

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, April 12, 2010, 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 Bill Kreisher; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Finance Specialist Theresa Baylor; Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Fire Chief Bob Rupp and Solicitor Jack Mihalik. Absent was Office Assistant Amy Seamans.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

Mayor Knorr proclaimed the week of April 18-24, 2010 as National Osteopathic Medicine Week and presented the proclamation to Dr. William Kuprevich.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – SANTE D’AMBROSIO

Sante D’Ambrosio on behalf of his partner Matthew Zoppetti, Peregrine Real Estate, requested a public hearing for the re-zoning of the Bloomsburg Mills property which they are interested in purchasing and developing. Mr. D’Ambrosio displayed a zoning layout plan for the 12.5 acres. Council delayed scheduling a hearing until the plan is presented to the Planning Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 22, 2010. A recommendation from the Planning Commission will be forwarded to the April 26, 2010 Council meeting for consideration.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – SUSAN MCGARRY

Ms. McGarry announced that the owner’s of Town Camera will be having a groundbreaking on April 14, 2010 for their new building which was destroyed by fire late last year.

MAYOR’S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr appointed a Community Garden Advisory Board to oversee the activities at the Bloomsburg Community Garden. The Board will report to the Community and Economic Development Committee. The members are Michelle Hintz, Amanda Schell-McGaw, Dana Creasy, Cristina Mathews and Dave Yablonski.

The Mayor attended the LCB hearing for Restaurant 112. A decision is expected within the next two to three weeks. On Tuesday, the town will be hosting the Northeast Spring District meeting for the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities. Mayor Knorr also reviewed the financial statements for the first quarter.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 22, 2010 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MARCH PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the March payroll authorization: General Fund, \$119,726.93; Recycling Fund, \$22,428.11; Street Lighting Fund, \$9,579.85; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$30.60; Capital Projects, \$850.00; FFY 09 CDBG Program, \$4,200.00; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Airport Expansion Project, \$35,547.46; Liquid Fuels, \$12,546.55 and the March payroll authorization in the amount of \$163,167.01.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO FIRST COLUMBIA BANK FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION AND POLICE PENSION PLANS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to First Columbia Bank from the Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,654.66 and \$3,535.21 from the Police Pension Plan for first quarter trustee fees.

APPROVAL OF ALLOWING THE BLOOMSBURG AREA JOINT FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A LINE OF CREDIT SECURED BY THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG AND COLUMBIA COUNTY

Ed Edwards, Chair of the Bloomsburg Area Joint Flood Control Authority, asked Council to support a Line of Credit to be obtained by the Flood Authority in the amount of \$800,000. Design costs for the project have increased in light of stricter design criteria brought about by the levee failures experienced during Hurricane Katrina. The proposed Line of Credit would be utilized to fund the project in anticipation of additional federal funding becoming available in 2011. Initial terms for the Line of Credit call for up to \$800,000 in funds at approximately 2.95% available for a period of up to 5 years. The Town would be responsible for the 75% of the interest payments during the term with the County picking up the other 25%. At the end of the five year period, should the project not proceed and federal funding not become available, the Town would owe 75% of the balance of the debt. The Flood Authority is working with DEP in an attempt to have that agency provide their share of the costs up-front, which could reduce the amount of the Line of Credit. Mr. Edwards said that the Corps had been on schedule up until now. They are waiting for additional funding before they proceed.

Jerk Leiby, 974 West Main Street, invited Council down to see where the levee would run through his house.

K. Shepperson asked if we were guaranteed federal funding and Mr. Edwards replied that we are not.

B. Kreisher inquired about the BCR (benefit-cost ratio) re-evaluation he had heard about as well as the doubling of the costs. E. Edwards stated that the initial calculations show that we still have a favorable BCR. The doubling of costs is no longer the case since we received assurances from the Corps that the levee plan in the feasibility study still applies.

Harry English, 1203 Catherine Street, understood the wall was already approved. He asked if everyone would be protected or if it is still just the west end of town. He believes that is a lot of money to spend just for a design plan.

Susan Webster, 260 Grovania Drive, questioned what the consequences would be if a decision was not made this evening and do they know the design costs. Mr. Edwards responded that a delay in funding could invalidate the major studies (i.e. environmental study, etc.) performed during the feasibility requiring them to be looked at again. The total local share cost yet to be expended is \$450,000.00 for Bloomsburg, \$150,000.00 for the County and \$600,000.00 for the state.

Ray Vought, 360 E. Second Street, believes the repayment of the loan would be a hardship on the taxpayers in the event the project does not move forward. Council has worked hard to keep expenses in check but eventually this would cause an increase in taxes.

Cristina Mathews, 2 West Eleventh Street, feels that a vote on the loan can wait until October when we will know if federal funding has been granted. She also feels that the formation of the authority excluded the public from expressing their opinions. She would like to see another public meeting on the issue. The Mayor wholeheartedly disagreed. All actions regarding the flood control project has been in the public with public comment taken into consideration. All voting on the project was in a public forum. The formation of the authority was made at public meetings. The flood authority's meetings are also public meetings.

Vince DeMelfi, 6005 Columbia Boulevard, wanted to know when the design would be completed. E. Edwards thought it would take another two years before completion if Council were to move forward this evening and the Corps could continue to work.

Susan McGarry, 153 West Ninth Street, wondered how the line of credit came into play. Mr. Edwards said the Corps has no money to spend on our project because no federal allocation was made. This is a way to provide the Corps with the funding they need to continue working on our project and avoid any further delays. It also shows the legislators that Bloomsburg wants the project.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on Four (4) (D. Levan, D. Knorr, S. Costa and C. Howell voting "Yes") to Three (3) (P. Kinney, K. Shepperson and B. Kreisher voting "No"), Council approved allowing the Bloomsburg Area Joint Flood Control Authority to establish an \$800,000.00 line of credit secured by the full faith and credit of the Town of Bloomsburg and the County of Columbia on a 75%/25% basis with the initial drawdowns not to exceed \$400,000.00 without the consent of Council.

APPROVAL OF SERGEANT ROGER VAN LOAN ATTENDANCE AT MID ATLANTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved Sergeant Roger VanLoan to attend the Mid Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in Princeton, New Jersey on June 6-11, 2010.

APPROVAL OF HIRING TEMPORARY SEASONAL RRU INSPECTORS

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved re-hiring Ken Caputo and Dennis Garrison at the rate of \$10.50 per hour as temporary seasonal RRU Inspectors.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for Vy Vo to install a 3' by 5' sign on the structure located at 418 East Street contingent upon zoning approval.

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for Kayla McCready to replace the slate roof with a 30-year dimensional shingle and to install vinyl siding on the structure located at 26 West Third Street.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for Cleveland Hummel to install vinyl replacement windows on the first floor of the structure located at 20 East Fifth Street.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for William Hoffman to install a 2.5' by 9' hand painted wooden sign mounted flush against the building located at 16 East Main Street.

APPROVAL OF NINETY DAY TIME EXTENSION – BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT, LIGHTSTREET ROAD

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a ninety (90) day time extension for Bloomsburg University's pedestrian bridge project.

APPROVAL OF EXTENDING THE SATURDAY COMPOST SITE HOURS, CHANGING THE FALL HOURS IN MID-OCTOBER INSTEAD OF NOVEMBER AND OPENING EARLIER IN THE SPRING

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved extending the Saturday hours of the compost site from 8:00am until noon to 8:00am until 2:00pm; changing the Wednesday hours in mid-October instead of November due to daylight savings time and opening the site in March instead of April beginning in 2011.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING BID FROM R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN AND ASSOCIATES FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL SERVICES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the Base Bid in the amount of \$12,675.00 and Alternate #1 Bid in the amount of \$5,576.16 from R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates for archeological services at the new compost site location.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 3 TO MADONNA ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR STREATER PROPERTY DEMOLITION PROJECT

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment No. 3 to Madonna Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$3,366.00 for the Streater Property Demolition Project.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING BID FROM SOKOL, INC. FOR 2010 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the bid received from Sokol, Inc. in the amount of \$84,490.32 for the 2010 Street Resurfacing Project.

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session to discuss the hiring of a Police Clerk at 9:13 p.m. and reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CHANGING THORNTON STREET TO ONE-WAY NORTH BETWEEN EAST THIRD AND EAST SECOND STREETS

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on Four (4) (K. Shepperson, D. Knorr, S. Costa and C. Howell voting "Yes") to Three (3) (P. Kinney, D. Levan and B. Kreisher voting "No"), Council approved changing Thornton Street to one-way north between East Third and East Second Streets.

APPROVAL OF REPLACING THE ROOF ON THE DUI PROCESSING CENTER BUILDING

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved replacing the roof on the DUI processing center building in the amount of \$1,680.67 for materials with Public Works providing the labor.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTING A CLOSET IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved constructing a closet in the breakroom area of the Police Department in the amount of \$1,500.00 for materials with Public Works providing the labor.

APPROVAL OF HIRING JULIA FERTIG AS A PERMANENT PART TIME POLICE CLERK

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Julia Fertig as a permanent part time Police Clerk at a rate of \$10.00 per hour contingent upon references and background checks. A raise will be considered upon a favorable review at the end of a six-month introductory period.

APPROVAL OF ALLOWING BLOOMSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE FIRE APPARATUS TO AREA PARADES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Fire Department to take apparatus to the Six-County Firefighter's Parade in McAdoo on June 26th, the Schuylkill County Firefighter's Convention in Frackville on August 21st and the PA State Firefighter's Convention in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, on September 25th.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST OF AL LENZINI TO CONSTRUCT HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE RAMP IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved a request from Al Lenzini to construct a handicap accessible ramp using a portion of the right-of-way in front of building located at 390 East Street.

APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZING SOLICITOR TO SIGN STIPULATION FOR ASSESSMENT APPEAL ON THE TOWN'S BEHALF

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved authorizing Solicitor Mihalik to sign a Stipulation for an assessment appeal on the Town's behalf for property located at 416 Railroad Street owned by Central Pennsylvania MHA Associates, LP.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary