

A special meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, December 22, 2008, beginning at 6:00 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 Police Chief Leo Sokoloski.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – CHRISTY FINNERTY

Christy Finnerty of 608 East Third Street asked Council if there is a way to designate a permit parking space for each individual house with the house number stenciled on the curb for the space. There does not seem to be an overflow parking problem on her block. She is tired of shoveling a spot in front of her house only to have the neighbor park there rather than shoveling out her own space. The Mayor cited the parking lot at the Technology Center as an example of parking spaces that are designated but not all are occupied. D. Levan explained to Ms. Finnerty that a block or two west has an overflow problem where there are more permits issued than there are available spaces.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:10pm to discuss the possible dismissal of a police officer and reconvened at 7:18pm.

ADOPTION OF 2009 BUDGET

Mayor Knorr announced that the 16th officer would remain in the 2009 budget, additional revenue from fines and permits would be added, the police dog expenses would be deleted, a probable settlement with the K-9 officers in the amount \$5,000 each would be added and taxes would remain the same.

Barry Thorne of 819 East Third Street raised his concern about the large deficit budgeted for 2009. He realizes that this is not the best of times to raise taxes but not raising them some just puts off the inevitable.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Five (5) (D. Knorr, D. Levan, K. Shepperson, S. Costa and C. Howell voting “Yes”) to Two (2) (P. Kinney and P. Houseknecht voting “No”), Council adopted the 2009 Budget with the changes described by the Mayor.

General Fund:	
Total Revenue	\$3,992,255
Total Expenses	\$4,138,335
Net Loss	(\$146,080)

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 919 – TAX LEVY FOR 2009

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 919 setting the tax levy for 2009 as follows: 6.159 mills for general Town purposes; .882 mills for debt purposes; .38 mills for fire protection; .981 mills for street lighting purposes; and .200 mills for the Bloomsburg Public Library. The total real property tax is 8.602.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-22-08.01 – SETTING VARIOUS FEES FOR 2009

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Resolution No. 12-22-08.01 setting various fees for 2009.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the December 8, 2008 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – RACHEL BITLER

On behalf of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rachel Bitler asked Council to overturn the recommendation by HARB and allow the church to install a large panel glass door on the Iron Street side of the church rather than the smaller panel windowed door that Code Enforcement Officer and HARB member Ed Fegley suggests they install. Ms. Bitler explained that they want people to see inside the church when they are passing by.

On a motion by P. Houseknecht, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved the installation of a single panel glass door to be installed on the Iron Street side of St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at the corner of East Main and Iron Streets.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary