

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, June 8, 2009, beginning at 7:07 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Diane Levan, Paul Kinney, Sylvia Costa, Kathy Shepperson, W. Carey Howell and Bill Kreisher; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Code Enforcement/Zoning/ Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Solicitor Jack Mihalik and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent was Fire Chief Hugh Gross.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Prior to the regular meeting, Bloomsburg Town Council held a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. to receive public input on the 2009 Comprehensive Plan.

Michelle Hintz, Treasurer of the Bloomsburg Community Garden asked Council to please consider including the community garden into the plan. She handed out an informational sheet on their history, vision and mission. Also listed were sample paragraphs they would like to see be inserted into Chapter's 2 and 8. D. Levan stated she would not make a commitment for the permanent use of the site.

Terry Riley of 126 East Twelfth Street expressed that he has two (2) issues concerning the airport; the extension to 4,200 feet and the extension of the operating hours. He perceives increasing noise traffic as jets will be able to take off.

Cristina Mathews of 2 West Eleventh Street provided written proposed revisions and questions concerning Chapter 8 of the plan. She requests that recommendation #4 on page 8-6, "Consider establishing an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) chapter", be stricken from the plan as it has no bearing on the Town and its strategic plan. Ms. Mathews would like the following added; Produce an annual report detailing the airport's direct costs and economic benefits to the Town, with a separate estimation of indirect economic costs and benefits; detail plans for repairs, obstruction removal, expansion, and improvements in the report; present the report at a Town Council meeting; post the report on the Town's website; improve transparency of reporting by the Airport Advisory Council; schedule regular reports from it directly to Town Council; modify the composition of the Airport Advisory Council to include citizen representatives from neighborhoods affected by the airport; include Airport Advisory Council meeting times on the Town Calendar and make meeting minutes available to the public.

Matt Gilbert of 2 West Twelfth Street feels the airport is looked at by many. He grew up watching planes fly over his neighborhood and is now a pilot himself. He believes the airport is a benefit and a positive asset that we need to promote. Safety is a big concern for him and the changes being made at the airport will only make it safer for everyone.

Susan Webster of 260 Grovania Drive, Montour Township, stated she keeps hearing about the benefits of the airport but doesn't see it and the airport is not required to keep flight records. She supports Cristina's recommendations.

Rob Staib of 123 Hunt Club Drive, Hemlock Township, stated he is a corporate pilot for a CEO and there has already been a jet based out of the Bloomsburg airport. Extending the runway to 3,200 feet will only make it safer for the pilots that already utilize the airport. It will not accommodate any larger planes that don't already fly into the airport. He feels the airport is an asset and he tried to explain that the town does benefit from having an airport. He stated that it's very common for a CEO to fly in and out of several small airports daily. While they are there, they purchase food, etc. which in turn benefits that community.

Shirley Brobst co-owner of Columbia Aircraft Services, Inc. stated that the town is not out any money. Through the rent that they pay their utilities, etc. are paid for.

Richard Hammer of 401 East Twelfth Street expressed that he doesn't object to the airport as it is now. He does object to it being 24-hours and to the expenses being used to expand it. The town took down the sound barrier and it looks awful.

Karl George co-owner of Columbia Aircraft Services, Inc. also stated that the airport does benefit the town and has worked there for 37 years.

Gregg Wirth, Chairman of the Bloomsburg Planning Commission expressed that the airport doesn't need to be contentious. The airport is a historic site and feels it should be addressed.

Dave Ruckle, pilot and Airport Advisory Committee member informed the audience that the committee is in the process of filling out a 29 page Historic Preservation application to list the airport on the National Historic Register.

Michelle Peguero of 130 Market Street stated that she's against airports because they devalue homes and create noise and air pollution. She spoke of some major airports in the United States that purposely built out in the middle of nowhere so residential communities would not be affected.

John Yohey, pilot and Airport Advisory Committee member informed everyone that the airport is already open 24-hours. You don't see a lot of planes at night because most pilots don't fly at dark and the fuel pumps are not accessible in the evening. The changes being made at the airport are not going to change anything.

Harry English of 1203 Catherine Street expressed that his sound barrier is gone.

Chris Pfaff, pilot from Danville stated that he's transported organs and transplant medical teams at the airport and feels the extension and widening will be beneficial.

Fred Reck, Vice-President of the Bloomsburg Area Landlords Association submitted proposed changes the group would like made to Chapter 5 and 6. They believe there is an immediate need to establish periodic codes inspections of all non-owner occupied dwellings, to enhance the appearance of the community and to establish design and/or performance standards for all new construction in the town. The group is also opposed to a ranking system.

Fred Trump of 53 Eyer Street is concerned about the zoning district where he lives. He wants to keep it a residential area.

John Gombert of 235 Glenn Avenue would like the zoning changed to High-Density on Glenn Avenue. He expressed that there are only four residential homes left on this street. Mr. Gombert and his wife have student housing on either side of them. They've never had a problem with the students but feel this isn't an ideal area to raise their family. They would like to sell their home and move to another part of town.

Barry Thorne, Bloomsburg Planning Commission member expressed that he read over the comprehensive plan four times. He encourages Town Council to adopt it tonight and make any minor changes later. He reminded everyone that it's been 35 years since a plan has been done.

Gregg Wirth stated the comprehensive plan will be the mission of the planning commission and encourages residents to come to their meetings with suggestions.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:57 p.m. and the regular meeting of Town Council convened at 7:07 p.m.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – MATT GILBERT

Matt Gilbert was present to request approval to hold another community movie night in downtown Bloomsburg. He advised Council that last year he obtained a grant through the Degenstein Foundation for \$5,000 and this year he was awarded \$2,500. He still has \$1,000 left from last year and hopes that local businesses support and help out because of the shortfall. On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved Matt Gilbert to hold a community movie night in downtown Bloomsburg on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – MEGAN WILL, CLINICAL OUTCOMES GROUP, INC.

Megan Will, Youth Programs Coordinator for Clinical Outcomes Group, Inc. of Northumberland was present to ask for Council's support. A Battle of the Bands event is being planned at Town Park for July 24, 2009. The event is being sponsored by Action for Community Transformation (ACT) coalition, an anti-drug and anti-alcohol group. The event was held in Selinsgrove last year and she feels that Bloomsburg is a more centralized area. On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council stated that they support the event to be held at the Town Park.

APPROVAL OF BTE LIGHTING THE FOUNTAIN PURPLE FOR RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved BTE to light the town fountain purple for the upcoming Relay for Life event being held at the fairgrounds on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, 2009. BTE staff will temporarily affix stage lighting gel covers to some of the lights in the basin of the fountain to achieve the effect.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 06-08-09.01 – ADOPTION OF 2009 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 06-08-09.01 adopting the 2009 Comprehensive Plan with the following changes:

1. Add a brief statement that the town currently has a community garden.
2. Eliminate recommendation #4 in Chapter 8, "Consider establishing an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) chapter." Replace with a recommendation to modify the representation on the Airport Advisory Committee to include a citizen that is not a pilot.
3. Replace recommendation #3 in Chapter 5, repeated as recommendation #9 in Chapter 5, "Continue (or develop) a ranking system or rental properties for student housing" with Consider methods to encourage landlords to improve renter housing stock."
4. Add a brief statement to recognize the fact that Bloomsburg is the county seat and Bloomsburg's proximity to I-80. Add a recommendation to explore the relocation of overhead utilities to underground locations, particularly in coordination with streetscape and other public improvement projects.
5. Replace recommendation #18 in Chapter 4, "Encourage a range of housing types to provide options to meet different needs and income levels." Continue to identify locations appropriate for off-campus student housing.
6. Add a brief summary of the Bloomsburg Fair, based on information provided by Carey Howell.
7. Revise recommendation #9 in Chapter 4 to read "Continue to explore mass transit options." Reference ongoing discussions with SEDA-COG and area partners on options and financing in the explanatory text that follows the recommendation.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 06-08-09.02 – AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO DCED FOR FEDERAL AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT FUNDS UNDER THE CDBG-R PROGRAM

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 06-08-09.02 authorizing the submission of an application to DCED for Federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Funds under the CDBG-R Program. B. Lowthert expressed that the Town will receive \$33,470.00 in funding which will be used toward the building demolition at the former Streater Property.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr briefly reviewed the budget by department.

APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the May 11, 2009 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MAY PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the May payroll authorization: General Fund, \$145,573.27; Debt Service Fund, \$92,233.49; Recycling Fund, \$8,964.29; Street Lighting Fund, \$8,309.85; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$5,091.02; FFY 08 CDBG Entitlement Fund, \$4,000.00; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Airport Expansion Project, \$63,293.88; Liquid Fuels, \$2,020.46 and the May payroll authorization in the amount of \$222,293.60.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF HAY GROUP, INC. FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN AND POLICE PENSION PLAN

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. from the Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$6,905.00 and \$6,905.00 from the Police Pension Plan for actuarial work from 01/01/09 to 04/30/09.

APPROVAL OF SIGNING A PAYROLL ACCOUNT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AFLAC WITH STAFF RESEARCHING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS WITH TOWN'S ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE VENDOR

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved signing a payroll account acknowledgement agreement with AFLAC with staff researching any associated costs with the town's accounting software vendor.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS TO TOWN VENDOR LIST

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved adding the following companies to the Town Vendor List: John Deere Government and National Sales, Digital Ally, Inc., Borough of Berwick and National Elevator Inspection Service, Inc.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM VECTOR SECURITY FOR SEMI-ANNUAL TESTING AND INSPECTION PLAN

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved a proposal from Vector Security for semi-annual testing and inspection plan for the Town Hall fire system in the amount of \$84.00/month. C. Mas informed Council that this fee is in addition to the value enhancement service plan in the amount of \$92.00/month which they approved last month.

APPROVAL OF HIRING RANDI FETTERMAN AS A PART-TIME POLICE CLERK

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Randi Fetterman as a part-time police clerk at \$11.00/hour effective immediately with the consideration of a \$.50/hour increase upon a favorable six month probationary period.

ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT NOTICE OF CALVIN "GENE" RUPERT FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the retirement notice of Calvin "Gene" Rupert from the Police Department effective March 18, 2010 with his last day being October 3, 2009.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF RAYMOND VOUGHT FROM BLOOMSBURG SHADE TREE COMMISSION

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Raymond Vought from the Bloomsburg Shade Tree Commission.

APPROVAL OF HIRING THERESA BAYLOR AS A FULL-TIME FINANCE SPECIALIST

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Theresa Baylor as a full-time Finance Specialist in the Administrative offices of Town Hall at a salary of \$32,000 contingent upon a successful background check.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for Susan Fox to install a six foot vinyl privacy fence at the rear and along one side of the property located at 410-412 Iron Street.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for PNC Bank to install a new chiller unit on the alleyway side of the property located at 50 West Main Street.

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for Tom Wagner to install eleven sets of composite shutters on the structure located at 165 West Fifth Street.

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a certificate of appropriateness for the Patricia Yost Estate to strip the existing paint, re-point and seal the brick on the entire structure; to remove and replace the decking

material with composite material on the porch landing leading to the second floor on the south side of the structure; to replace the windows on the south, east and north sides of the structure with vinyl replacement windows to match the existing; to replace the front windows and the wood frame windows on the second floor and the two large first floor windows with custom made to match existing windows at 239 Market Street.

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 modifications to a prior approved certificate of appropriateness for Matt Zoppetti to construct a roof over the access landing on the second floor apartments on the south side; to install a window on the west side and to install raised-panel garage doors in the two large openings of the north side of the building being constructed at Center Street and West Pine Avenue.

ACCEPTANCE OF BID FROM TAYLOR SCALE SOLUTIONS

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted a bid from Taylor Scale Solutions in the amount of \$44,970.00 for the installation of a truck scale at the Recycling Center.

ADDITION OF TAYLOR SCALE SOLUTIONS TO TOWN VENDOR LIST

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved adding Taylor Scale Solutions to the Town vendor list.

APPROVAL OF ALLOWING SUSQUEHANNA RIVER SOJOURN GROUP TO UTILIZE THE STREATER PROPERTY

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Susquehanna River Sojourn Group to allow group members camp overnight with their boats at the Streater Property on June 22, 2009.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE BUILDINGS AT STREATER PROPERTY

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the demolition of the buildings at the Streater Property.

APPROVAL OF THE INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN ON WEST STREET AT WEST FOURTH STREET

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the installation of a stop sign on West Street at West Fourth Street.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF THREE (3) DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERAS

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of three (3) DVM 500 digital in-car video cameras from Digital Ally, Inc. in the amount of \$4,175.00 each for the Police Department with DUI Funds.

BICYCLE AUCTION

L. Sokoloski expressed that the Police Department will be holding their annual bicycle give away of lost and/or recovered bicycles on Saturday, June 20, 2009.

APPROVAL OF INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR MIHALIK NOT TO DEFEND THE APPEAL OF THE
LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER REQUEST OF HH, III, LLC

On a motion by D. Knorr, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on Four (4) (D. Knorr, D. Levan, S. Costa and K. Shepperson voting “Yes”) to Two (2) (P. Kinney and C. Howell voting “No”) to One (1) Abstention (B. Kreisher “Abstaining”), Council approved instructing Solicitor Mihalik not to defend the appeal filed by HH, III, LLC for the liquor license transfer request at 112 East Main Street.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary