

A Bloomsburg Town Council meeting was held Monday, July 27, 2020, beginning at 7:04 p.m. via teleconference. Public joined by dialing: +1 301 715 8592 US or +1 646 558 8656 US and included the meeting ID: 456-920-3798. Public could also join online at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4569203798>.

Present were Mayor William Kreisher; Council Vice President Toni Bell; Council Members James Huber, James Garman, Bonnie Crawford, Justin Hummel, and Vince DeMelfi; Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley; Administrative Assistant Bobbi Erlston; Chief of Police Roger Van Loan; Director of Public Works John Fritz; Director of Governmental Services/Recycling Coordinator Charles Fritz; Director of Code Enforcement Ken Roberts; Director of Finance Kathy Smith; Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman, and Fire Chief Scott McBride. Public citizens present were Fred Gaffney, Eric Ness, Barbara Coladonato, Julye Wemple, Alex Dubil, Cindy Shultz, Tyler Dombroski, Dan Knorr, Steve Coladonato, Dennis, Karen, Jared Harris, Oren Helbok and one other.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

W. Kreisher announced that an executive session was held on July 27, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:04 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD

Oren Helbok informed Council that The Exchange and Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. felt it was unsafe to have ArtFest this year due to COVID-19, and have decided to cancel it. In addition, he submitted the following statement to Town Council:

"With the good health of the people in our community as by far the most important factor, The Exchange, Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. (DBI), and the Town of Bloomsburg have decided that ArtFest should not take place in 2020. The boards of the two non-profits and Town Council agree that the COVID-19 pandemic makes an event of ArtFest's size unwise, even outdoors. In addition, making ArtFest a success would mean trying to draw enough attendees that it would bump up against if not exceed the number, 250, that the Governor of Pennsylvania has determined as the limit on gatherings.

"ArtFest would have taken place on Saturday, August 22nd, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. surrounding the fountain on the Square and up Market Street in downtown Bloomsburg, with more than thirty art and craft vendors, five food vendors, and live music by local performers all day. We now look forward to the 2021 event, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 21st.

"DBI, the non-profit organization devoted to the betterment of Bloomsburg's downtown commercial district, founded ArtFest in 2008; The Exchange, a non-profit dedicated to bringing the arts to all communities throughout our region, has produced the event since 2016; and the Town of Bloomsburg has provided the venues and support services each year. Both DBI and The Exchange look forward to other events -- both in-person and on-line -- that our fellow citizens can enjoy safely; for more information, please visit DowntownBloomsburg.org and ExchangeArts.org. For more information about the Town, please visit BloomsburgPA.org."

Council Member James Huber expressed that during the discussion of public gathering regulations that will take place later in the meeting, he would like to discuss a possible ordinance that would require the Town issuing a permit for all planned and spontaneous events that will be held in the Town.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG TO REGULATE OUTDOOR BURNING IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG

V. DeMelfi noted on page 4 section C, the word 'affect' should be 'effect'.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adopting an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg to regulate outdoor burning in the Town of Bloomsburg with the correction of changing 'affect' to 'effect'.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Kreisher asked for public comment starting at 7:11 p.m.

L. Dooley informed Council that the Town is applying for a grant through the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The application will include a skid steer loader, a dump truck, a fire truck, a ladder truck, a code enforcement vehicle, police radios, five police cruisers, and an airport fuel tank. L. Dooley noted that a separate application will need to be submitted for the airport fuel tank due to extra permitting that is required. The grant will provide the Town with 35% of the funding needed for the listed items. The grant would be valid for 5 years. W. Kreisher noted that there are low interest rates on loans at this time, and suggested now would be the best time to purchase these items. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Mayor Kreisher closed the public comment period at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the July 13, 2020 Town Council minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL TO HIRE A FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR/LABORER

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 4 'yes' votes and 3 'no' votes (J. Hummel, J. Huber, and V. DeMelfi), Council approved hiring Michael Spagnuolo as a full-time Public Works Operator/Laborer at the contract rate of \$20.12 per hour with a 6 month probationary period.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING A 2019 EDCDI GRANT

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept a 2019 EDCDI grant in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the removal of debris from Fishing Creek in the area of Boone's Dam.

PUBLIC GATHERING REGULATIONS UNDER THE STATE DECLARATION

Council discussed public gathering regulations under the state declaration along with CDC guidelines. It was noted that current events that have been held at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds have not been following the Governor's mandated guidelines. Council voiced concerns regarding the limitations that prohibit them from enforcing the state mandated guidelines. It was suggested that the Town seek legal advice regarding how to enforce state regulations. J. Huber suggested the Town

adopt an ordinance that would require all event organizers to receive a permit from the Town to host any event. J. Huber noted that this would include the Bloomsburg Fair and all events that are held at the fairgrounds. V. DeMelfi informed Council that the Bloomsburg Fair Association is meeting on July 31, 2020 to discuss having the Fair this year. It was suggested that the Town submit a strongly worded letter to the Fair Association voicing Council's opposition to having the Bloomsburg Fair this year due to the complications regarding COVID-19.

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Mayor sending a letter to the Bloomsburg Fair Association and other vendors to follow the Governor's mandate and the Pennsylvania Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955. Those who disobey the Governor's mandate and the 1955 law would be sanctioned and punished accordingly.

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY – FALL 2020 BACK TO BLOOM GUIDE

D. Knorr discussed Bloomsburg University's Fall 2020 Back to Bloom Guide. The guide details the precautions and measures that the University will be practicing while student return to campus on August 17th. All students will be required to wear masks and social distance while on campus. It was noted that all dining services will be following guidelines set by the PA Department of Health and the Center of Disease Control (CDC). Any student that shows symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to self-quarantine following current state and federal guidance. D. Knorr also noted that the University is working with Geisinger Health System and the Department of Health to establish contact tracing.

APPROVAL OF A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE LOCATED AT 324 E. 4TH STREET

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a handicapped parking space located at 324 E. 4th Street.

APPROVAL OF AN EASEMENT WITH KATHY & CLEVE HUMMEL REGARDING THE MILLER AVENUE PROJECT

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on 4 'yes' votes, and 3 'no' votes (J. Hummel, T. Bell, and B. Crawford), Council tabled the approval of an easement with Kathy and Cleve Hummel regarding the Miller Avenue project until the August 10, 2020 meeting.

APPROVAL OF A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG INC. FOR THE MILLER AVENUE PROJECT

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on 4 'yes' votes and 3 'no' votes (J. Hummel, T. Bell, and B. Crawford), Council tabled the approval of a maintenance agreement with Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. for the Miller Avenue project until the August 10, 2020 meeting.

APPROVAL TO ALLOW SEDA-COG TO APPLY FOR A 100% FUNDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by J. Huber, and voted on unanimously, Council approved SEDA-COG to apply for a 100% funded Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant on behalf of the Town. The two project submissions will include a siren installation in the South-Eastern part of Town. Also, to include engineering and construction costs for proper drainage located between Bloomsburg Geisinger Hospital and Honeysuckle Student Apartments.

APPROVAL FOR LARSON DESIGN GROUP TO DRAFT CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDDING

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on 5 'yes' votes and 2 'no' votes (W. Kreisher and V. DeMelfi), Council approved Larson Design Group to draft construction specifications for construction bidding.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO DON E. BOWER FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REGARDING THE REHABILITATION APRON PHASE II CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (J. Huber), Council approved payment to Don E. Bower in the amount of \$23,715.50 for professional services regarding the rehabilitation apron phase II construction project.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE TOWN PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for bids for the Town Park Restoration project pending DCED, DCNR, and SEDA-COG's review.

B. Crawford thanked Alex Dubil for providing Council with a document regarding the fair housing study.

Fire Chief Scott McBride thanked the Bloomsburg Police Department for their quick response regarding the fire that took place at Romig's on Sunday evening.

On a motion by J. Hummel, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously and with no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer