

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, March 23, 2015, beginning at 7:04 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Sandy Davis; Council Members, Diane Levan, Bill Kreisher, Sylvia Costa, Fred Trump and Eric Bower; Town Administrator William Lowthert; Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Martz; Solicitor Jack Mihalik; Chief of Police Roger Van Loan. Absent were Council Member W. Carey Howell; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Fire Chief Bob Rupp; Environmental Services Coordinator Charles Fritz; and Director of Finance Lisa Dooley.

Mayor Davis asked Town Administrator, William Lowthert to explain Resolution 03-25-15.01 on the Council Agenda to the audience regarding the submittal of the application for the FFY CDBG-DR Program Funds. Mr. Lowthert explained that this application submittal would be for a grant to help home owners make improvements to their home after the 2011 flood.

Mike Fisher of SEDA-COG also expanded upon explaining the grant program. The application being submitted would be for \$500,000 and would primarily help homeowners flood proof their homes, but would also need to be used to bring any issues with the home up to current UCC standards.

Councilman Kreisher expressed concern that this grant program should also be offered to rental properties because so many Bloomsburg homes are rental properties.

Mr. Lowthert and Mr. Fisher expressed concern with offering this grant to rental properties right from the start because of the continuous monitoring and verification of tenant and owner financial information. Additional staff time would need to be dedicated to ensure compliance and if the rental became non-compliant the Town would have to legally pursue reimbursement of these funds from the landlord. Additionally, DCED could potentially freeze any future CDBG funds granted to the Town until the matter was resolved.

Vince DeMelfi, asked if homeowners needed to recertify their financial information every year like it appears rental property owners and tenants would have to do. Mike Fisher answered no, homeowners would not have to continuously recertify their financial standing.

Doug Chiado, stated that the Town should not apply for grant funds because the funds come from taxpayers.

Mayor Davis highlighted that \$500,000 would not go very far and could potentially be utilized by all owner-occupied properties. Mr. Fisher also explained that the Town could potentially go back to DCED to modify the grant to include rental properties in the future if remaining grant funds needed to be spent.

Mr. Lowthert also explained that the Town may have a stronger grant application if the Town would focus on owner-occupied properties because DCED may be concerned about monitoring the Town to ensure compliance if the grant program was offered to rental properties. DCED would be monitoring the Town of Bloomsburg, but HUD would be monitoring DCED to ensure compliance at their level.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO 03-25-15.01 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FFY 2015 CDBG-DR PROGRAM FUNDS

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Resolution No. 03-25-15.01, authorizing the submission of an application for FFY 2015 CDBG-DR Program Funds.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 9, 2015 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO HAY GROUP, INC. FOR OUT OF SCOPE SERVICES

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. in the amount of \$195 from the Police Pension Plan and \$450 from the Employees' Pension Plan for Out-of-Scope Services.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO HAY GROUP, INC. FOR FIRST QUARTERLY TRUSTEE FEES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. in the amount of \$1,200 from the Police Pension Plan and \$1,200 from the Employees' Pension Plan for First Quarter Trustee Fees.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Laura Haden, introduced herself to Council and attendees of the Council Meeting. She is the new Downtown Manager for Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc.

Chuck Wagner, BTPIA, wanted to inform Council and community members that fundraising for the Bloomsburg Skate Park is currently underway. He also wanted to remind the public that Bloomsburg University students will be participating in the "Big Event" this Saturday, March 28, 2015. The Big Event is a community service event where BU students help property owners and organizations with multiple service projects.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

William Lowthert
Town Administrator/Secretary