

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held this Monday, June 12, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Claude Renninger; Council Members Bill Brobst, Terry Lemon, Paul Kinney, Dan Knorr, Paul Houseknecht and Don Pursel; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Finance Specialist Heather Jacoby; Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Fire Chief Bob Rupp; Solicitor Jack Mihalik and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent was Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Renninger introduced Barbara Heintz, the new Downtown Manager. Barbara appreciates the support from the Town. Her office is located at the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce and welcomes anyone to contact her if they should have any questions.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – KELLY ANN PEGG

Kelly Ann Pegg of Clinical Outcomes Group is working on a tobacco education pilot program with the tobacco settlement funds. A survey of all the people that were in the Bloomsburg Town Park on April 1, 2006 was conducted by local high school teens against tobacco. Of everyone in the park that day, only 22% were smokers, 100% felt smoking is a health hazard, 92% agreed that cigarette debris detracts from the appearance of the park and 80% would support a local ordinance to have the Kidsburg side of the park designated a smoke-free area. Mayor Renninger thanked Ms. Pegg for her time and advised her that the matter would be placed on the Public Safety agenda for further discussion.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – DANIEL SPICKARD

Daniel Spickard of Danville made a suggestion to Council that instead of punishing 10% of the youth in Bloomsburg that may be disruptive the Town may want to look into forming a recreation center for the kids. Mr. Spickard is trying to implement a recreational mall in the former TRW facility in Danville which will include a bowling alley, movie theatre, roller skating rink, ice skating rink and a senior center.

PROCLAMATION – NO PLACE FOR HATE DAY

Mayor Renninger proclaimed May 3, 2006 as No Place for Hate Day in the Town of Bloomsburg. The proclamation was presented to Leo Sokoloski, Chief of Police.

PENNDOT 2007 CONGESTED CORRIDOR PROJECT DISCUSSION

Brian St. John of McCormick Taylor, Inc., PennDOT's engineering firm, discussed the Congested Corridor project slated for 2007. The main objective is to improve traffic flow, signaling and road surfacing. Over the past year, officials from PennDOT and the town having been working together to implement recommendations from a traffic study conducted in 2003 by Grove Miller Engineering, Inc. Six (6) intersections on Main Street will have interconnected signals to maximize traffic flow, new mast arms and traffic signal and pedestrian heads will be installed. The "all pedestrian" phase will be eliminated from the pedestrian signals as well. ADA ramps will be added at each intersection and there will be geometric changes to the Lightstreet Road/East Street intersection. The two cement islands currently at this intersection will be removed and curb extensions in front of the Bloomsburg Diner, Balzano's, and Kile and Robinson Family Dentistry will be implemented to narrow the crossing distances for pedestrians. Curbing will be added to the entrance of the municipal parking lot tightening up the one-way entrance.

Mr. St. John provided plans showing the Lightstreet Road/East Street intersection before construction, a plan showing what is to be implemented and a plan showing the completed area. Five parking spaces would be eliminated in front of Balzano's and the dentist office to make the curb extension. Terri Hahn asked Mr. St. John for clarification

of what the plans were showing. Ralph Dillon expressed that he has been a business owner on East Street for several years and of the original 22 parking spaces from the corner of Main Street to Third Street PennDOT has removed 11 of them over the past 25 years causing him a 45% reduction in foot traffic business. Mr. Dillon stated a traffic study was conducted in 1970 and he has yet to see anyone implement that. D. Pursel spoke as a Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. board member stating at their last meeting, the board agreed that they would like to see the parking spaces remain. Ray Vought of College Hill Bed and Breakfast stated he has observed a lot of congestion in the morning from delivery trucks and would not like to see the spaces removed.

Mr. St. John stated that the parking spaces are actually in the intersection creating a hazard. When someone opens their car door they are stepping out into traffic; and when someone is trying to pull out from a space, they are not able to see oncoming traffic in their mirrors.

P. Kinney asked L. Sokoloski if there have been many accidents in the area of the parking spaces. L. Sokoloski stated records would need to be pulled and he questioned how far back to look.

D. Knorr clarified what Council could actually take action on. Alan Keller of PennDOT stated that if the geometric changes are not implemented that the project may not pass the safety review process jeopardizing the entire project.

Attorney Brian Crane addressed Council representing several businesses. Mr. Crane stressed that the parking spaces are invaluable to the businesses. Currently there is handicap access on the corner which is used quite often by patients of the dentist office. The spaces are vital to the restaurant business for customer parking as well as for take out orders. He recognizes the safety concern but the businesses feel that they were left out of the loop in this process. Mr. Crane suggests Council hold off making any decision concerning the parking spaces for 60 to 90 days so the businesses may meet with Council and PennDOT to discuss other options. Teresa McClain of PennDOT stated the final plans are to be completed by September 1, 2006 leaving a thirty day window to do any exploring of other options. Alan Keller expressed that he can get the sight distance information compiled. All agreed to meet at the next regularly scheduled Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2006.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 897 – VACATING A PORTION OF OAK STREET

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 897 vacating a portion of Oak Street. The ordinance is part of the agreement with Milco Industries, Inc. for the reopening of Spruce Street.

APPROVAL OF MAY 22, 2006 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the May 22, 2006 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MAY PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the May payroll authorization: General Fund, \$98,654.29; Debt Service Fund, \$88,032.78; Recycling Fund, \$13,653.30; Street Lighting Fund, \$8,926.08; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool Fund, \$7,944.12; FFY 04 CDBG Entitlement Program, \$3,800.00; FFY 05 CDBG Entitlement Program, \$5,550.00; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$4,475.89 and the May payroll authorization in the amount of \$137,009.63.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF KYOCERA FS-3900DN PRINTER

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Pursel and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a Kyocera FS-3900DN printer in the amount of \$1,358.00 for the administrative offices of Town Hall.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF GRACE JASKIEWICZ FROM SHADE TREE COMMISSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Grace Jaskiewicz from the Bloomsburg Shade Tree Commission. It was noted that Ms. Jaskiewicz moved out of town.

APPROVAL OF ENDING PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT AND ZONING OFFICER ED FEGLEY

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Pursel and voted on unanimously, Council approved ending the probationary period of Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer Ed Fegley and increasing his annual salary by \$2,500.00 effective June 5, 2006.

APPOINTMENT OF DIANE LEVAN TO BLOOMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Diane Levan to the Bloomsburg Planning Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2007.

APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN MCGARRY TO BLOOMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Susan McGarry to the Bloomsburg Planning Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2006.

APPROVAL OF HIRING A FULL-TIME TEMPORARY FINANCE CLERK

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring a full-time temporary finance clerk from a temp agency at the discretion of the Town Administrator and Administrative/Finance Committee.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by T. Lemon, 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 Sandra Latour to install a fence at **17 West Fifth Street**.

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Pursel and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Todd Zeisloft to install replacement windows and replace the front porch roof shingles at **368 East Second Street**.

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Craig and Nyree Hack to install replacement windows and replace the gutter/rain spouting at **409 Center Street**.

On a motion by T. Lemon, 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 James McMenamin to replace storm doors and install a standing seam galvanized steel roof on the rear sun porch and garage at **164 West Third Street**.

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Dr. Donna Pinter to renovate the rear porch and construct a handicap accessible ramp at **140 Market Street**.

DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Pursel and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for Service Electric Cablevision to demolish the structure located at **245 Iron Street**

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF RECYCLING TRAILER

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a recycling trailer with three (3) additional bins in the bid amount of \$15,025.00 from Pro-Tainer, Inc. Grant funds will be used for the purchase.

APPROVAL OF SENDING LETTER TO PENNDOT INFORMING THEM OF TOWNS STREET LIGHT INTENTIONS

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved sending a letter to PennDOT informing them that the Town intends to leave the two (2) street lights on East Street in front of Balzano's in their existing location.

APPROVAL OF REMOVING TREE LOCATED AT 431 CENTER STREET

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved removing the tree located at 431 Center Street in the amount of \$795.00. J. Barton stated the tree is growing in the roadway which is slated to be resurfaced this summer.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL FROM MIDSTATE CONSULTANTS, INC. TO PREPARE AN INDEPENDENT FEE ESTIMATE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the proposal from Midstate Consultants, Inc. to prepare an independent fee estimate for the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport in the amount of \$2,850.00.

ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MECHANIC, JOHN TEDESCO

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council accepted with regret the retirement of Public Works Department mechanic, John Tedesco, effective March 15, 2007 with his last day being September 29, 2006 providing he does not use any sick time until then.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MECHANIC POSITION

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising the Public Works Department mechanic position after it has been posted departmentally for five (5) working days.

APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2006 COUNCIL MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved changing the location of the July 10, 2006 Council meeting to the Bloomsburg Fire Department to accommodate a public input session at 6:00pm regarding the Fifth Street Reconstruction Project.

APPROVAL OF SENDING LETTER TO PENNDOT REQUESTING REMOVAL OF PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL ON MARKET STREET SOUTH OF MAIN STREET

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved sending a letter to PennDOT requesting the removal of the pedestrian signal on Market Street south of Main Street.

ACCEPTANCE OF HOMELAND SECURITY COMMERCIAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the Homeland Security Commercial Direct Assistance Grant. The police department will be receiving an Optim Freedomview Fiber Optic Scope Kit.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of night vision equipment in the amount of \$2,695.00 from Jerry's Sport Center, Inc. with funds donated by Kawneer.

APPROVAL OF INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS TO DUI PROCESSING CENTER/DRUG TASK FORCE BUILDING

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by D. Pursel and voted on unanimously, Council approved various interior and exterior renovations to the DUI Processing Center/Columbia County Drug Task Force Building in the estimated amount of \$14,821.00.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary