

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, May 12, 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 – BLOOMSBURG FAIR ASSOCIATION – VARIANCE FROM FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

Prior to the regular meeting a Public Hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. regarding a request from the Bloomsburg Fair Association for a variance from the floodplain ordinance. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Paul Kinney, Paul Houseknecht, Diane Levan and Sylvia Costa; Town Administrator Carol Mas and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent was Council Member Kathy Shepperson. Council Member W. Carey Howell represented the Bloomsburg Fair Association.

C. Howell stated that the Bloomsburg Fair Association has torn down their stage and the ground has been leveled. They are planning to rent a mobile stage to be temporarily in place for three (3) years at a cost of \$50,000.00/year from a company in Wilkes Barre. The stage is made of scaffolding with a ceiling height of 38' and a stage floor 6' off the ground. C. Howell expressed that if there were a flood, the water would be able to pass through it.

P. Houseknecht asked E. Fegley if there was a down side to granting the variance. E. Fegley reiterated that Council is only deciding on the variance request this evening and that the fair association will also need a building/zoning permit. E. Fegley is concerned that this mobile/temporary type structure will be standing for three (3) years on backfilled ground.

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

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:43 p.m. and the regular meeting of Town Council convened at 7:00 p.m.

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION – ASET SOLAR

Kelly O'Brien Gavin of ASET Solar presented a proposal to supply a solar electric system at the Recycling Center at a cost of \$855,387.00. All solar collectors would be mounted on the rooftops of the center. Currently there is a Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant available with an application deadline of June 20, 2008. ASET Solar would work with the town on applying for the grant and identifying other financial incentives. Potential funding through the grant is estimated at \$400,000.00. On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved applying for the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – RICH KISNER – COLUMBIA COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Kisner informed Council that the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority plans to purchase the former Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ located at the corner of East Third and Iron Streets and two single family homes on either side of the church as well. The Authority is considering renovating the church to accommodate ten to fifteen apartments/condominiums to house twenty individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities. They would like to use the two single family homes as housing for Bloomsburg University students registered in special education and/or nursing programs at the university.

S. Costa asked how the persons with disabilities would be identified. Kathy Bechtel, parent of one of the young adults explained that they would be identified through CMSU. Currently in Columbia County there are fifty disabled young adults living with their parents and waiting for housing of their own. They would utilize the best buddies program through Bloomsburg University where students spend time talking and doing things with these individuals. This opportunity would give students a hands-on experience in the field that they are planning on entering into after they graduate. Mr. Kisner stressed that the project is still in the planning stages and that this evening he was seeking the town's support of the project. Mr. Kisner stated that they are applying for funding and they would like to know how the community feels. Council unanimously authorized the Mayor to compose a letter supporting the concept of the project.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – ATTORNEY ALVIN LUSCHAS, ED EDWARDS AND DANIEL BAUMAN – BLOOMSBURG AREA JOINT FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

Attorney Alvin Luschas solicitor for the Bloomsburg Area Joint Flood Control Authority expressed to Council that before the Authority enters into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for the design of a potential flood protection project they would like a letter of funding support from the town. At the present time, the total design costs are projected to be \$2,200,000.00. Seventy-Five percent (75%) of this amount or \$1,650,000.00 will be paid by the federal government. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) or \$566,000.00 constitutes the local share of this amount which half or \$283,000.00 will be paid by DEP leaving \$283,000.00 which must be paid by the Authority with assistance of the Town and County. The design will cover approximately 30 months and can be paid in increments. The first increment is expected to cost \$197,000.00. The Authority will be billed for twenty-five percent (25%) or \$66,000.00 with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reimbursing the Authority for half of this amount or \$33,000.00. The County has responded that their budget is set for this fiscal year and will include funding in their 2009 budget for the design costs. On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Six (6) (P. Houseknecht, S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Kinney, D. Levan and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (K. Shepperson voting "No"), Council approved writing a letter of funding support.

PROCLAMATION – POLICE WEEK

Mayor Knorr presented a proclamation to Chief Sokoloski proclaiming the week of May 11-17, 2008 as Police Week in the Town of Bloomsburg in observance of Police Officers Memorial Day on May 12, 2008.

PROCLAMATION – AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION (AYSO) DAY

Mayor Knorr proclaimed May 24, 2008 as American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Day in the Town of Bloomsburg.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 28, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the April 28, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND APRIL 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 April payroll authorization: General Fund, \$212,478.61; Recycling Fund, \$17,318.97; Street Lighting Fund, \$7,699.54; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$1,060.97; Fire Fund, \$143.56; FFY 07 CDBG Entitlement Fund, \$5,500.00; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Park Memorial, \$300.00; Liquid Fuels, \$24,518.25; Stroup Fund, \$237.00 and the April payroll authorization in the amount of \$172,625.65.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO FIRST COLUMBIA BANK AND TRUST CO. FROM THE POLICE PENSION PLAN

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to First Columbia Bank and Trust Co. from the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$3,764.25.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO FIRST COLUMBIA BANK AND TRUST CO. FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to First Columbia Bank and Trust Co. from the Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,749.96.

APPROVAL OF COMPLETING A SINGLE AUDIT AS REQUIRED BY DCED GRANT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved completing a single audit as required by the DCED grant up to \$2,000.00.

APPROVAL OF QUOTE FROM NORTHEAST AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR CAMERA SYSTEM UPGRADE

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Northeast Automated Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$5,912.98 to upgrade the VHS video system at the DUI Center to a digital DVD system.

APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) EXTERIOR CAMERAS AT BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Six (6) (D. Levan, S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Kinney, K. Shepperson and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Houseknecht voting "No"), Council approved Northeast Automated Technologies, Inc. to install two (2) cameras on the exterior of the Bloomsburg Police Department doors in the amount of \$985.00 plus the trade-in of VHS camera system.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES TO BIRD PRINTING, ROGER'S UNIFORMS AND WITMER ASSOCIATES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Five (5) (D. Levan, S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Kinney and C. Howell voting "Yes") to Two (2) (P. Houseknecht voting "No" and K. Shepperson "Abstaining"), Council approved the payment of an invoice to Bird Printing in the amount of \$485.00, Roger's Uniforms in the amount of \$375.00 and Witmer Associates in the amount of \$305.51.

APPROVAL OF POLICE OFFICER BALON, GOLLA AND CARL ATTENDANCE AT POLICE SUPERVISORY IN-SERVICE TRAINING

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on Six (6) (S. Costa, D. Levan, D. Knorr, P. Kinney, K. Shepperson and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Houseknecht voting "No"), Council approved Police Officer Charles Balon, Matthew Golla and Lewis Carl to attend a police supervisory in-service training on June 16-20, 2008 at Bloomsburg University.

APPROVAL OF POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW GOLLA ATTENDANCE AT
MAGLOCLLEN ANNUAL INFORMATION SHARING GANG CONFERENCE

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved Police Officer Matthew Golla to attend the MaglocLEN Annual Information Sharing Gang Conference on July 13-17, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland. Council commends Officer Golla attending monthly gang related meetings on his own time.

APPROVAL OF LEO SOKOLOSKI ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL CHIEF'S OF
POLICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on Six (6) (D. Levan, K. Shepperson, D. Knorr, S. Costa, P. Kinney and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Houseknecht voting "No"), Council approved Leo Sokoloski to attend Annual Chief's of Police Education and Training Conference on July 14-16, 2008 in Lancaster.

APPROVAL OF ADDING DIAGNOSTIC SCANNER TO EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE
AND BLANKET COVERAGE FOR EQUIPMENT CARRIED IN POLICE VEHICLES
UNDER TOWN'S INSURANCE

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved adding the Public Works Department diagnostic scanner to equipment schedule in the amount of \$9.00/year and blanket coverage for equipment carried in police vehicles in the amount of \$255.00/year under the town's insurance.

APPROVAL OF REVISED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS USAGE POLICY

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved revisions to the electronic communications usage policy.

APPOINTMENT OF ROSE NEIDERHISER TO BLOOMSBURG SHADE TREE
COMMISSION

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Rose Neiderhiser to the Bloomsburg Shade Tree Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2011.

APPROVAL OF HIRING THREE (3) TEMPORARY HOUSING INSPECTORS

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Kenneth Caputo, Jr., William Roberts, II and Dennis Garrison as temporary housing inspectors at \$10.00/hour beginning May 19, 2008 for five or six weeks.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO HAY GROUP, INC.

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the payment of an invoice from Hay Group, Inc. in the amount of \$299.80.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF 2008 MCCORMICK CX105 TRACTOR

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a 2008 McCormick CX105 tractor from W.F. Welliver and Son, Inc. in the amount of \$49,922.60 through state contract pricing using recycling funds. The tractor will replace the one that was destroyed in the Public Works Department fire.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS TO REPLACE GUTTER ON A PORTION OF RECYCLING CENTER BUILDING

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids to replace gutter on a portion of the Recycling Center building.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR INSTALLATION OF EXHAUST FAN AT RECYCLING CENTER

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the installation of an exhaust fan at the Recycling Center.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FROM WOLYNIIEC CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PHASE III MAIN STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order no. 1 from Wolyniec Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Phase III Main Street Lighting Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICE NO. 1 TO WOLYNIIEC CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PHASE III MAIN STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of invoice no. 1 to Wolyniec Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$201,892.11 for the Phase III Main Street Lighting Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO PENNDOT FOR PHASE III MAIN STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to PennDOT in the amount of \$815.17 for inspection of the Phase III Main Street Lighting Project.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SALE OF FIRE DAMAGED 1996 CASE 4240 UTILITY TRACTOR

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the sale of the fire damaged 1996 Case 4240 utility tractor.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF UNDER TAILGATE SPREADER FROM PENN RE-BUILDINGS, INC.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of an under tailgate spreader from Penn Re-Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$2,440.00.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS OF SALE OF SIX GREENHOUSES AND TWO BOILERS LOCATED AT FORMER STREATER PROPERTY

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the sale of six (6) greenhouses and two (2) boilers located at the former Streater property with the successful bidder(s) being responsible to dismantle and removal.

APPROVAL OF VETERANS MEMORIAL DESIGN CONCEPT

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Six (6) (D. Levan, S. Costa, D. Knorr, P. Houseknecht, K. Shepperson and C. Howell voting “Yes”) to One (1) abstention (P. Kinney ”Abstaining”), Council approved the concept of the Veterans Memorial design contingent upon the Town Park Improvement Association agreeing to the design.

APPROVAL OF LEASING ADDITIONAL LAND AT BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, council approved leasing additional land at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport to Dave Ruckle and John Yohey for the construction of an additional set of ten (10) hangars with the stipulation that construction begins within 24 months of the effective date of the agreement.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary