

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, February 11, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor William Kreisher; Council Vice President Toni Bell; Council Members Fred Trump, James Huber, James Garman, Bonnie Crawford, and Vince DeMelfi; Town Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz; Director of Human Resources/Assistant Secretary Tracy Lanza fame; Administrative Assistant Bobbi Erlston; Director of Public Works John Fritz; Acting Chief of Police Leonard Rogutski; Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman; and Fire Chief Scott McBride.

## **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

W. Kreisher addressed the public, informing them that the Zoning Hearing Board and Town Council are separate governing bodies, and that Town Council cannot overrule the decision of the Zoning Hearing Board.

Steve Coladonato spoke on behalf of "Citizens for a Safe Bloomsburg" regarding the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting that was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019. In addition, he submitted the following statement to Town Council:

"I would like to thank Council members Crawford, Bell, DeMelfi, and Trump for attending the ZHB meeting this past Thursday. And special thanks to all the residents that came to the meeting. It was an important meeting and it's a shame that when an issue as important as this one came up, the paper gave the residents a thorn instead of a rose for showing civic involvement. I personally don't remember the last time a contingent of residents this large showed up at a public meeting.

I believe that Atty. Bathgate conducted the meeting politely and professionally. I know there was a lot of emotion at the meeting but everyone maintained control and nothing got out of hand unlike what the paper was implying.

One of the points that came out of the meeting is that Mr. Zoppetti feels that if he gets approval for this definition change he will be able to put not only drug rehab but also transitional housing for convicts and homeless shelters on the site without coming back to Council.

We, the Citizens for a Safe Bloomsburg, as a group, are sympathetic to rehab but the location and size of the proposed uses are a danger to the residents and the town and should be denied.

I noted that both the developer and his only supporter at the meeting do not live in Bloomsburg but rather only have a Bloomsburg post office mailing address. They live in North Centre Township.

The important thing is that many people showed up and are on record to opposing Matt Zoppetti's plan. We won't hear anything more about this for about a month when the ZHB will make their decision known at another public meeting. In the meantime, the Town must prepare its defense for the curative amendments that propose transitional housing and a homeless shelter, both for prisoners. We fully support and appreciate the Town's effort in defending the residents."

Eric Bower addressed Council to ask if the other locations that Bloomsburg Industrial Ventures (Windsor Foods) are still being discussed as options to construct a nursing home and/or transitional housing. W. Kreisher reminded the public that the current zoning ordinance does not address nursing homes or transitional housing, therefore all options that Bloomsburg Industrial Ventures proposed are still possible.

## **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 02-11-19.01 GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM**

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by T. Bell and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 02-11-19.01 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program regarding applying for a grant for the Little League Fields relocation due to the Floodwall Expansion Project impact to the current fields.

## **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 02-11-19.02 FEE RESOLUTION**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by V. DeMelfi and voted on unanimously, Council approved tabling resolution 02-11-19.02 Fee Resolution for further discussion. This will be discussed at the next Community and Economic Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

W. Kreisher presented a plaque to Airport Coordinator to B. Teichman given to her by the PA State Aviation Advisory Committee upon her appointment by the Governor.

## **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the January 28, 2019 Town Council minutes without any additions or corrections.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND JANUARY PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund, \$249,851.66; Recycling Fund, \$20,585.43; Street Lighting Fund, \$6,782.77; Fire Fund, \$15,564.30; Library Fund, \$3,018.95; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$7,562.68 and the January payroll authorization in the amount of \$346,957.13.

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYING C. CHRISTINE MEEKER PART-TIME FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE AT A RATE OF \$25 PER HOUR AND NO MORE THAN 20 HOURS PER WEEK**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved employing C. Christine Meeker part-time for the Code Enforcement Office at a rate of \$25 per hour and no more than 20 hours per week.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO COLUMBIA COUNTY FOR AN UPDATED EXPERT REPORT IN REGARDS TO THE AUTONEUM TAX APPEAL**

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Columbia County in the amount of \$715.00 for an updated expert report in regards to the Autoneum Tax Appeal.

**APPROVAL OF RELEASING \$113,750.70 MADE PAYABLE TO COLUMBIA COUNTY, REGARDING THE FINGERPRINTING MACHINE. THIS WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE POLICE RECORDS ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,000.53 AND THE DUI BANK ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$87,750.17.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Huber, and voted on unanimously, Council approved releasing \$113,750.70, made payable to Columbia County, regarding the fingerprinting machine. This will be taken out of the Police Records account in the amount of \$26,000.53 and the DUI Bank account in the amount of \$87,750.17.

**APPROVAL OF CLOSING THE RECORDS CENTER BANK ACCOUNT BEING HELD AT FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST, CO. COLUMBIA COUNTY WILL BE TAKING OVER THE FINANCIALS FOR THE FINGER PRINTING MACHINE, WHICH WAS MOVED FROM THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT TO COLUMBIA COUNTY PRISON IN APRIL 2013**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the closure of the Records Center bank account being held at First Columbia Bank & Trust, Co. Columbia County will be taking over the financials for the finger printing machine, which was moved from the Bloomsburg Police Department to Columbia County prison in April 2013.

**APPROVAL OF AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ATTORNEY LINUS E. FENICLE, FROM THE REAGER & ADLER, P.C FIRM**

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an engagement letter with attorney Linus E. Fenicle, from the Reager & Adler, P.C firm that states a rate of \$175.00 per hour and travel time in the amount of \$87.50 when engaged for code enforcement legal expertise.

**APPROVAL OF THE RESIGNATION OF ROBERT AUNGST FROM THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the resignation of Robert Aungst from the Town of Bloomsburg Planning Commission.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 (CHANGE ORDER NO. 2) TO BORTON LAWSON FOR THE PHASE III ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved amendment no. 2 (change order no. 2) in the amount of \$12,680.00 to Borton Lawson for the Phase III engineering agreement for the Floodwall Expansion Project.

**APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN COLUMBIA COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG FOR THE WYOMING VALLEY FUNDING (LUZERNE COUNTY FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY)**

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 6 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (W. Kreisher), Council approved to table the cooperative agreement between Columbia County and the Town of Bloomsburg for the Wyoming Valley funding (Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority) in the amount of \$1,813,872.52 in regard to the Floodwall Expansion Project.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Tiffany Polizzi asked Council if there were more forms of communication available to notify the public of upcoming meetings. L. Martz stated that all meeting dates and times are advertised in the newspaper (Press Enterprise) and are posted on the Town of Bloomsburg website at [www.bloomsburgpa.org](http://www.bloomsburgpa.org).

Mary Ward asked Council if it was possible to enforce citizens to show proof of paid taxes before acquiring permits from the Code Enforcement Office. M. Ward noted that this would be a way to ensure that all delinquent taxes are paid.

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:31 p.m. and reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council confirmed the hiring of Kenneth Roberts, a military veteran, as Director of Code Enforcement at a salary of \$47,000 with two weeks of vacation and a salary review after completion of a one-year probationary period.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Lauren Martz  
Town Manager/Secretary