

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, January 23, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Council Members Claude Renninger, Bill Brobst, Terry Lemon, Paul Kinney, Dan Knorr and Paul Houseknecht; Town Administrator, Carol Mas; Chief of Police, Leo Sokoloski; Fire Chief, Bob Rupp; Downtown Manager, Kathy Martin; Recycling Administrator, Charles Fritz; Finance Specialist, Heather Jacoby; Superintendent of Public Works, John Barton; Solicitor, John Mihalik and Office Assistant, Amy Seamans. Absent were Mayor Charles "Chip" Coffman and Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer, Ed Fegley.

#### CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – BRIAN BRENNAN

Mr. Brennan stated he had several questions for Town Council. Mr. Brennan asked Council if they were planning on voting to move the Downtown Program to the Chamber tonight and if there is a job description for the downtown manager. C. Mas asked if he met for the current manager and Mr. Brennan stated yes. She confirmed that there was one on file. Mr. Brennan asked if the downtown manager would be involved in decision making of the program. After some discussion, Mr. Brennan urged Council not to make any decision this evening until downtown business owners have a chance to speak. Ed Edwards, President of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce was asked to clarify some of the concerns of Mr. Brennan's. The Chamber has been a part of the activity of the downtown for 25 years, has 400 members, 150 members are in the Town of Bloomsburg and 60 are downtown businesses. The administrative committee of Town Council approached the Chamber asking if they would be interested in putting together a 501C3 non-profit organization to run a new program and their executive board unanimously accepted. The Chamber's executive board will choose the board members, set goals and a budget and come back to Town Council with the information and to discuss possible financial assistance. B. Brennan asked who on the board will represent the businesses. Mr. Edwards stated he did not know at this time who would be on the board but that there would be no less than nine people and no more than fifteen. On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved returning the Downtown Program to the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce effective two weeks from today, February 6, 2006.

#### APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2006 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 3, 2006 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

#### APPROVAL TO RENEW LIABILITY INSURANCE PREMIUM WITH PENN PRIME

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved renewing the annual liability insurance premium with Penn PRIME in the amount of \$84,308.00.

#### APPROVAL TO FOREGO COLLECTION OF 2005 EMS TAX BALANCE

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved forgoing the collection of the 2005 EMS Tax balance by Central Tax Bureau. H. Jacoby explained that there was a misinterpretation of the legislation. DCED interprets the legislation to read that each municipality should take their total tax until the maximum of \$52.00 has been paid by the individual. Employers were deducting what an individual paid from the tax imposed by the municipality and Central Tax Bureau was beginning to collect the balance.

#### APPROVAL TO CONNECT TAX OFFICE TO TOWN CABLE INTERNET ACCESS

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved a cable internet access connection for Mary F. Ward's tax office located in Town Hall.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES WAGNER TO ZONING HEARING BOARD

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Charles Wagner to the Bloomsburg Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2008.

#### APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL FROM FIRST COLUMBIA BANK AND TRUST COMPANY FROM THE TOWN EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the payment of a bill from First Columbia Bank & Trust Company from the Town Employees Pension Fund in the amount of \$2,559.63.

#### APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL FROM FIRST COLUMBIA BANK AND TRUST COMPANY FROM THE POLICE PENSION FUND

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the payment of a bill from First Columbia Bank and Trust Company from the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$3,744.85.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF 2005 DUPLICATE AND INTERIM DUPLICATE COLLECTION REPORT FROM MARY F. WARD, TAX COLLECTOR

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2005 Town of Bloomsburg duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2005 in the amount of \$895,423.37 and the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2005 Town of Bloomsburg interim duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2005 in the amount of \$2,659.29.

#### APPROVAL TO PURCHASE RECYCLING BROCHURES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by T. Lemon and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of additional recycling brochures with grant funds.

#### APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE 2006 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the 2006 Street Resurfacing Project. The streets slated to be resurfaced are: Center Street from Fifth Street to Fourth Street, Center Street from Fourth Street to Third Street, East First Street from Hospital Drive to Honeysuckle Lane, Honeysuckle Lane from East First Street to Country Club Drive and West Fifth Street from West Street to Railroad Street including the intersections.

#### APPROVAL TO REMOVE TREE

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved removing the tree in front of Luigi's Pizza located at 355 W. Main Street as recommended by PennDOT.

#### APPROVAL TO BEGIN HIRING PROCESS FOR FULLTIME POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved beginning the hiring process for a full-time police department employee to replace a retiring employee.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. Rupp reported that he would be giving Town Hall staff a roster of active members and a year end report for 2005.

## APPOINTMENT OF FLOOD PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Coffman appointed the following members to a Flood Protection Advisory Committee: Dan Carr and Ken Criswell representing industry; Dan Bauman, Tammy Mericle and Dave Edgar representing residents; Ed Edwards as the Chamber of Commerce representative; and George Turner as the historian. This committee will meet and make recommendations to Council concerning flood protection.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

CAROL L. MAS  
Town Administrator & Secretary