

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held this Monday, May 22, 2006, beginning at 7:05 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor, Claude Renninger; Council Members, Bill Brobst, Terry Lemon, Paul Kinney, Dan Knorr and Paul Houseknecht; Town Administrator Carol Mas and Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski. Absent was Council Member Don Pursel.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – FFY 2005 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BUDGET MODIFICATION

Prior to the beginning of the regular meeting, a Public Hearing was held at 7:00pm to discuss modifying the Town's FFY 2005 Community Development Block Grant budget. William Lowthert of SEDA-COG stated the recommended modifications would reduce the West Pine Avenue Parking Facilities from \$76,000.00 to \$73,577.26; reduce the Bloomsburg Flood Control from \$60,290.00 to \$0.00; increase Fifth Street Improvements from Catherine to East Streets from \$35,000.00 to \$60,252.74 and add Street Lighting – Economic Development at a modified budget of \$37,460.00. Mr. Lowthert also recommended that Council reallocate \$1,339.00 of miscellaneous Program Income to the Fifth Street Improvements. Public comment was limited to Melissa Dyas wanting to know if the Fifth Street project involved more bulb-outs, and Kurt Smith asking why the town was giving so much attention to Fifth Street. The Public Hearing closed at 7:05pm.

#### APPROVAL OF FFY 2005 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BUDGET MODIFICATION AND PROGRAM INCOME REALLOCATION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the FFY 2005 Community Development Block Grant Budget Modification to reduce the West Pine Avenue Parking Facilities from \$76,000.00 to \$73,577.26; reduce Bloomsburg Flood Control from \$60,290.00 to \$0.00; increase Fifth Street Improvements from Catherine to East Streets from \$35,000.00 to \$60,252.74; add Street Lighting – Economic Development for \$37,460.00 and reallocate \$1,339.00 miscellaneous Program Income to the Fifth Street Improvements.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – ZACH PRESSWOOD

Zach Presswood read a prepared statement concerning his opposition to the proposed curfew ordinance. He can drive a two-ton vehicle but cannot attend a 9:00pm movie due to the hours listed in the ordinance. He said according to an FBI study most juvenile crimes occur between the hours of 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – KAREN ANSELM

Karen Anselm worried that the proposed loitering ordinance prohibited children to gather. The town is not allowing kids to be kids. She approached several businesses on Center Street and none of them, except for the Brennan's, had a problem with the teens skateboarding in the parking lot behind their establishments. J. Mihalik clarified that the town was not prohibiting gathering but hindering the obstruction of movement by a group.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – MELISSA DYAS

Melissa Dyas believes Bloomsburg is becoming non-kid friendly with the curfew ordinance. The town is looking at a troubled few and punishing the well-behaved. She does not trust the enforcement of this law and feels the proposed \$1,000.00 fine is excessive. J. Mihalik explained that the fine is set by the local District Justice and could be any amount up to the maximum of \$1,000.00.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – KURT SMITH

Kurt Smith pointed out the noise problem experienced years ago was solved with the noise ordinance. He supports the loitering ordinance because he has encountered rude,

nasty teens while trying to enter a Main Street store. In regards to the curfew ordinance, he did not feel the police would bother any teen out legitimately after hours.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – BRUCE MUSSER

Bruce Musser made the statement – liberty and justice for all. Mr. Musser noted as he pointed at a teenager in the audience that he would be a criminal if he was walking his dog in the neighborhood after 10:00pm according to the curfew ordinance. He also questioned what enforcement issues would occur during prom night and the week of fair. J. Mihalik addressed the curfew exemptions which would cover the situations Mr. Musser spoke about. L. Sokoloski has seen an increase in juvenile felony crimes over the past eight to twelve months. Young adults are out all hours of the night with no supervision. The police department will protect the quality of life for all citizens.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – JOHN TUCKER

John Tucker questioned whether the proposed stipulations would be a hardship on the police when they had to stop everyone. The crimes mentioned by the Chief of Police already have statutes that can be enforced.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – JOE POLINCHOCK

Joe Polinchock is not against the curfew ordinance but does not believe the seventeen year-old college students should be exempt. J. Mihalik explained that they were exempted due to the fact that they are miles away from home and do not have parental supervision..

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – RANDALL PRESSWOOD

Randall Presswood wanted to know where the idea came from for the ordinances and what statistics were used. L. Sokoloski contacted the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) for a list of municipalities that had curfew ordinances in place. The list included college towns, Berwick Borough and other communities the size of Bloomsburg. They all believed that curfews curbed crime.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF MAXIMUM FINE IN PROPOSED CURFEW ORDINANCE

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on Five (5) (C. Renninger, B. Brobst, T. Lemon, P. Houseknecht, D. Knorr voting “Yes”) to One (1) (P. Kinney voting “No”), Council approved changing the maximum fine in articles 5.01(B)(4) and 5.01(C) to read \$250.00 in the proposed curfew ordinance.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF HOURS IN PROPOSED CURFEW ORDINANCE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved changing the hours in sections 2.01, 3.01 and 4.01 from 10:00pm to 11:00pm and 11:00pm to midnight in the proposed curfew ordinance.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF SECTION 1.01 IN PROPOSED CURFEW ORDINANCE

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved striking “...and by defining more clearly certain duties and responsibilities upon those who have custody and responsibility for the care of such minors...” and “...and fostering and strengthening parental responsibility for minors” from Section 1.01 of the proposed curfew ordinance.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF EXEMPTIONS IN PROPOSED CURFEW ORDINANCE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on Four (4) (B. Brobst, T. Lemon, P. Kinney, P. Houseknecht voting “Yes”) to Two (2) (C. Renninger, D. Knorr voting “No”), Council approved removing 3.01(H) the minor is a full time student enrolled at a college, university or institution of higher learning from the proposed curfew ordinance.

#### CURFEW ORDINANCE

The adoption of a proposed curfew ordinance regulating the conduct of minors in public places of the Town of Bloomsburg between certain hours for the public good, safety and welfare died for a lack of a motion.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF MAXIMUM FINE IN PROPOSED LOITERING ORDINANCE

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved changing the maximum fine in section 5.01 to \$250.00 of the proposed loitering ordinance.

#### APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF DEFINITION IN PROPOSED LOITERING ORDINANCE

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved removing “public park” from the definition of Public Place in Section 1.01 of the proposed loitering ordinance.

#### ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 896 – REGULATING LOITERING

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on Five (5) (C. Renninger, T. Lemon, P. Kinney, P. Houseknecht, D. Knorr voting “Yes”) to One (1) (B. Brobst voting “No”), Council adopted Ordinance No. 896 regulating loitering with the approved changes. The ordinance will become effective ten days after the changes are advertised in the newspaper.

#### APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2006 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the May 8, 2006 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

#### APPROVAL OF CHILD BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND HIRING OF FULL-TIME TEMPORARY PERSON

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved a child bearing leave of absence for Finance Specialist Heather Jacoby and the hiring of a full-time temporary person from an employment agency at a rate of \$15.00 per hour with \$10.00 per hour going towards wages.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CAROL L. MAS  
Town Administrator & Secretary