

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, November 23, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Diane Levan, Paul Kinney, Kathy Shepperson, Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell and William Kreisher; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Fire Chief Hugh Gross; Solicitor Jack Mihalik and Office Assistant Amy Seamans.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTATION

Mayor Knorr expressed sincere appreciation to the dedicated police, fire and ambulance departments for their outstanding and significant efforts during the destructive West Main Street fire on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

Mayor Knorr presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bloomsburg Fire Department Chief Hugh Gross; to a representative from Berwick's Ranger and Alliance Fire Companies and to a representative from the Buckhorn Community Fire Company. The other responding fire departments who were not present were the Benton Volunteer Fire Company, Catawissa Fire Company, East End Fire Company (Danville), Friendship Fire Company (Danville), Espy Fire Company, Orangeville Fire Company, Lightstreet Community Fire Company, Main Township Volunteer Fire Company, Millville Fire Department and Montour Township Fire Department. Certificates are also being given to the Bloomsburg Police Department and the Bloomsburg Volunteer Ambulance Association. Mayor Knorr read a letter from Bloomsburg University President David Soltz who was not able to attend the presentation.

PLAQUE PRESENTATION

Mayor Knorr presented plaques to the following for their life saving acts of bravery during the fire on October 25, 2009: Bloomsburg Police Officers Matthew Golla and Thomas Pfeiffer; Bloomsburg Fire Department Firefighters Jason Reynolds, Mitch Lehman and Drew Williams. Firefighter Dennis Kuhar was not able to attend.

Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter with Solicitor Mihalik at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – GREG SARANGOULIS

Greg Sarangoulis of GMI Realty, LLC was attending tonight because of the financial commitment he needs to make concerning the Bloomsburg Mills property. He still needs to know if he has the support of Council. Mr. Sarangoulis expressed he had a good meeting today with a medical group that he feels would move into part of the complex. His draft plan calls for green space along Market Street, wide sidewalks along Sixth Street for outdoor eating, twelve townhouses, commercial spaces on the first floors of the remaining building with room for over 600 students on the second and third floors. The apartments above the retail space would be accessed by elevators with security swipe cards.

Mr. Sarangoulis' attorney Jill Nagy has been working with the Town's solicitor on a draft ordinance concept which GMI feels everyone will be happy with. Ms. Nagy handed out a copy to Council. The concept is to include a mixed-use "Downtown Business Center" as a permitted use within the Industrial Park (I-P) District. C. Mas stated that a public hearing would need to be scheduled. The Bloomsburg Planning Commission and the Columbia County Planning Commission would have 30 days to review the proposed changes. Their comments would be forwarded to Council for consideration at the public hearing.

Mr. Sarangoulis and Ms. Nagy stated they intend to attend the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night to discuss the project and realize they would also need to attend the December meeting.

Planning Chair Gregg Wirth expressed that he feels the Planning Commission is being pressured. He asked when a hearing would be scheduled giving the upcoming holiday. Ms. Nagy was thinking the hearing could wait until January.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising a Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance change.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – JOAN MOSIER

Joan Mosier of 564 East Third Street appeared before Council to discuss an agreement regarding the house at 565 East Third Street. Mayor Knorr stated that Council would not be discussing or acting on any agreement this evening. Ms. Mosier continued to state that she and her neighbors attended the June and July Zoning Hearing Board meetings where an application for student housing was denied. Ms. Mosier noted the problems the neighborhood has been experiencing while the students continue to live there. She stated that Council should be cautious on any agreements.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – SUSAN ZARRETT

Susan Zarrett, property owner of one of the West Main Street buildings involved in the fire expressed her sincere appreciation to the police officers and firefighters and thanked Council for recognizing their efforts this evening. She and her husband Mike are truly grateful for the support they've received and their tenants received from numerous organizations. They are proud to be a part of such a giving community.

PROCLAMATION – PENNSYLVANIA HOMECARE AND HOSPICE MONTH

Mayor Knorr proclaimed the month of November 2009 as National Homecare and Hospice Month in the Town of Bloomsburg.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 924 – AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PART 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 924 amending Chapter 15, Part 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg relating to permit parking.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 925 – AMENDING CHAPTER 1, PART 5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 925 amending Chapter 1, Part 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg relating to the Police Department.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-23-09.01 – APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 11-23-09.01 appointing the Town Administrator as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Town of Bloomsburg for both the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr reported that the budget is available for public review and the next workshop will be on December 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the November 9, 2009 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF FREE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARKING

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved free holiday parking on Main Street from Friday, November 27, 2009 through Thursday, December 31, 2009 with the two-hour parking limit enforced and free holiday parking in all municipal parking lots from Monday, December 21, 2009 through Thursday, December 31, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved amending the Civil Service Rules and Regulations to include the position of Lieutenant in Sections 3.6, 4.9 and 5.3.1.

APPROVAL OF BLOOMSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDING BOOT DRIVE AT MAIN AND LEONARD STREETS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Fire Department to hold a boot drive at Main and Leonard Streets on Friday, November 27, 2009.

RESCINDING OF APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC CHOICE PROPOSAL FROM ROSE CONSULTING, INC.

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on Six (6) (C. Howell, K. Shepperson, D. Levan, P. Kinney, S. Costa and B. Kreisher voting "Yes") to One (1) Abstention (D. Knorr "Abstaining"), Council rescinded the November 11, 2009 approval of the electric choice proposal from Rose Consulting, Inc. at a rate of \$0.08547 cents through Liberty Power for twelve (12) months.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC CHOICE PROPOSAL FROM PLCM

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on Six (6) (P. Kinney, C. Howell, D. Levan, K. Shepperson, S. Costa and B. Kreisher voting "Yes") to One (1) Abstention (D. Knorr "Abstaining"), Council approved an electric choice proposal from the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) at a rate of \$.089473 cents per kilowatt hour through Constellation NewEnergy for a period of twelve (12) months.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary