

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, June 11, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr, Council Members Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell, Bill Kreisher, Fred Trump and Eric Bower; Town Administrator William Lowthert; Director of Finance Heather Jacoby; Code Enforcement/Zoning/Planning Officer Ed Fegley; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Solicitor Jack Mihalik and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Council Member Diane Levan; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton and Fire Chief Bob Rupp.

#### **CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – OREN HELBOK**

Oren Helbok, 705 E. Fifth Street, asked if the \$3,000 pedestrian safety enhancement grant was on the agenda and Mayor Knorr replied that it is not and asked Chief Sokoloski to give an update. L. Sokoloski stated if grant funds are received, they will mostly be used for education, media, prevention and awareness with some enforcement later in August or early September.

John Jacobson, 201 W. Third Street, wondered why the no walking signal is on when cars are stopped on Center Street at the south side of Main Street. This is a one-way street with one lane of traffic. Mayor Knorr stated that this intersection has been brought to PennDOT's attention.

#### **MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Mayor Knorr introduced and welcomed Bill Lowthert as Town Administrator and noted that today is his first day.

#### **APPROVAL OF HIRING A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

Mayor Knorr reported that a fifteenth officer was budgeted this year and there was a tie vote at the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting. He and Council Member Levan voted in the affirmative. He doesn't feel the committee will be able to come to a consensus so he is bringing the matter up for discussion. Mayor Knorr and D. Levan both feel the ratio of one officer per 1,000 residents should be kept up and the population according to the 2010 Census has increased to 14,855.

F. Trump feels the hiring is premature given the current deficit of \$250,000. He would like to wait until there are six months of finances in and would also like to have dialogue with other municipalities for a regional police force.

C. Howell would like to see part-time officers utilized saving on benefits and pension contributions. He has seen statistics that the crime in our area is the lowest around and is thankful of our police department for that, but he doesn't feel a fifteenth officer is warranted at this time.

It was also noted that the department lost their criminal investigator when Joe Wondoloski retired and officers now have to take care of the investigations themselves which is very time consuming.

Oren Helbok expressed that according to the 2010 Census, population growth is up in the 18-24 age group. Oren asked Mayor Knorr if he has talked to Dr. Soltz about a payment in lieu of taxes for public safety. Jim Hollister of Bloomsburg University stated that there is and has been in-kind services provided to code enforcement and the volunteer fire department including a donation for a ladder truck.

John Long, 908 West Main Street, doesn't feel that the University is the reason for the population increase. There is more subsidized housing in Town, and facilities like the Women's Center bring problems and you get what comes along with that.

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Four (4) (B. Kreisher, S. Costa, D. Knorr and E. Bower voting "Yes") to Two (2) (C. Howell and F. Trump voting "No"), Council approved hiring a full-time police officer.

## **STACY RICHARDS, SEDA-COG – UTILITY BILL ANALYSIS**

Mayor Knorr explained that Ms. Richards attended the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting in March of this year where members recommended Council approve a utility bill analysis to be conducted by SEDA-COG at a cost of \$3,750. At the Council meeting, the motion died for a lack of a second. Ms. Richards asked if she could attend this meeting to address Council as a whole as another grant opportunity is available.

Ms. Richards explained the program and reviewed the success of Loyalsock Township's project. The cost of the analysis is a 50/50 matching grant through DCED. The second round grant deadline is June 22, 2012.

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by E. Bower and voted on Three (3) (F. Trump, E. Bower and B. Kreisher voting "Yes") to Three (3) (D. Knorr, S. Costa and C. Howell voting "No"), no action was taken due to a tie vote. Mayor Knorr stated that Council would not be able to make a determination until the next Council meeting which is after the grant submittal deadline.

## **APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the May 14, 2012 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

## **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MAY PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the May payroll authorization: General Fund, \$163,214.62; Debt Service Fund, \$5,986.69; Recycling Fund, \$19,465.77; Street Lighting Fund, \$10,829.62; Norris E. Rock Memorial Swimming Pool Fund, \$4,639.65; FFY 10 CDBG Program, \$2,362.20; FFY 11 CDBG Program, \$30,425.99; Day Care Project, \$2,737.40; Airport Fund, \$6,608.80; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$483.56 and the May payroll authorization in the amount of \$211,244.27.

## **APPROVAL OF ADDITION TO TOWN VENDOR LIST**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved the addition of Adam Diltz and Ryan Novak to the 2012 town vendor list.

## **APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the Hazard Mitigation grant in the amount of \$1,679,071.00.

Bill Seigel of SEDA-COG expressed that there is a good chance that CDBG Disaster Relief Funds will become available. The funds would funnel through Columbia County and what he has learned from Rich Kisner, who recently represented the County and the Town at a meeting, the Town was specifically mentioned concerning receiving funding. D. Knorr asked that a meeting be scheduled with Mr. Kisner, Bill Seigel, Bill Lowthert and himself.

John Long, 908 West Main Street, stated that the property owners were told by PEMA and FEMA representatives that they would have to contact their insurance company to obtain the \$30,000 ICC funds which cover the cost of demolition. Now they've been told that the Town has to request the funds and the money goes to the Town. If you times that by 10 the Town would receive \$300,000 and he knows that the homes already taken down were around \$12,000 each so the Town will be making money and can use that to cover the 3%. E. Fegley stated that isn't the case, the Town can't call up insurance companies and ask for the money. A form is being developed that the homeowner will need to sign to allow the Town to request the money and after the demolition is put out to bid, any remaining money would have to be returned to the insurance companies.

Mayor Knorr asked Council to be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting concerning the 3% match.

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO HAY GROUP, INC. FROM THE POLICE PENSION PLAN**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Hay Group, Inc. from the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$195 for actuarial valuation work.

#### **APPROVAL OF REMOTE DEPOSIT WITH FIRST COLUMBIA BANK**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved remote deposit with First Columbia Bank.

#### **APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A BASE SCALE FROM METTLER TOLEDO**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a base scale from Mettler Toledo in the amount of \$6,194 for the Recycling Center.

#### **WEST THIRD STREET RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION**

B. Lowthert reviewed the preliminary plan Larson Design Group prepared for the reconstruction of Third Street between Market and Railroad Streets. They recommend milling the street to a depth of 2" with 1 ½" of material replaced after new curbs, with a 6 ½" reveal, are installed. ADA accessible ramps are required to be installed at each intersection which the town would cover the cost. The estimated cost for the paving work is \$40,000 and \$60,000 for the ADA accessible ramps. B. Lowthert also noted that if the street is milled to a depth of 4" there would be significant storm drainage work and the estimate for this work including the milling and paving would be \$440,000. The estimate for curbing work is \$65,000. B. Kreisher made a motion which S. Costa seconded, to approve proceeding with the plan as presented with the Town paying for the milling and paving work, ADA ramps and curbing with the property owner reimbursing the Town for the cost of their sidewalk where indicated. After further discussion, B. Kreisher and S. Costa rescinded their motion and second.

Mary Chamuris, 163 W. Third Street, stated she was not able to be at the Public Works Committee meeting last week and the last thing she was told was John Barton and the engineer from Larson would be going door to door to talk with the property owners. Now, Council is ready to approve a plan that she isn't sure will solve the problem. She recalls when the Town raised the street eighteen years ago and the homeowners had to raise their sidewalks. The drainage was messed up then. She doesn't feel milling the roadway only two inches and putting back an inch and a half of material is going to solve the water that runs into her yard. She doesn't want this plan to be a band-aid. The Town needs to fix it and fix it right.

B. Lowthert stated Larson is a very reputable firm and if something happens with the way the plan was engineered, the Town could go back on their liability insurance. Oren Helbok expressed that Larson could say they engineered the street and aren't liable for the water coming into Mary's basement.

Ray Vought stated he's a member of the Planning Commission and suggests the plan be run through the Commission because they know what they are looking for.

Mayor Knorr stated that due to J. Barton's absence, the engineer will be asked to attend the next Council meeting in two weeks.

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO LARSON DESIGN GROUP, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF WEST THIRD STREET**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Larson Design Group, Inc. in the amount of \$13,005.48 for professional services on the West Third Project through 05/19/12.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO LARSON DESIGN GROUP, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF THE TOWN PARK RESTROOM REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH CDBG FUNDS**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Larson Design Group, Inc. in the amount of \$2,275 for professional services of the Town Park Restroom Replacement Project through 05/05/12 with CDBG funds.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO WMCS, INC. FOR WORK COMPLETED ON THE TOWN PARK RESTROOM REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH CDBG FUNDS**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to WMCS, Inc. in the amount of \$3,600 for work completed on the Town Park Restroom Replacement Project through 05/31/12 with CDBG funds.

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FROM WMCS, INC. FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY-ONE (31) DAYS**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by E. Bower and voted on unanimously, Council approved Changed Order No. 1 from WMCS, Inc. for an additional thirty-one (31) calendar days to the schedule for a substantial completion date of July 30, 2012 for the Town Park Restroom Replacement Project

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO URS CORPORATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF THE STREATER RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT WITH CDBG FUNDS**

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to URS Corporation in the amount of \$23,840.79 for professional services of the Streater Recreation Improvements Project with CDBG funds.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ON THE PHASE V STREET LIGHTING PROJECT WITH CDBG FUNDS**

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Peters Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$251.71 for professional services of the Phase V Street Lighting Project through 05/27/12 with CDBG funds.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL OF QUALIFICATIONS AND TO NEGOTIATE PRICE WITH ARCH CENTRAL ARCHITECTS, INC. FOR THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING PROJECT**

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the proposal of qualifications and to negotiate a price with Arch Central Architects, Inc. for the airport terminal building project.

**APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Bloomsburg Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Luschas, Pursel and Norton to replace the roof on the structure located at **120 West Main Street**.

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by E. Bower and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Bloomsburg Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Laura Baker to install replacement windows at **405 East Street/301 E. Fourth Street**.

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Bloomsburg Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Gary Vadakin to install a decorative fence at **158-164 West First Street**.

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Bloomsburg Historic Architectural Review Board, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for Jeff Lylo of J. Lylo Jewelers to install an awning at **140 E. Main Street**.

## **APPROVAL OF AAA STUDENT HOUSING – LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN – 17 EAST MAIN STREET**

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, and on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Council approved revised land development plan contingent upon the following conditions being met: Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Requirements: a 'Certificate of Ownership and Acknowledgment of Subdivision /Land Development Plans' statement shall be provided on the title page and shall be signed and notarized [404.B.1.a.7, 404.B.1.a.8 and 404.D.1.a.5], financial security must be provided for all proposed site improvements. A construction cost estimate shall be submitted [404.C]; there currently exists two (2) utility poles on the site; one in the center of the site and one inside the northern property line. The 'Proposed Site Plan' shall show where the poles and overhead utility lines will be relocated. Any necessary easements for these facilities shall also be shown on the plan [Sec. 22-403.1.A.2.d, Sec. 22-403.1.A.2.i and Sec. 22-505.1]. A note shall be added to the plan stating that the final design of relocated utility lines shall be provided to the Town upon completion by PPL, locations of proposed roof spouts shall be shown on the plan [Sec. 22-801.C] and since the site abuts a State Route (Main Street, S.R. 0011), a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT shall be obtained for proposed work within the legal right-of-way [Sec.22-502.1.M]. The removal of the existing building, construction of proposed building foundation, and connections to existing sanitary, water and gas utility lines will certainly encroach into the right-of-way area, a description of the existing concrete stormwater channel and the terms of its required maintenance shall be recorded with the deed. A draft copy of this description shall be provided for review [Sec. 22-805.C] and the area at the rear of the structure labeled as parking shall be either removed from the plan and left vacant or if the applicant deems it to be parking it must be labeled has one handicap parking spot and one regular parking spot.

## **APPROVAL OF WAGE INCREASE FOR PART-TIME TEMPORARY SEASONAL REGULATED RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTORS**

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved increasing the wage rate for another part-time temporary seasonal regulated rental housing inspector from \$10.98/hour to \$12.000/hour with current employee, Bill Everett, receiving the increase retroactive from his first day this season. E. Fegley requested the increase because he is having a hard time finding a second person at the current rate.

## **BICYCLE GIVE AWAY**

L. Sokoloski expressed that the Bloomsburg Police Department will be holding a bicycle give away on August 4, 2012 at 10:00am. The bicycles are from their lost and found will be given out on a first come first serve basis.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

WILLIAM LOWTHERT  
Town Administrator & Secretary