

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, January 28, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Paul Kinney, Paul Houseknecht, Kathy Shepperson and Sylvia Costa; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Finance Specialist Heather Jacoby; Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Council Member Diane Levan; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Fire Chief Bob Rupp and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Council Member candidates: William Kreisher, W. Carey Howell, James Huber, Larry DeGreen and Kurt Smith, who was not present, briefly introduced themselves and answered questions of Council. On a motion by K. Shepperson and seconded by S. Costa, Larry DeGreen was nominated. On a motion by P. Houseknecht and seconded by S. Costa, W. Carey Howell was nominated. On a motion by S. Costa and seconded by P. Houseknecht, William Kreisher was nominated.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council closed nominations.

Mayor Knorr called for a vote. No votes were cast for candidate Larry DeGreen; three (3) votes were cast for W. Carey Howell (P. Kinney, P. Houseknecht and K. Shepperson voting for W. Howell) and two (2) votes were cast for William Kreisher (D. Knorr and S. Costa voting for W. Kreisher). W. Carey Howell was appointed Council Member to fill the remaining two (2) year vacancy of Mayor Knorr.

OATH OF OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER W. CAREY HOWELL

Mayor Knorr gave the oath of office to newly appointed Council Member W. Carey Howell.

PUBLIC HEARING – FFY 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Prior to the beginning of the regular meeting, a Public Hearing was held at 7:35pm to discuss the Town of Bloomsburg's FFY 2008 Community Development Block Grant application. D. Knorr turned the meeting over to Bill Lowthert of SEDA-Council of Governments. B. Lowthert gave an overview of the program and reported that the Department of Community and Economic Development has estimated available funding to be \$190,380.00 for 2008, a 3.51% reduction from 2007. B. Lowthert reviewed the application schedule, eligible activities and funding requirements. Also reviewed were the Fair Housing Notice and Antidisplacement Plan and it was noted that the Town has a Section 3 preference. Previously completed projects were the West Pine Avenue Parking Lot Reconstruction Project, the Fifth Street Reconstruction Project from Catherine to East Streets and the Main Street Lighting Project from Market Square to Iron Street. Projects currently being funded are Code Enforcement activities and the Phase III Main Street Lighting Project from Market to West Streets. Projects the Town are considering to fund are the Phase III Main Street Lighting Project from Market to West Streets, Code Enforcement activities, demolition of blighted structures, Main Street sidewalk improvements and the purchase of benches for the Downtown which B. Lowthert expressed needs more investigating to find out if it's an eligible project. It was noted that typically 18% of the funds are set aside for Administrative fees for SEDA-COG to administer the program. B. Lowthert asked Council if there were any other projects that they would like to be considered.

P. Houseknecht suggested the relocation and refurbishment of the tennis courts located within the Town Park. J. Barton and C. Mas both expressed that there a couple of funding sources being looked at to refurbish the tennis courts. B. Lowthert stated that if the Town submitted a grant through DCNR for the tennis courts that CDBG funds could be used for the match.

K. Shepperson suggested a second set of bathrooms at Town Park because she thought the only restrooms were located in the entertainment pavilion. Council Members explained that there are restrooms located by the baseball fields but that they are old and do need to be refurbished. B. Lowthert stated he will add the suggestion to the list.

E. Fegley asked if the maximum 30% for slum and blight can be used for acquiring property or just demolition. B. Lowthert advised that it can be used for both and that a combination of prior and future year funds can be used, stretching a project out over two or three years.

B. Lowthert asked the Public if there were any projects they would like to be considered.

Alex Dubil of 361 East Second Street expressed that if the Town decides to replace sidewalks on Main Street that the root system of the trees will need attention to determine if the roots will need to be trimmed or if the tree would have to be replaced.

Richard Hammer of 204 East Twelfth Street suggested funding the bocce balls courts that are going to be constructed at the park near the pool. Manager Laura Davis, Assistant Manager Debbie Andrews and Cathy Bechtel of the Special Olympics of Columbia/Montour Counties were present and expressed that they have received grant funds for the project but still need about \$3,000.00. B. Lowthert stated he would talk with the group.

Hearing no additional public input, the Public Hearing concluded at 8:00pm. B. Lowthert will develop a list for Council to review and finalize at their February 11, 2008 Town Council meeting.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF COLUMBIA/MONTOUR COUNTIES

Manager Laura Davis, Assistant Manager Debbie Andrews and Cathy Bechtel of the Special Olympics of Columbia/Montour Counties were present. L. Davis stated they have permission from the Town and the Town Park Improvement Association to construct bocce ball courts on town-owned land at the corner of Catherine Street and Ft. McClure Boulevard across from the swimming pool. They are prepared to go to the Zoning Hearing Board and the Planning Commission regarding the structures they would like to build over the courts but would like Council to waive all fees associated with this process because the project is being built with grant funds and the courts will become property of the town for anyone to use. C. Howell asked if the structures will fall under the towns insurance. D. Knorr expressed that they will since they are being built on town land. D. Andrews expressed the Special Olympians will be covered by their own insurance when they are there using the courts. E. Fegley informed Council that there are other expenses besides zoning, planning and building permit fees such as plan review and engineering fees that the town will have to incur. C. Mas and E. Fegley estimated approximately \$750.00 total. On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved waiving all fees associated with the construction of the bocce ball courts and structures.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-28-08.01 – PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE SIGNATORY DELEGATION

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 01-28-08.01 authorizing Town Administrator Carol L. Mas to sign any and all documents relating to the purchase of real estate on the Town's behalf and that Finance Specialist Heather Jacoby be authorized to attest the same.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 7, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 7, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 14, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO HAY GROUP, INC. FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of a bill from Hay Group, Inc. from the Employees Pension Plan for actuarial and consulting services in the amount of \$275.00.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2007 DUPLICATE AND INTERIM DUPLICATE COLLECTION REPORT FROM MARY F. WARD, TAX COLLECTOR

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2007 Town of Bloomsburg duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2007 in the amount of \$894,530.67 and the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2007 Town of Bloomsburg interim duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2007 in the amount of \$914.36.

APPROVAL OF EXONERATING VOIDED TAXES OF PARCEL 05E-05-303-01,000

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved exonerating voided taxes in the amount of \$254.14 for parcel 05E-05-303-01,000 (66 Lincoln Avenue) which was sold at an up-set sale.

APPROVAL OF HIRING GLEN CONNOLLY AND JULIE ANNE HOLTZAPPLE AS PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Glen Connolly and Julie Anne Holtzapple as part-time police officers contingent upon successfully background investigations.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR REFUND OF EXCESS STATE PENSION AID

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$3,089.00 plus interest of \$189.47 for refund of excess state pension aid.

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

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the payment of a bill from Municipal Employers Insurance Trust from the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$2,732.51.

APPROVAL OF SENDING LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1458 – COLLECTION OF EARNED INCOME TAX THROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved writing a letter to local legislators in support of HB 1458 which allows the local earned income tax to be collected through the School District and oppose HB 1550 and SB 1063 which proposes removing local financial control by requiring municipalities and school districts to select a single county-wide earned income tax collector.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF TRAC-VAC 865 COLLECTION SYSTEM

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a Trac-Vac 865 Collection System to be mounted to the Public Works Department Kubota mower in the amount of \$2,500.00 from TPC Power Center with Recycling funds.

APPROVAL OF HOSTING DEP NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Charles Fritz to host the DEP North Central Regional roundtable in Bloomsburg on March 14, 2008.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF TYMCO 600 STREET SWEEPER

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a Tymco 600 Street Sweeper in the amount of \$155,860.00 from Golden Equipment with liquid fuels funds through the COSTARS program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary