

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, June 24, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Presiding was Council Vice President Diane Levan. Present were Council Members Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell, Bill Kreisher, Fred Trump and Eric Bower; Town Administrator William Lowthert; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton and Administrative Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Martz; Code Enforcement Officer Ed Fegley; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz and Fire Chief Bob Rupp.

PUBLIC HEARING – FFY 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Prior to the beginning of the regular meeting, a Public Hearing was held at 7:00pm to discuss the Town of Bloomsburg's FFY 2013 Community Development Block Grant application. D. Levan turned the meeting over to Bill Seigel of SEDA-Council of Governments. Mr. Seigel gave an overview of the program and reported that the Department of Community and Economic Development estimates funding to be \$165,000. B. Seigel reviewed the application schedule, eligible activities and funding requirements, the Fair Housing Notice, Antidisplacement Plan and Section 3 requirements.

The following projects will be considered:

1. Streater Recreation Complex Improvements – Phase II
2. Bloomsburg Skate Park
3. Walking Trail – Town Park to Streater Recreation Complex
4. Curb Cuts – Removal of Architectural Barriers
5. First Street Reconstruction
6. Penn Street Reconstruction
7. Administrative/Planning Activities

B. Seigel asked Council if there were any new projects they would like to be considered. Hearing none, the public was asked if they had any new projects that they would like to be considered.

Oren Helbok, 705 E. Fifth Street, asked if funds could be used to try and move citizens in flood areas into new housing in none flood areas. B. Seigel stated that this program does not permit the construction of new homes but there are other programs available that could assist with this type of project.

Joe Martarano, 259 E. Tenth Street, asked if the funds could be used to help property owners who are still living on their second and third floors to fix their homes. B. Seigel stated that if they are low to moderate income families these funds could be used but there are alternative funds available for this.

Sue O'Donnell, 155 W. Third Street, would like to see more bike racks in Town. D. Levan stated this would be placed on the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting agenda for further discussion. Adrienne Mael also stated that she could also help with this.

Hearing no additional public input, the hearing concluded at 7:18 p.m.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – GREGG WIRTH AND DEB HUCKANS

Resident and former Planning Commission Member Gregg Wirth stated that he has offered to help the Rebuild Kidsburg group with the Town and State permits that are needed. Tonight he and Deb Huckans will be presenting the preliminary design that has been designed by Play by Design. Within this week and the beginning of next, they hope to obtain the final design cost and a colored artist's rendering. If the rendering becomes available, the group would like to display it at the Fourth of July event at Town Park if Council would approve even though the final design hasn't been submitted and approved by them. It was suggested that a disclaimer be noted on the display concerning the approval. G. Wirth noted that he informally met with E. Fegley a couple of times and also with B. Lowthert and it was decided that the project does not meet land development criteria so this will save time. If the final design and costs are obtained, the next step is to proceed to a Bloomsburg Town Park Improvement Association meeting, the Public Works Committee meeting on July 3rd and then the Council meeting on July 8th. Once approvals are given, Larson Design Group can then begin the DEP permit process which could take several months. D. Huckans reviewed the design details and noted that the faux climbing boulders will not withstand flooding so they will be replaced with a slide.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

D. Levan stated that the purpose of the Executive Session held on June 21, 2013 was to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department, the ongoing litigation with Ron Jumper, and the Shawn Hill Civil Service matter.

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY PROPOSAL COMMITTEE

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved B. Lowthert to serve on the Bloomsburg University Economic Impact Study Proposal Committee. B. Lowthert informed Council that he has to sign a confidentiality agreement which will limit him from updating Council on the process.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Kreisher and voted on unanimously, Council approved the June 10, 2013 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH LEO SOKOLOSKI

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved a consulting agreement with Leo Sokoloski at a rate of \$60.00/hour on an as needed basis.

APPROVAL OF OFFERING THE POSITION ON INTERIM/ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE TO ROGER VAN LOAN

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved offering the position of Interim/Acting Chief of Police to Roger Van Loan pending upon union approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the existing contract. D. Levan noted that the union will allow Sgt. Van Loan to leave the union for three (3) months with a one (1) month extension if needed, assuming the MOU is approved. She also noted that a salary amount needs to be negotiated with Sgt. Van Loan.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for a full-time police officer. It was noted that this will start the Civil Service process which usually takes at least six months to complete.

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT, LLC FOR CIVIL SERVICE LEGAL REPRESENTATION

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved an engagement letter with Attorney Michael Miller of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC for legal representation of civil service matters at a rate of \$270/hour.

APPROVAL OF CONSULTING SERVICES PROPOSAL FROM PENNSYLVANIA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved a consulting services proposal from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association to conduct an executive search for the Chief of Police position in the amount of \$3,500 plus expenses.

APPROVAL OF STREET VENDOR PERMIT FOR EMILY ZENZEL

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved a street vendor permit for Emily Zenzel of Em's Pink Weiner's to utilize Space #1 from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

B. Kreisher would like to discuss lowering the vendor permit fees from \$600 to \$400. He feels the fees are discouraging. D. Levan stated the matter can be discussed at the next Community and Economic Development Committee meeting.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF INTERIM MAYOR

B. Kreisher nominated Sandy Davis and D. Levan nominated W. Carey Howell for the Interim Mayor position. On a vote of Two (2) (B. Kreisher and E. Bower voting for Sandy Davis) to Four (4) (D. Levan, C. Howell, S. Costa and F. Trump voting for W. Carey Howell), W. Carey Howell was elected as Interim Mayor to fulfill the remaining term of Dan Knorr until December 31, 2013.

APPOINTMENT OF SANDY DAVIS AS COUNCIL MEMBER

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council appointed Sandy Davis as a Council Member to fulfill the remaining term of W. Carey Howell until December 31, 2013.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

WILLIAM LOWTHERT
Town Administrator & Secretary