

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, February 25, 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, Kathy Shepperson, Sylvia Costa and Carey Howell; Town Administrator Carol Mas and Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer Ed Fegley.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – CRISTIAN FOUST AND TED OMAN

Mayor Knorr summarized the meetings of the Council appointed committee had conducted over the past several months. On behalf of the Walgreen's development, Ted Oman presented the many phases of development plans they prepared prior to the final plan which shows the building up to the sidewalk, a single lane drive-thru at the rear of the building, 50 parking spaces and a monument sign. He noted the façade would resemble the Shuman building.

Gary Norton, attorney for the developer, presented the Mayor with an electronic copy of the changes they propose for the C-R District of the zoning ordinance. E. Fegley stated the amendment would include changes to the gross floor area requirement, signage, the number of parking spaces, the entrance from all streets and alleys and the addition of a drive-thru as a permitted use.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising the changes to the C-R District of the zoning ordinance as proposed by Attorney Gary Norton.

APPROVAL OF LOCATION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WITHIN TOWN PARK

Mayor Knorr recapped the process by which the location of the Veteran's Memorial of Columbia County had become an issue and asked everyone to concentrate on the location and not the design at this time.

Jean Coffman of 620 Sunset Drive stated she was there to support the veterans. Mr. George approached her late husband and former Mayor with the design for the memorial. She distributed pictures of the groundbreaking. She said she did not understand what had changed and why the memorial could not remain there.

Charles Wagner of 417 Center Street explained that Town Council had never formerly given their approval.

Emily George of 155 East Eighth Street and wife of the memorial designer believed Council had ample opportunity to stop the groundbreaking. She talked about the flooding issues in that area of the park and did not feel that should be a reason to move the site.

P. Kinney informed Council that the memorial will have a granite veneer that will withstand flooding. Chip had pushed forward with the project and he did not realize Council had never given their approval.

Patricia Wintersteen of 362 West Fifth Street displayed newspaper articles of the groundbreaking and sign for donations at the site. She supported Jay George and felt the memorial should remain in the originally proposed location.

P. Houseknecht could not say he was sold on the location but felt a moral obligation to fulfill Chip's wishes. He read from several newspaper articles.

Jimmy Gilliland of 707 Country Club Drive participated in the development of the Town Park Master Site Plan and supports the Market Street location. It completes Market Street and was recommended by expert landscape architects.

E. Fegley noted that the Veteran's Memorial Committee will still need to go through the planning and zoning processes.

Corey Kreischer of 703 Country Club Drive gave his support of the Market Street location but was encouraged to hear that the memorial would be flood proofed.

Mike Bower of 4 Blue Jay Drive in Scott Township felt the location was not important but it was important to move forward with the construction.

Charles Wagner, a veteran and President of the Bloomsburg Town Park Improvement Association, received four different location recommendations. No one objects to the memorial. He asked Council not to make a decision this evening but to get further input from the community. The Civil War Memorial has withstood 100 years and has a prominent place at Market Square. This memorial should also have a prominent site that will be here 100 years after we are gone. Getting the community involved increases the number of donors. Mr. Wagner participated in the development of the Master Site Plan and truly believes Council should follow the recommendations of the expert landscape engineers.

Paul Reichart is the designated fundraiser for the project. He will not ask for donations until he knows the total cost of the project.

J. Barton feels we should preserve what open space we have left at the park and not allow further structures. The Town Park is beautiful the way it is.

Karen McCaffrey of 19 Drinker Street brought up the speeding problem on Market Street. C. Wagner mentioned the recent traffic study conducted by the Public Works Department which shows that the average speed on Market Street entering the park is 32 mph and this is not even the busy season.

K. Shepperson read a support letter from the Columbia County Commissioners to have the memorial remain in the original location.

D. Levan thought this was a done deal and did not understand why Council was having this discussion.

C. Howell talked with over 100 people regarding the memorial. 80% of them felt it should remain in the original location.

S. Costa wanted to know how it would be funded and who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance especially after a flooding event.

C. Wagner explained that anyone building a structure in the park is responsible for the perpetual maintenance of that structure.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved the placement of the Veteran's Memorial of Columbia County in the original location in the Town Park at the southeast corner of Ft. McClure Boulevard and Market Street.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 02-25-08.01 – PENNDOT BUREAU OF AVIATION SIGNATORY DELEGATION

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 02-25-08.01 authorizing the Mayor to sign any and all agreements entered into with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the February 11, 2008 Council meeting minutes with the following correction: the Approval of Revision of Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations, the vote should be Four (4) (S. Costa, P. Houseknecht, D. Knorr and C. Howell voting "Yes") to Two (2) (P. Kinney and K. Shepperson voting "No").

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF BUNKER GEAR BY BLOOMSBURG FIRE
DEPARTMENT WITH TOWN REIMBURSING

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved correcting the February 11, 2008 Council meeting minutes and the January 31, 2008 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes to reflect the purchase of bunker gear in the budgeted amount of \$17,000.00 instead of \$7,000.00.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary