

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, March 24, 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, Diane Levan, Sylvia Costa and Carey Howell and Town Administrator Carol Mas. Absent was Council Member Kathy Shepperson.

PROCLAMATION – TAKE A READING ROAD TRIP WEEK

Mayor Knorr presented a proclamation to students and faculty of the Bloomsburg Memorial Elementary School proclaiming March 31 – April 5, 2008 as “Take a Reading Road Trip Week”.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – JOSEPH GUSHEN

Mr. Gushen asked Council to consider a new parking study for the downtown. He owns eleven (11) commercial establishments in Bloomsburg and is having difficulty replacing tenants due to insufficient parking for patrons, employees and tenants. He suggested Council consider building additional parking lots or a parking garage. He thought area business people would contribute if they were guaranteed parking spaces for their tenants.

Barbara Heintz, speaking from a personal point of view, said she has heard from most of the downtown merchants who feel parking is a problem. She also felt it may be time to conduct a new parking study or update the previous one. It could answer the concerns of everyone whether that answer is favorable or not.

P. Houseknecht inquired as to the cost of a study. P. Kinney believed the town owes it to the downtown to do a study. D. Knorr has not experienced a parking problem but he is willing to walk a couple of blocks to his destination. Council directed C. Mas to look into the cost of a study as well as any grants that may be available to cover the cost. She is to report to the Community and Economic Development Committee.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-24-08.01 – SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS LEGISLATION

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 03-24-08.01 supporting HB 2235 which would provide Municipal Services Grants to municipalities that provide services to the main campus of a State System of Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-24-08.02 – COMPLETION OF TOWN PARK MASTER SITE PLAN

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 03-24-08.02 confirming the completion of the Town Park Master Site Plan in accordance with the grant agreement.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 10, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 18, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SEDA-COG

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved a Professional and Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG for the facilitation of the Veterans' Memorial design.

DISCUSSION ON CHANGE OF HOURS AT TOWN POOL FOR THOSE WITH FAMILY PASSES

Council discussed the recent approval from the Pool Board to allow those with family passes to enter the pool at noon instead of 12:30pm with the same restrictions. Adult swim would remain the same. Council would like the issue addressed at the next Public Works Committee meeting before the hours take affect.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR TEMPORARY BUILDING INSPECTORS

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on voted on Five (5) (C. Howell, S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Kinney, and D. Levan voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Houseknecht voting "No"), Council approved advertising for temporary building inspectors. P. Houseknecht voted no due to too many variables and not enough information.

APPROVAL OF SALE OF 1989 CHEVROLET CAPRICE AND 1999 FORD CROWN VICTORIA BY PUBLIC AUCTION

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the sale of a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice and 1999 Ford Crown Victoria by public auction to be held in April.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:09pm to discuss police negotiations and reconvened at 9:25pm.

APPROVAL OF POLICE NEGOTIATION BENEFIT PACKAGE

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on Four (4) (S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Houseknecht, and D. Levan voting "Yes") to Two (2) (P. Kinney and C. Howell voting "No"), Council approved the following benefit package as a result of police union negotiations:

- Wages – 3.5% in 2008, 4% in 2009 and 2010
- Five (5) years experience required for promotion to Sergeant
- Shift Differential - \$.60 in 2008, \$.65 in 2009 and \$.70 in 2010
- 50% of vacation to be scheduled by January 31st with the balance scheduled by June 30th of each year
- Family sick days – immediate family defined as spouse, children, parents and anyone living in the household
- Any officer not on the town's health insurance will receive \$300 per month
- Any unused uniform allowance can be carried over to a maximum of \$1,000 per year
- New hires – health insurance coverage for the employee only during his/her probationary period (first twelve months) – employee has option to pay additional premium for family coverage through a payroll deduction

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary