

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, October 27, 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 W. Carey Howell; Town Administrator Carol Mas and Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Ed Fegley.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 915 AMENDING CHAPTER 13, PART 4 RELATING TO PERMITS FOR REGULATED SOCIAL GATHERINGS

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 915 amending Chapter 13, Part 4 relating to permits for regulated social gatherings to regulate large social gatherings on common spaces or parking lots.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 916 AMENDING CHAPTER 20, PART 1A RELATING TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 916 amending Chapter 20, Part 1A relating to collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid waste.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-27-08.01 POLICE PENSION CONTRIBUTION DETERMINATION

Sergeant Leonard Rogutski appeared before Council on behalf of the police union to explain to Council their objection to the resolution setting a pension contribution prior to the arbitration board hearing scheduled for November 21st. He stated that the biennial evaluation should be used to calculate the percentage and not the MMO. He also mentioned the pension contribution resolution passed in January. Sgt. Rogutski distributed a spreadsheet showing payments to both plans over the past ten years. There were no payments made to the police pension plan for the first seven years. He wondered what the fund would look like if payments were being made to the fund during that time.

C. Mas briefed Council on the history of the fund. Prior to 1990, the officers were making a contribution. The fund became "overfunded" and the employees were refunded their contributions. For many years the fund remained overfunded and no payments were required. 2004 was the first year a payment was made into the fund. There are many reasons for the current condition of the police pension fund: several officers have retired in the last several years resulting in a \$59,100 expense per quarter, three full-time officers have been added to the roster, Act 30 mandating 100% payment to beneficiaries, retirement age of 50 years with 25 years of service, and the current economic condition of the stock market. K. Shepperson asked what wages were used in the calculation. C. Mas said that all earned income, including overtime, was used in the police calculations but only base pay and longevity was used in non-uniformed pension calculations.

S. Costa asked if we could table action until after the hearing. Mayor Knorr responded that Council is not disputing the arbitration award and he did not feel there was a need to wait. P. Houseknecht did not feel comfortable explaining to the taxpayers why we were using taxes to pay for the police pension when their own plans have been depleted due to the current economic downturn.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Resolution No. 10-27-08.01 instituting a 5% employee contribution to the Police Pension Fund.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved the October 13, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF RODNEY ERWINE AS BLOOMSBURG ZONING HEARING BOARD ALTERNATE

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Rodney Erwine as an alternate on the Bloomsburg Zoning Hearing Board.

APPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND VOUGHT AS BLOOMSBURG ZONING HEARING BOARD ALTERNATE

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted unanimously, Council appointed Raymond Vought as an alternate on the Bloomsburg Zoning Hearing Board with a term beginning on January 1, 2009 and expiring on December 31, 2009

APPROVAL OF RENEWING ANNUAL PRESS-ENTERPRISE ADVERTISING CONTRACT

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted unanimously, Council approved renewing the annual advertising contract with the Press-Enterprise at the \$10,000 level for 2009.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING A TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT POSITION

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by P. Kinney and voted unanimously, Council approved advertising for a temporary full-time finance assistant.

APPROVAL OF SALARY INCREASE FOR CHIEF OF POLICE AND LIEUTENANT

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by S. Costa and voted unanimously, Council approved a 3.5% salary increase for Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski and Lieutenant Joseph Wondoloski retroactive to January 1, 2008.

APPROVAL OF PENSION CONTRIBUTION FOR CHIEF OF POLICE AND LIEUTENANT

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted unanimously, Council approved requiring a 5% pension contribution from Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski and Lieutenant Joseph Wondoloski as of October 1, 2008.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Elliot Laury to install new signage at **112 East Main Street** in conjunction with the Façade Grant program.

On a motion by P. Kinney, 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 Drew Alexander and Matthew Zoppetti to demolish the structure located at **24 West Pine Avenue**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary