

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held this Monday, February 13, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Council Members, Claude Renninger, Bill Brobst, Terry Lemon, Paul Kinney, Dan Knorr and Paul Houseknecht; Town Administrator, Carol Mas; Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer, Ed Fegley; Superintendent of Public Works, John Barton; Chief of Police, Leo Sokoloski; Fire Chief, Bob Rupp; Recycling Administrator, Charles Fritz; Finance Specialist, Heather Jacoby; Solicitor, Jack Mihalik and Office Assistant, Amy Seamans.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

After the Pledge to the Flag, a moment of silence was held in memory of Mayor Charles "Chip" Coffman who passed away on Friday, January 27, 2006.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council nominated and elected Claude Renninger as Mayor for a two year term.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

District Justice Donna J. Coombe gave the oath of office to newly elected Mayor, Claude Renninger.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by B. Brobst and voted on unanimously, Council nominated and elected Terry Lemon as Vice President of Council for the remainder of 2006.

FFY 2006 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT REVIEW AND FINALIZATION

Bill Lowthert of SEDA-COG stated the FFY 2006 CDBG allocation is estimated to be \$201,351.00 which is an 11% reduction from 2005. Mr. Lowthert described the projects currently under review for consideration. Bloomsburg Town Park master site plan document which is an important step for future funding opportunities through DCNR. The recommended funding for this project is \$14,333.00. The continuation of the Fifth Street Traffic Calming Reconstruction Project from Catherine Street to East Street in conjunction with the repaving of Route 11 in 2007 by PennDOT. The project will include removal and replacement of street pavement and curbing, improvements to existing storm sewer system, replacement of existing sanitary sewer system with a new system, improvements to traffic flow and circulation, street beautification activities which may include planting of new trees, traffic calming measures which may include brick paver crosswalks and planting areas and sidewalk replacement including handicap accessible ramps. The recommended funding for this project is \$117,888.00. The next project is capitol improvements to buildings at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport. A recommendation from an architect will be needed to determine the extent of the reconstruction and fundability of the project will need to be determined by DCED. The recommended funding for this project is \$23,200.00. The last project is curbing and sidewalk reconstruction along Main Street which is to be undertaken in conjunction with the PennDOT repaving of Route 11 in 2007. The recommended funding for this project is \$23,200.00. The remaining \$21,730.00 is set aside for administrative costs.

C. Renninger asked the audience if they had any input on any of the projects. Todd Davis of 220 E. Fifth Street expressed that he does not want to see bulb-outs in this block of Fifth Street which would reduce the number of parking spaces. Mr. Davis also stated that it is very difficult to turn onto Fifth Street from Catherine Street around the bulb-out without going into the other lane and that the Town should take the money to tear out the bulb-outs that already exist. Scott McBride spoke on behalf of his mother who owns property at 259-261 E. Fifth Street. Mr. McBride believes there has not been an increase in vehicle speed in this block of Fifth Street and does not feel traffic calming is an issue

and is also concerned about the loss of parking spaces if bulb-outs are planned for this area. The east end of Fifth Street is very congested with the Columbia Academy, Original Italian Pizza and the main entrance to the Columbia Child Development Daycare Center being located here. Mr. McBride also asked if an island would be placed at the east end like there is at the west end. Mr. Lowthert stated that there is an RFP out right now for engineering services. As part of the RFP, the engineering firm will hold four public meetings to receive input from residents concerning the design of the area. Mr. Lowthert did state that bulb-outs may not be the way to go for this area and reiterated that options would be explored at the public meetings. If Council would decide not go through with the project after the design phase is completed, engineering in itself is not a fundable project and DCED may ask the Town to repay those funds if the project would not be done. P. Houseknecht asked to be put on the record as not being in support of bulb-outs but he is in favor of the infrastructure. D. Knorr also has strong reservations of having bulb-outs in this area. Jo Wright and Barbara Crawford of PA P.E.T.S. are worried that another roadway project on Fifth Street may shut down their business for good. When the other reconstruction project was done, their business was shut down from April to September because customers could not get to their shop. J. Barton expressed that this project might only take a fifth of the amount of time to complete. C. Renninger stated the Town would take measures to direct customers to their business. On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the four proposed projects for funding with FFY 2006 CDBG Program funds as long as residents and Council be consulted in the design process of the Fifth Street project.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2006 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 23, 2006 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF LAYOFF OF DOWNTOWN MANAGER

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the layoff of Kathy Martin, Downtown Manager, as of February 3, 2006. Eleven days of vacation will be included in her last paycheck. Health insurance coverage will continue to the end of February and she will also receive the computer given to her by the telecommunications consortium after all town and downtown files have been deleted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND JANUARY PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the January payroll authorization: General Fund, \$182,404.92; Recycling Fund, \$12,477.22; Street Lighting Fund, \$8,112.17; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$258.88; Fire Fund, \$798.91; FY04 CDBG Entitlement Program, \$4,417.56; FY05 CDBG Entitlement Program, \$5,234.96; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Airport Expansion Project, \$7,879.53; David Stroup Fund, \$261.25 and the January payroll authorization in the amount of \$166,773.78.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO MUNICIPAL EMPLOYERS INSURANCE TRUST FROM THE POLICE PENSION PLAN

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Municipal Employers Insurance Trust from the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,453.95.

APPOINTMENT OF JIM FAUST AS INTERIM BLOOMSBURG EMA COORDINATOR

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Jim Faust as Interim Bloomsburg EMA Coordinator. C. Renninger stated that former Mayor Chip Coffman held the position of EMA Coordinator for the Town and

that the Administrative/Finance Committee has decided to receive applications for the paid position. C. Renninger stressed the importance of the position and that interested parties can make application to C. Mas at Town Hall.

APPOINTMENT OF PAUL HOUSEKNECHT TO PENSION COMMITTEE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council appointed P. Houseknecht to the Pension Committee.

ACCEPTANCE OF PA COUNCIL OF THE ARTS GRANT FOR TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the PA Council of the Arts Grant in the amount of \$530.00 for the Town Park Improvement Association.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEGENSTEIN FOUNDATION GRANT FOR BLOOMSBURG LITTLE LEAGUE

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the Degenstein Foundation Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Bloomsburg Little League.

APPROVAL OF OFFICER SHAWN HILL TO ATTEND SCHOOLING

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Police Officer Shawn Hill to attend the NRA Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Instructor Development School in South Williamsport from April 10-14, 2006.

APPROVAL FOR CHARLES FRITZ TO ATTEND ANNUAL PROP CONFERENCE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz to attend the annual PROP conference in Pittsburgh from July 26-28, 2006.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Dave Leshock to install an awning at **145 West Main Street**.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Billy Chapman to wrap a window with aluminum at **249 Center Street**.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Kile and Kile Real Estate to reconstruct the front porch at **386-388 Penn Argyle**.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Maureen Magarigal to replace the roof at **257-259-263 East Street**.

APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – BEN FRANKLIN EXPANSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a modification from Section 22-404.B.(1)(a)1), the requirement of a key map showing the entire tract of land.

APPROVAL OF WAIVERS – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – BEN FRANKLIN EXPANSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved waivers from Section 22-404.D.(1)(a)2), the requirement to show tract boundary lines; Section 22-404.D.(1)(a)3), the requirement to show survey monuments on the plan and Section 22-404.D.(1)(a)13), the requirement to building setbacks.

APPROVAL OF BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – BEN FRANKLIN EXPANSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved the final plan for Bloomsburg University's Ben Franklin building expansion.

APPROVAL OF FIELDS IN BLOOM – SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT – HEMLOCK LANE

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved the final plan for Fields in Bloom subdivision/land development on Hemlock Lane contingent upon the approval of an erosion and sediment control plan by Columbia County Conservation District, approval of an NPDES permit by DEP, successful execution of a developer's agreement and financial security for the construction of site improvements in a form approved by Town Council, successful execution of a developer's agreement and financial security for the construction and installation of sanitary sewer lines in a form approved by the Bloomsburg Municipal Authority and the relocation of concrete monuments to an area approved by Town Engineer, Carbon Engineering.

APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – SWISHER COMMUTER PARKING LOT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a modification from Section 22-607.2, for the reduction in the size of parking spaces from 10' x 20' feet to 9' x 18' feet.

APPROVAL OF WAIVERS – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – SWISHER COMMUTER PARKING LOT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved waivers from Section 22-706.E, the requirement to provide a 1 ½ inch thick expansion joint for the sidewalk; Section 22-607.3.E.(1), the requirement that a minimum of 10% of the total interior area of each parking lot must be provided for pedestrian walkways in the existing gravel parking lot and Sections 22-404.B.1.a.1, 22-404.D.(1)(a)2), 22-404.D.1.(1)(a)3), 22-404.D(1)(a)13), the requirements to show a key map, tract boundary lines and bearing and distances, building setbacks and survey monuments on the plan.

APPROVAL OF WAIVERS – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – ADDITION TO MCCORMICK HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved waivers from Section 22-502.8.B, to allow the grade on a private street to be greater than 10%, Section 22-706.E, the requirement to provide a 1 ½ inch thick expansion joint for the sidewalk, Section 22-404.B.1.a.1, Section 22-404.D.(1)(a)2), Section 22-404.D.1.(1)(a)3), and Section 22-404.D(1)(a)13), the requirements to show a key map, tract boundary lines and bearing and distances, building setbacks and survey monuments on the plan and Section 22-607.3.E.(1), the requirement that a minimum of 10% of the total interior area of each parking lot must be provided for pedestrian walkways in the existing gravel parking lot.

APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – LAND DEVELOPMENT – ADDITION TO MCCORMICK HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a modification from Section 22-607.2, for the reduction in the size of parking spaces from 10' x 20' feet to 9' x 18' feet.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT BALER BELT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a replacement belt for the baler at the Recycling Center in the amount of \$4,494.00 from BE Equipment, Inc.

APPROVAL OF 2006 ROAD MATERIAL BID

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved the low bids from Sokol, Inc. for 2A, 2RC, 1B and 2B stone and the low bids from HRI, Inc. for Superpave 9.5mm and Superpave 25.0mm for 2006.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF TWO (2) REPLACEMENT AWNINGS

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of two (2) replacement awnings in the amount of \$1,750.00 from C & M Enterprises for Town Hall police department entrances.

APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL FROM MCTISH, KUNKEL AND ASSOCIATIONS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the low bid from McTish, Kunkel and Associates in the amount of \$16,978.30 for professional engineering services for the Transportation Enhancement Street Lighting Project.

APPROVAL OF ONE-HOUR PARKING AREA IN FRONT OF BLOOM NATURALLY

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved a one-hour parking area in front of Bloom Naturally located at 330 E. Fifth Street.

APPROVAL OF NO PARKING ON EAST SIDE OF SPRUCE STREET

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved no parking on the east side of Spruce Street from Fifth Street to Columbia Boulevard as part of an agreement with Milco Industries to reopen Spruce Street.

APPROVAL OF MILCO INDUSTRIES, INC. TRACTOR TRAILER TRUCK PARKING ONLY ON WEST SIDE OF SPRUCE STREET

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved allowing only Milco Industries, Inc. to park tractor trailer trucks on the west side of Spruce Street in 30 feet from the sidewalk at Fifth Street to Milco Industries driveway as part of an agreement with Milco Industries to reopen Spruce Street.

APPROVAL OF NO LEFT TURN FROM SPRUCE STREET ONTO COLUMBIA BOULEVARD

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council approved no left hand turning from Spruce Street onto Columbia Boulevard as part of an agreement with Milco Industries to reopen Spruce Street.

APPROVAL OF SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE ADVERTISEMENT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising an ordinance to provide for an effective and efficient system of plowing and removal of snow from the streets, highways, and parking lots of the Town.

APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the following revisions to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations: Section 3.6 (a) remove the words “six (6) or more days”; Section 4.4.1 insert “their” in place of “her” and Section 6.3 replace the first sentence of the second paragraph with “Within five days after the Town Council of the Town of Bloomsburg has voted to impose the disciplinary action, a written statement of the charges shall be delivered to the officer either by personal service or by certified and registered mail”.

CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICER ELIGIBILITY LIST

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved certifying the Civil Service police officer eligibility list of Joseph DiGregorio, Michael Fosse, Bradley Slack and Sara Wright.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. Rupp reported that the fire department had 48 incidents in January and logged 1,500 volunteer hours. B. Rupp thanked all the citizens and eating establishments of the Town for volunteering their time and bringing food to the firefighters at the fire on Fifth Street on February 5, 2006 and at the river recovery attempt this past weekend. T. Lemon included the residents and businesses of Scott Township as well.

APPROVAL OF FIRE APPARATUS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved preventive maintenance to be performed on three engines, one truck and two generators in the amount of \$4,000.00.

APPROVAL OF LOWERING LETTER OF CREDIT FOR JDK MANAGEMENT, CO.

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved lowering the letter of credit of JDK Management, Co., Bloomsburg Health Care Center parking lot expansion project by \$202,094.00 leaving a balance of \$67,606.00.

COUNCIL VACANCY

C. Renninger expressed that there will be a Council seat vacant with him becoming Mayor. B. Rupp is the Council Vacancy Board and will be accepting letters of interest which can be mailed or dropped off at the Town Hall. Council unanimously agreed to set Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 4:30pm as the deadline for letters of interest. A decision will be made at the February 27, 2006 Town Council meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary