

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, January 24, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Diane Levan, Paul Kinney, Kathy Shepperson, Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell and Bill Kreisher; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Finance Specialist Theresa Baylor; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Ed Fegley and Environmental Services Administrator Charles Fritz; Fire Chief Bob Rupp and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

PUBLIC HEARING – FFY 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Prior to the beginning of the regular meeting, a Public Hearing was held at 7:00pm to discuss the Town of Bloomsburg's FFY 2011 Community Development Block Grant application. D. Knorr turned the meeting over to Bill Lowthert of SEDA-Council of Governments. B. Lowthert gave an overview of the program and reported that the Department of Community and Economic Development estimates funding to be \$216,000.00 with a possible decrease. Also, there is \$10,000 in FFY 2010 CDBG funds available from the Phase IV Main Street Lighting project which will need to be re-budgeted. B. Lowthert reviewed the application schedule, eligible activities and funding requirements, the Fair Housing Notice, Antidisplacement Plan and Section 3 requirements.

Projects currently being funded or recently completed are the Town Park Tennis Court Construction Project, the Phase IV Main Street Lighting project and the Curbing and Sidewalk Planning Study. The following projects were compiled by the Public Works Committee as possible projects for consideration:

Restroom Improvements at Town Park (nearest ball field) – \$10,000 of FFY 2010 funds have been allocated to this project but more funds are needed. C. Wagner expressed that this is a top priority of the Bloomsburg Town Park Improvement Association (BTPIA) and they plan to contribute funds.

Recreation Improvements at the Streater Property – \$10,000 of FFY 2010 funds have been allocated to this project and more funds are needed. B. Lowthert expressed the next step would be infrastructure, engineering and archeological projects.

Fifth Street Walking Trail – Mary Chamuris asked how wide the path was going to be and if a bike lane could be added. B. Kreisher expressed that the path would be seven foot wide and he has talked with County Commissioners who would be receptive to the idea of extending the trail to Bentley Drive in Scott Township. B. Lowthert elaborated that to continue the path into Scott Township as originally planned, CDBG funds from Columbia County would need to be allocated. In talking to county representatives, it seems they would have eligibility issues.

Main Street Pedestrian Improvements – B. Lowthert stated that this idea came from Chief Sokoloski. It would include wait and walk signal changes including signage and a countdown for pedestrian safety as well as crosswalk enhancements. For eligibility this would be improvements for the downtown only.

Curbing Improvements on Select Streets – B. Lowthert expressed that this project could be fundable depending on the streets which have not yet been determined.

Sidewalk and Curbing Improvement Grants to Eligible Homeowners and 18% is typically set aside for Administrative/Planning Activities and for SEDA-COG to administer the program.

B. Lowthert asked Council and the Public if there were any other projects that they would like to be considered. Chuck Wagner mentioned another goal of the BTPIA is the construction of an entry feature/traffic circle on Market Street at Town Park. John Karcher of Habitat for Humanity stated that he is looking for funds for revitalization projects and will have a proposal to Mr. Lowthert before the end of the week. P. Kinney would like the street lighting project extended down East Street to Third Street. Steve Coladonato would like the sidewalks that are heaved because of trees milled down and B. Lowthert stated that this is more of a maintenance item and would not be eligible for funding. B. Lowthert stated he would add the other three ideas to the list.

Hearing no additional public input, the Public Hearing concluded at 7:41 p.m.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – CHUCK WAGNER, PRESIDENT, TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Chuck Wagner was present to give an update on the toddler playground. Play by Design representatives were in town on Friday for a site visit. C. Wagner explained that the site was originally planned for the east side of Market Street in the old tennis court area but after hearing concerns from parents, the park association would like approval to construct the playground near kidsburg on the west side of Market Street. Also, the park association is asking for help from the town Public Works Department to do site prep work by excavating the 42' by 50' area. On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approve the new site location and allowing public works to help with the site prep work. C. Wagner expressed that the playground construction is set for April 28 through May 1 and 30 volunteers per day will be needed. He also noted that the cost of the project, \$10,500, has been fully funded.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – ATTORNEY GREG MORO

Attorney Greg Moro of 348 E. Second Street (College Hill) was present to defend the two reserved parking spaces he was given for his business. He gave the following overview of how his request transpired. Chief Sokoloski had allowed him three parking permits for use by his clients but recently he feels enforcement has been aggressive. On several occasions while a client is either inside getting the pass or has stopped in for a minute to drop or pick something up they've gotten a ticket in that short amount of time. Another issue is when clients mistakenly take the permits home. After talking about his situation with Solicitor Mihalik, he was referred to the Mayor and Chief Sokoloski and was then told to come before the Public Safety Committee. The committee and Council approved two reserved parking spaces from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for his law office only. Shortly after the signs were put up, he learned from reading in the Press Enterprise that his neighbors, Scott and Kathy Lowe, attended a Public Safety Committee meeting to express their concerns about the reserved spaces. Mr. Moro stated he was informed of this meeting the day before by Mayor Knorr but he was not able to rearrange his schedule to be present. He wished the Lowe's would've contacted him with their concerns. One issue they have is the placement of the signs which Mr. Moro thought could be changed. They also feel that his business is receiving preferential treatment. Mr. Moro listed other businesses that have been given reserved parking spaces within residential permit parking areas in town. Mr. Moro stated that he did consider the impact on the neighborhood and thought that having his client's park in front of his business would alleviate encroachment on the neighbors. He doesn't feel this will open the flood gates for other businesses on College Hill as was stated in the Press Enterprise because Council can deal with each request on a case by case basis.

A client of Attorney Moro's was also present to attest to the aggressive enforcement. The gentleman stated that while he was in Mr. Moro's office for an hour consultation, he noticed the parking enforcement officer drive by slowly four times.

S. Costa asked Mr. Moro if he had parking at the rear of his property and he stated that he does. She questioned why his clients couldn't park there. It would be hard for disabled or elderly clients to enter from the rear so he has his employee's park there.

Scott Lowe of 352 E. Second Street (College Hill) believes that to be more of a fairness issue. The neighborhood is largely residential and finding an on-street parking space is challenging. When the university students returned last week, everyone scrambled to find a parking space while the two reserved spaces remained empty. The use of the parking permits worked more or less effectively for over a decade allowing everyone equal access to the limited amount of parking spaces and supports the recent recommendation of the Public Safety Committee to rescind the approval of the spaces.

B. Kreisher asked if changing the hours would work and P. Kinney asked if limiting the time and allowing only one space would work. Kathy Lowe responded that the issue would still be problematic.

When Ray Vought of 360 E. Second Street (College Hill) first opened his bed and breakfast he asked the Chief for a loading and unloading zone in front of the house to help with unloading the luggage of overnight guests. He was told there were no other designated areas like this in town but he would look into it in the future. In the meantime he built a parking area at the rear of his business. He would still pursue a reserved space on East Second Street if Mr. Moro's spaces remained. Mr. Vought just wants to be treated fairly.

Jonathon Lincoln of 347 E. Second Street (College Hill) believes the two reserved spaces have already had a noticeable impact on the neighborhood. He has taken his children to school in town and has come back to find his space already taken while Mr. Moro's spaces are vacant. Mr. Lincoln has also witnessed Mr. Moro's staff parking in front of his house for the entire day.

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on Four (4) (C. Howell, D. Knorr, K. Shepperson, and S. Costa voting "Yes") to Three (3) (D. Levan, P. Kinney and B. Kreisher voting "No"), Council approved rescinding the approval of the two (2) "Law Office Only" signs at two parking spaces in front of 348 East Second Street with the sign cost being paid for by the Town.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – NICOLE PAGLIARO

Nicole Pagliaro stated that she moved into an apartment at 435 West First Street in December and since then there have been a few snow occurrences and wonders why the street hasn't been plowed or salted. Public Works Superintendent stated that this is simply not true. Ms. Pagliaro wondered why Barton Street and other streets across Main Street are clear and hers is not. J. Barton expressed that they are more heavily traveled and also explained that the salt compound doesn't work in extreme cold temperatures as we've been experiencing lately. Mayor Knorr directed Ms. Pagliaro to contact the Public Works Department or himself the next time she feels the street needs attention.

MAYOR UPDATE

Mayor Knorr is working with Solicitor Mihalik on drafting a vendor ordinance which should be ready for council to approve advertising at their March meeting; the auditors are coming back in February to finish the 2010 audit; the two union negotiations are still ongoing; there will be cost estimates ready for the third-party inspections at the next Community and Economic Development Committee meeting; Carol and Amber are working on the hiring of a Human Resource Specialist replacement and the Franklin Street reconstruction proposal has been forwarded to the Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 3, 2011 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2010 DUPLICATE COLLECTION REPORT FROM MARY F. WARD, TAX COLLECTOR

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2010 Town of Bloomsburg duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$1,232,022.90.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2010 INTERIM DUPLICATE COLLECTION REPORT FROM MARY F. WARD, TAX COLLECTOR

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the official report from Mary F. Ward, Tax Collector covering 2010 Town of Bloomsburg interim duplicate collections for the period ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$3,012.23.

APPROVAL OF ADDITION TO TOWN VENDOR LIST

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the addition of Mid Atlantic Waste Systems, Inc., CCIS, O'Neill Innovations and UGI Energy Services, Inc. to the 2010 town vendor list.

APPOINTMENT OF DONALD PURSEL TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Donald Pursel to the Civil Service Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2013.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST AMBER KENNEY

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Human Resource Specialist Amber Kenney effective March 6, 2011.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO FIRST COLUMBIA BANK AND TRUST COMPANY FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN AND POLICE PENSION PLAN

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to First Columbia Bank and Trust Company from the Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,788.43 and \$3,653.01 from the Police Pension Plan for fourth quarter trustee fees.

APPROVAL OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION FOR PREPARATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINE PUBLICATION

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved Ted Strosser, AIA to submit a grant application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for him to prepare a Historic District Guideline publication for the Town.

APPROVAL OF CHARLES FRITZ ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL PROP CONFERENCE

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved Charles Fritz to attend the annual PROP Conference in Erie from July 25 to July 28, 2011.

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT RENTAL BIDS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the following equipment rental bids: Caterpillar 315 trackhoe or equivalent with operator in the amount of \$79.00/hour and tri-axle dump truck for hauling of snow with operator in the amount of \$56.50/hour from Sokol, Inc. and the bid for tri-axle dump truck for hauling fill, stone, etc. with operator in the amount of \$62.00/hour from G & M Crawford, Inc.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A 2011 CASE 580 SUPER N LOADER BACKHOE

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a 2011 Case 580 Super N Loader in the amount of \$64,200.00 from Medico Industries, Inc. with Liquid Fuels Funds. 50% of the cost of the backhoe will be borne by the Bloomsburg Municipal Authority.

APPROVAL OF HIRING DONNA CARL AS A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Donna Carl as a school crossing guard at Bloomsburg Elementary contingent upon a favorable background check.

DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG, INC.

DBI President, Tim Wagner, reported that Josh O'Brien has been hired as the new Downtown Manager and will begin on January 31st.

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. to discuss the Public Works/Recycling union negotiations and reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF 2011-2013 UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO-CLC CONTRACT

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2011-2013 USW union contract with the Department of Public Works and Recycling Center employees.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary