Floodplain Ordinance as required by FEMA

Planning Director Bonnie Flynn, provided the Mayor and Council with an update to Chapter 250 of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The current and proposed Ordinance are state models and the main reason for the update is to adopt the new FEMA flood maps that go into effect on April 3, 2020.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

5. Award of Contract - 2020 Fireworks Display

Township administrator Matt Watkins talked about an award of Contract for the 2020 Fireworks Display.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

6. Web Epoch Interactive, Inc 2020 Contract Non-Renewal

Township administrator Matt Watkins discussed the non-renewal of a web services contract.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	
RESULT:	APPROVED BY CONSENSUS	

7. GovQa LLC 2020 Contract Non-Renewal

Township administrator Matt Watkins discussed the non-renewal of a web services contract.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	
RESULT:	APPROVED BY CONSENSUS	

8. Declaration of Surplus Equipment - Fire Truck

Fire Chief Louis Venezia talked about designating a surplus fire truck that is no longer needed. This truck would then be donated to the Dominican Republic. The truck would be shipped at no cost to the Township.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

9. Request to Authorize the Purchase of Hydraulic Extrication Tools - Fire Dept

Fire Chief Louis Venezia talked about the need for new Hydraulic Extrication equipment for the Fire Department.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

10. Handicapped Parking Request (211 Ampere Parkway, 109 North 15th Street, 10 Park Avenue, 268 Ampere Parkway, 14 Evelyn Place, 140 Baldwin Street, 15 Tunbridge Place)

Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio talked about the requests for the above addresses that have already been vetted by the Traffic Division.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

11. Handicapped Parking Removals (118 Orange Street & 88 Willow Street)

Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio talked about the requests for the above addresses that have already been vetted by the Traffic Division.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

VII. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

1. Authorizing the Township Administrator to execute a Subordination Agreement in Connection with the Township's Residential Rehab Program

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio explained how the resident at 164 Jerome Place who had a loan with the town's residential rehab program is now refinancing. Mr. Parlavecchio suggested an authorization to execute a subordination agreement in connection with the rehab program.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

2. Light Pollution Ordinance Recommendation

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about the inconsistencies with the Light Pollution Ordinance and the need to amend changes to it especially security lighting for residents.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

3. Revisions of Community Cat Ordinance as recommended by the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about changes recommended for the Community Cats/Feral Cats Ordinance as suggested by the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR:

1. Transfer Between Reserve Budget Appropriations

Treasurer John Ditinyak talked about the transfer between of monies from the reserved budget.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

2. Resolution to Read Budget by Title

Treasurer John Ditinyak talked about a resolution that was needed to read the budget by title which is protocol every year.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

3. Results of the CY 2019 Annual Debt Statement

Treasurer John Ditinyak presented the Council with the 2019 annual debt statement. No action was needed.

IX. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

1. Award of Contract - Felton Field Park Improvements

Township Engineer Paul Lasek talked about the lowest bid for Felton Field Park and suggested an award of contract.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/24/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz	

X. TOWNSHIP CLERK

1. Spirit Run - Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Township Clerk Louise Palagano discussed the request from Sacred Heart Church to approve the Spirit Run for Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

The recommendation was approved for adoption. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
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XII. Action Item

Mayor Venezia then asked for a motion to approve the following Action Item. Councilwoman Jenny Mundell moved and Councilwoman Davis seconded. All present voted in favor.

1. Approved Bill List February 10, 2020

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia
ABSENT:	Sarah Cruz

XII. TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**1. Liaison Reports**

Councilwoman Davis talked about the results of the Civil Rights Commission's Essay Contest. There were 176 submissions which was a significant uptick. Councilwoman Davis also discussed the BCA's response to the Washington St. Fire as well as their new location to Franklin Street at the moment. She also talked about the fundraiser at Essex Junction for those impacted by the fire.

Councilman Gamble recognized the work of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board to update the cat ordinance. He also shared the board's new partnership with C-PAW and the open spot for a new member.

Councilman Joanow provided an update from the Recycling Committee. He urges residents not to use plastic bags when recycling and also cautioned against cross contamination when recycling products.

Councilman Rockwell talked about the next hike on May 2, for the Morris Canal Greenway Committee which will be on a new trail. Councilman Rockwell also said there will be another Scout project focusing on that trail on March 7. He also talked about the survey from the Historic Preservation Committee as well as some ordinances from the Planning Board which he has recommendations to make to improve them.

Mayor Venezia asked for motion to go into Closed Session which was moved by Councilman Joanow, seconded by Councilman Gamble, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Closed Session at 8:29 P.M..

XIII. CLOSED SESSION:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Township of Bloomfield has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body will reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bloomfield will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public;

Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body;

Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting;

Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual in writing requests a public meeting;

Any deliberations of the public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of specific civil penalty.

XIV. Adjournment

The Council did not return from Closed Session and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise M. Palagano, Municipal Clerk