

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, October 22, 2007, beginning at 7:09 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Claude Renninger; Council Members Don Pursel, Terry Lemon, Paul Kinney, Bill Brobst, Dan Knorr and Paul Houseknecht; Town Administrator Carol Mas and Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – ANN DISEROAD

Ann Diserod appeared before Council to express her concerns regarding the newly installed walk lights on Main Street. Her presentation depicted the intersection on Market and Main Streets. The safety of the pedestrians is at risk as cars are not yielding but actually speeding up to make the light and the turn. She is not suggesting that the signals be changed but asked for zebra striping in the crosswalks and signs for vehicles to yield to pedestrians. Chief Sokoloski noted PennDOT has been in town observing the lights and is still making adjustments to the system. Christopher Byerly mentioned he has noticed less people walking in town due to the new system and is concerned with seniors and the handicapped trying to cross in a shorter period of time.

DENIAL OF TRISTAR HOUSING’S CURATIVE AMENDMENT

On August 20, 2007, a hearing was held to hear testimony on the curative amendment request by Tristar Housing. Special Counsel Jeffrey Hill explained there were two challenges made in the amendment for Town Council to address. One challenge claimed the R-U zoning designation for his property at 135-151 East First Street was arbitrary and unreasonable since the property is more compatible to the H-D district. The second challenge involved the residency requirements. The ordinance is arbitrary and unreasonable due to the definitions of resident vs. non-resident and student vs. non-student. During the discussion by Council, it was noted there are other areas throughout Bloomsburg where the R-U district is contiguous to an H-D zoning district; a committee is working with a planning consultant to refine the definitions; and the testimony presented at the hearing clearly showed this district is still mainly a residential area. Attorney Hill advised Council they were to make their decision on the ordinance as it was written on the date of the hearing. On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council denied the request from Tristar Housing for a curative amendment for the property at 135-151 East First Street.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 907 – AMENDING CHAPTER 1, PART 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE POLICE PENSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 907 amending Chapter 1, Part 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg relating to the police pension concerning member contributions.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-22-07.01 – SIGNS AND BANNERS ACROSS STATE HIGHWAYS

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 10-22-07.01 for the erection of a banner across SR 487 (Lightstreet Road) attached to Bloomsburg University’s catwalk on November 1-11, 2007 announcing the Veteran’s Day Parade which will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-22-07.02 – PARTICIPATION IN THE CENTRAL WESTMORELAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT 07-MV-007-008

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 10-22-07.02 to participate in the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments cooperative purchasing contract 07-MV-007-008.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-22-07.03 – OPPOSING THE STATE’S INITIATIVE TO TOLL INTERSTATE 80

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 10-22-07.03 opposing the state’s initiative to toll Interstate 80.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2007 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the October 8, 2007 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPOINTMENT OF DAVE ASHBY TO BLOOMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Dave Ashby to the Bloomsburg Planning Commission filling a vacancy which expires on December 31, 2009.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND UPDATE

L. Sokoloski reported that there were no major problems with the permitted parties on Homecoming weekend. All the reports from the various departments were not due in till the end of the week so a full report was not available.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY SIGN AT FOUNTAIN AREA

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the placement of one (1) temporary 2’ by 3’ sign in a metal frame advertising the Veterans Day Parade in the planted area of the fountain.

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session for real estate negotiations and personnel issues at 8:30pm and reconvened at 9:13pm.

APPROVAL OF REAL ESTATE SALES AGREEMENT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved a real estate sales agreement for property located at 1201 Fort McClure Boulevard owned by William and Carol Streater and Mark and Stephanie Streater.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary