

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, April 14, 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, Kathy Shepperson, Diane Levan, Sylvia Costa and W. Carey Howell; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Finance Specialist Heather Jacoby; Code Enforcement/Zoning/ Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Fire Chief Bob Rupp; Office Assistant Amy Seamans and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

PUBLIC HEARING – REGINALD AND ELEANOR MILLER – VARIANCE FROM FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

Prior to the regular meeting a Public Hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. regarding a request from Reginald and Eleanor Miller of 180 West Twelfth Street for a variance from the floodplain ordinance. Brian Kilpatrick of Leisure Living Sunrooms, representative for the Miller's, explained that the Miller's would like to replace a collapsed greenhouse structure with a pre-engineered three season patio structure which will also be used as a greenhouse. The structure would be placed on the existing slab. Mr. Kilpatrick stated the roof of the existing structure collapsed and felt this happened because of the way it was attached to the fascia board and not because of flooding. P. Houseknecht asked if flood water would be able to flow through it. Mr. Kilpatrick expressed that it would.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council granted the variance.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:50 p.m. and the regular meeting of Town Council convened at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – KATHLENE RUSSELL AND GRACE PENMAN OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER, INC.

Ms. Russell explained that she recently had a hearing before Judge Naus regarding the Women's Center appeal of the Zoning Hearing Board's decision to deny their variance application. J. Mihalik expressed that Attorney Mike Smith from Hummel and Lewis was also present. Ms. Russell explained that a year and a half ago the Women's Center placed a shed in the backyard of their property along North Street without getting a building permit. The code enforcement office informed them that the shed did not conform to the ten foot side yard setback and that they would need to apply to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance. Their request was denied and the Women's Center filed an appeal at the Columbia County Courthouse. Judge Naus suggested the Women's Center approach the Town to try and resolve the matter. Ms. Russell understood why the Zoning Hearing Board denied the request and she came up with the idea of a consent decree where the use the shed would only apply to the current owner. The shed is used to house 15 garbage cans which are emptied three times a week. The shed has a door on each side allowing the tenants to put the garbage in one and the garbage hauler to use the other. Ms. Russell expressed that the garbage shed has been a wonderful solution to the problems they used to have.

Council questioned why the shed couldn't be moved to the center of the back yard. Ms. Russell explained that there is a topographic challenge with the yard and most importantly, the mothers watch their children playing while cooking in the kitchen and the shed would block their view. D. Levan asked why they don't utilize a dumpster. Ms. Penman reiterated the topographic issue with the yard and that the curb along North Street would hinder the garage truck from emptying the dumpster.

Because there are some members who are not familiar with the location in question, A. Seamans will set up a time for Council to visit the area. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for April 28, 2008.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-14-08.01 – NEW TENNIS COURT PROJECT
DCNR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 04-14-08.01 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the New Tennis Court Project.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-14-08.02 – OPPOSITION OF THE
CREATION OF A STATEWIDE POLICE PENSION SYSTEM

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 04-14-08.02 opposing the creation of a statewide police pension system.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO 04-14-08.03 – BANNERS AND SIGNS ACROSS
STATE HIGHWAYS – UNITED WAY

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 04-14-08.03 for the erection of a banner across SR 487 advertising the United Way's Trash to Treasure sale on May 17, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 24, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MARCH PAYROLL
AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the March payroll authorization: General Fund, \$178,273.95; Recycling Fund, \$16,663.74; Street Lighting Fund, \$8,217.72; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$193.08; Fire Fund, \$22,936.73; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Liquid Fuels, \$4,242.15; Stroup Fund, \$458.63 and the March payroll authorization in the amount of \$159,734.51.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO HAY GROUP, INC. FROM THE POLICE
PENSION PLAN

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. from the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$189.20.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO HAY GROUP, INC. FROM THE
EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. from the Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,414.72.

APPROVAL OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF
BLOOMSBURG AND DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG, INC.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved a cooperation agreement between the Town and Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. as by required by DCED for the Façade Grant Program.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFERRING OWNERSHIP OF 1989 CHEVROLET CAPRICE TO WEST HAZLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved transferring the ownership of a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice to the West Hazleton Police Department.

APPOINTMENT OF BILL BROBST TO BLOOMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Bill Brobst to the Bloomsburg Planning Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2009.

APPROVAL OF UNPAID INTERNSHIP AT TOWN HALL FOR JOSHUA O'BRIEN

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on Six (6) (P. Houseknecht, K. Shepperson, P. Kinney, S. Costa, D. Levan, C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) Abstention (D. Knorr abstaining), Council approved an unpaid internship at Town Hall for Joshua O'Brien.

APPROVAL OF NINETY (90) DAY TIME EXTENSION – SHANGRILA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – IRONDALE ROAD HOUSING PROJECT – LAND DEVELOPMENT

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the Six (6) (K. Shepperson, D. Levan, D. Knorr, P. Kinney, S. Costa and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Houseknecht voting "No"), and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a ninety (90) day time extension for Shangrila Development Corporation's Irondale Road housing project land development plan.

APPROVAL OF WAIVER FOR MICHAEL AMBROSINO'S NINTH AND CANAL STREET SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved a waiver from Section 502.1.K, 502.3 and Table 1 requiring Canal Street to be widened and upgraded to meet the requirements of a minor street for Michael Ambrosino's Ninth and Canal Street Subdivision/Land Development Plan.

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF MICHAEL AMBROSINO'S NINTH AND CANAL STREET SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council preliminarily approved Michael Ambrosino's Ninth and Canal Street Subdivision/Land Development Plan contingent upon all fees being made.

APPROVAL OF AWARDING 2008 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT TO SOKOL, INC.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council awarded the 2008 Street Resurfacing Project to Sokol, Inc. in the low bid amount of \$58,846.20.

APPROVAL OF INCREASING 2008 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT BY 25%

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously Council approved increasing the 2008 Street Resurfacing Project by 25%.

APPROVAL OF NORRIS E. ROCK MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL HOURS

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Five (5) (K. Shepperson, S. Costa, P. Kinney, P. Houseknecht and C. Howell voting “Yes”) to Two (2) (D. Knorr and D. Levan voting “No”), Council approved the following hours for the Norris E. Rock Memorial Swimming Pool: 11:00am to 12:00noon adults only, 12:00noon to 1:00pm adults and family season pass holders in the shallow end of pool only, 1:00pm to 7:00pm general admission and 6:00pm to 7:00pm adults only in the middle section of the pool.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved recommending the Town Park Improvement Association keep the skate park closed until repairs are made and/or new equipment is purchased, the Town Safety Committee re-inspects the improvements and makes a recommendation back to the Public Works Committee and the equipment is scaled down instead of raising the existing fence.

APPROVAL OF BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT WORK RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Police Department Work Rules, Policies and Procedures.

APPROVAL OF POSTING 25 MILES PER HOUR SIGNAGE ON CATHERINE STREET BETWEEN ELEVENTH STREET AND FT. MCCLURE BOULEVARD

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved posting Catherine Street between Eleventh Street and Ft. McClure Boulevard with 25 miles per hour signage.

ACCEPTANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD GRANT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting a grant from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board in the amount of \$39,000.00

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS OF A DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for request for proposals for a Downtown Parking Study.

APPROVAL OF NINETY (90) DAY TIME EXTENSION – DAVE RUCKLE – AIRPORT HANGAR PROJECT

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved a ninety (90) day time extension for Dave Ruckle to acquire building permits for the airport hangar project.

Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss Police negotiations at 8:55pm and reconvened at 9:24pm.

POLICE CONTRACT UPDATE

Mayor Knorr announced that the police union rejected Council's offer and that with no further negotiation expected the matter would probably go to arbitration.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary