

Held _____ 20 _____

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2026

**Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
by Tim Bennett, Mayor
With the Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Attendance**
 - Present: Christian Bennett, Tonya Fleak, Keith Hall, Melissa Hixon
 - Excused Absence: Jerry Fleak, Gordon O'Grady
 - **Motion:** to approve excusing the absences made by Melissa Hixon; seconded by Tonya Fleak. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Staff: Bob Daugherty - Village Administrator, Emerson McGinnis - Solicitor, Melody Reed – Fiscal Officer
- **Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**
 - March 3, 2026
 - **Motion:** to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2026 council meeting made by Keith Hall; seconded by Christian Bennett. Motion passed unanimously.
 - March 10, 2026
 - **Motion:** to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2026 council meeting made by Tonya Fleak; seconded by Keith Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Visitors**
 - Rob Mullins, Fayette County Commissioner Candidate
 - Thanked council for offering the time
 - Introduced himself and shared background
 - Laid out his plans if elected
 - Mike Brown, Property Tax Update
 - Shared research handouts
 - Believes there are three separate tax levies placed on residents specifically for the cemetery
 - Would like to recommend either removing two of the levies all together or moving those levied funds to the general operating fund
 - Emerson McGinnis will look into the legality of moving funds
 - Angela Joyce, Concerned resident – Water safety
 - Questions raised about the water quality on Sunday, 4/6/26
 - Bob Daugherty responded:
 - The water is safe to drink and use
 - If it is ever not safe, communication about that will be spread through postings at the post office and town hall and radio
 - There are 4 filters in place on the system
 - One is currently offline and a new one is on backorder
 - Color of the water was due to iron in the lines
 - Met with representatives from EPA about water quality issues. Sample tests are underway
 - Angela thanked the work of Council in getting water treatment upgrades completed
 - Angela stated she is excited about the new town website (to be launched soon) and hopes it will help with overall communication for village residents
 - Stated that part of her panic about the water quality was not being able to get in touch with anyone at town hall due to phone line issues
 - Rob Mullins suggested using the Fayette County Sherriff's Office Emergency Communication app to help get information out
 - Observing Visitors: Gayle Brown, Gary Foster
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Spring Clean Up – Tonya Fleak**
 - Dates
 - Friday, 4/24 from 8-4 and Saturday 4/25 from 8-12
 - Friday 5/1 from 8-4 and Saturday 5/2 from 8-12
 - Information distributed
 - For Bloomingburg residents only, will need to update residency status

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- Yard waste can be placed out at curbs now for pickup through the event
 - Dumpsters for event will be placed at the water plant
 - Bob Daugherty raised concerns about also collecting tires at this event. He suggested doing a tire collection event on a separate day so that it can be properly staffed with fees collected, otherwise tire disposals will be abused
 - Flyer will be created to share with residents
 - **Motion:** to establish Spring Clean Up Day Committee made by Keith Hall; Christian Bennett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Committee Members:** Tonya Fleak, Keith Hall, Christian Bennett
- **Cemetery Board – Tonya Fleak**
 - 2 part-time season staff hired
 - Insurance claim for the fence has been filed
 - Bob Daugherty got a new flag for the cemetery. Keith Hall suggested reaching out to VFW for flag donations in the future
- **Fire Board – Christian Bennett**
 - Minutes from last meeting distributed
 - 23 runs this month
 - Repair and Maintenance Updates
 - Grant received for turnout gear
 - \$742 raised from the Pancake Breakfast
- **Community Day – Christian Bennett**
 - Date set for August 8, 2026
 - Committee will meet Monday 4/14
 - Band has been secured
 - Plan to have a Bloomingburg Hall of Fame nominee announced
 - New food trucks on board
 - Still looking for volunteers and vendors
- **Solicitor's Report – Emerson McGinnis**
 - Reminder to everyone to get any resolutions or ordinances to Emerson well in advance of the meeting so that they can be fully prepared and ready to be signed.
- **Village Administrator's Report – Bob Daugherty**
 - Gave more information about the water issue from the past weekend
 - Feels there needs to be one point of communication for emergencies. As the Village Administrator, he's happy to be that point of contact
 - Tim Bennet reminded all council members that they should not use their personal Social Media accounts to speak on behalf of Council or to post a negativity about Council business.
 - Bob raised concerns that several residents contacted the EPA directly about the water issue, which led to much larger and more costly issues for the village. He also mentioned that the social media message boards were getting out of hand and people were threatening to contact local news stations about the issue
 - Discussion ensued about a Communication Plan moving forward
- **Legislation**
 - **Ordinance 26-02**
 - To approve, adopt, and enact American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code. 2026 Edition
 - Melissa Hixson so moved; Keith Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Resolution 26-09**
 - To renew Central Square (Utility) Billing Contract
 - Melissa Hixson so moved; Christian Bennett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Resolution 26-10**
 - To renew General Engineering Services retainer with Verdantas – Barbara R. Anderson
 - Keith Hall so moved; Christian Bennett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Clerk's Report – Melody Reed**
 - Billed: \$34,651.41 Received: \$36,562.20
 - All financial reports distributed and signed
 - Council reminded Melody about mandatory state training for new fiscal officers
- **Old Business**
 - RITA – Regional Income Tax Agency – Keith Hall

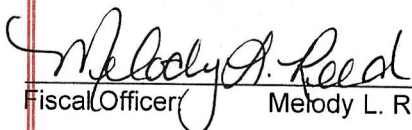
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- Keith gathered info and distributed
- All encompassing tax filing service based on percentage of collected taxes
- Some council members feel the cost shouldn't be passed to residents or business owners
- Council decided to table at least until after the renewal of the levy
- **New Business**
 - Gary Foster – Resident
 - Asked a question about farm animal permits inside village limits, believes a neighbor may be in violation
 - Bob Daugherty will investigate. Found no permit for the address on file
 - Melissa Hixson will work on community flyer about the tax levy renewal
 - Tonya Fleak will work on community flyer about the Community Clean Up Days
 - Tim Bennet reported that back taxes are owed on a property inside village limits and asked Emerson McGinnis to research.
 - Bob Daugherty stated that if the grass needs mowed at the property, the village will do it and the charge of \$500 will be added to the bill.
- **Executive Session**
 - **Motion:** to enter into Executive Session to discuss council policies made by Christian Bennett; Tonya Fleak seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session began at 7:23pm.
 - **Motion:** to end Executive Session and return to regular meeting made by Keith Hall; Melissa Hixson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 7:26pm.
- **Conclusion**
 - Next regular council meeting would fall on Voting Day, so the next regular meeting of council will be on **May 12, 2026 at 6:00pm.**
- **Adjournment**
 - **Motion:** to adjourn council meeting made by Melissa Hixson; Tonya Fleak seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Council Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

May 12, 2026
Date Approved by Council


Fiscal Officer: Melody L. Reed


Mayor: Tim Bennett