

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, August 27, 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 Diane Levan, Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell, Bill Kreisher, Fred Trump and Eric Bower; Town Administrator William Lowthert; Code Enforcement Officer Ed Fegley; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Director of Finance Heather Jacoby; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Fire Chief Bob Rupp and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

CITIZEN TO BE HEARD – RONALD FERDOCK

Ronald Ferdock of 140 West Third Street was present to discuss the issue of paying for the sidewalk replacement on West Third Street. He expressed that he has two points, the first of which is financial. Mr. Ferdock stated that no one has brought up in any discussions if anyone can afford to pay for the sidewalk replacement. In the September flood, he incurred \$13,000 in unrecoverable assets. Immediately after United Water replaced the main, he had dirty water. He called them numerous times and was told the dirty water was continuing because he needs to replace the line from the valve to his home which is the property owner's responsibility. Someone from United Water did finally come by and found the check valve at the street was only half open but the water remained discolored. They then said it must be because the line coming into his house is galvanized and the line in the street is now 6" which is causing more pressure. Mr. Ferdock stated his plumber then came and took a sample to United Water and they said maybe the line wasn't flushed out properly. He then had his line replaced which cost \$1,876 and his water is still dirty as of today (Mr. Ferdock showed samples of his water to Council).

Mr. Ferdock also expressed that his wife had to have an \$85,000 jaw surgery which was not covered by Medicare and he still owes \$39,000 today. He figures that his 62' by 4' sidewalk at \$8.00/sq. foot will cost approximately \$3,000. He feels the Town should have given more lead time.

Mr. Ferdock went on to say that in the July 4th addition of the Press Enterprise and the next day in the Washington Post, there was articles about the Declaration of Independence. It states that everyone is created equal. So how is it that the residents of East Third Street got sidewalks for free several years ago and West Third Streets residents are not getting free sidewalks? His burden is going to be \$3,000. He asked Council to consider the human burden, the ordinance is there but please don't hide behind it.

Mayor Knorr expressed to Mr. Ferdock that his sidewalk portion would cost \$2,456.24 but there is a credit of \$215.10 for the damage created by United Water for a total of \$2,241.14.

B. Kreisher asked how much the curbing and ADA sidewalks are going to be again and B. Lowthert stated almost \$60,000 which the Town is paying for from its street fund.

B. Kreisher wondered if others on Third Street have dirty water and feels United Water and DEP should be contacted. Mayor Knorr stated the Town will help Mr. Ferdock follow-up with United Water.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 947 – APPROVING THE POLICE PENSION FUND AS AMENDED AND RESTATED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Ordinance No. 947 approving the Police Pension Fund as amended and restated effective January 1, 2005.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-27-12.01 – SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION OF DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG, INC. TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR DESIGNATION AS A KEYSTONE COMMUNITY MAIN STREET PROGRAM

On a motion by E. Bower, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council adopted Resolution No. 08-27-12.01 supporting the application submission of Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for designation of a Keystone Community Main Street Program.

Downtown Manager Adrienne Mael expressed that this designation opens them to grant opportunities such as the façade grant which she has started the application for already. Oren Helbok stated that the façade grant allocation in the past was \$25,000 but this year the state has allocated \$50,000.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr reported that the technology review is mostly complete and the findings will be discussed at the next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting. He also expressed that the 2013 budget process has started. Department leaders are compiling their capital budget requests. Afterwards Council will meet to discuss these requests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Mayor Knorr reconvened the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the July 9, 2012 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG, INC.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by E. Bower and voted on unanimously, Council, on recommendation of the Administrative/Finance Committee, approved a cooperative agreement with Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. as required by DCED for the submission by Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. to be designated as a Keystone Community Main Street Program.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF RYAN SALAS AS A FULL-TIME SECOND SHIFT POLICE CLERK

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Ryan Salas as a full-time second shift police clerk.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR A FULL-TIME SECOND SHIFT POLICE CLERK

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for a full-time second shift Police Clerk.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR AN ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

B. Lowthert presented Council with a job description for an Assistant Town Administrator. The position includes managing other departments and doing grant work freeing him up to do long-term planning. This position hasn't been filled since 2002. Currently besides himself on third floor, there is Human Resource Specialist Tracy Lanzafame; Director of Finance Heather Jacoby and Office Assistant Amy Seamans who does everything else.

Mayor Knorr expressed that between 2002 and now, C. Mas couldn't see the forest, just third floor which was no fault of her. He pointed out that luckily Carol agreed to stay on as a consultant or we would've had no one in charge of the audit or finances.

S. Costa expressed that Public Works needs another person and the Code Enforcement Office.

E. Bower stated that having a stronger leadership for all departments would trickle down making them more efficient.

D. Levan reminded Council that the auditors warned that administration is on the verge of collapse if something happens to one of its four employees.

F. Trump feels this could wait until 2013. C. Howell feels the position was coming up for advertising prematurely and that there has been talk at the Admin/Finance meetings of another person for the finance office.

Chuck Wagner, 404 Market Street, expressed that in these hard economic times private industries are asking their works to do more with less and that doesn't seem to apply to local government in this particular case.

Steve Coladonato, 210 West Third Street, asked what the total pay with benefits would be. B. Lowthert stated the pay range is \$36,000-\$46,000 and depending on if the person needs benefits or not, that could cost \$15,000-\$20,000. Mr. Coladonato thought the Town was trying to hire another person for the code office. There are properties that are run down and code officers should be all over them.

Oren Helbok, 705 East Fifth Street, stated that he's appalled that there isn't a definite cost that can be provided. He feels the volunteer boards could help.

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by E. Bower and voted on Five (5) (B. Kreisher, E. Bower, D. Knorr, D. Levan and S. Costa voting "Yes") to Two (2) (C. Howell and F. Trump voting "No"), Council approved advertising for an Assistant Town Administrator.

APPROVAL OF PROPERTY OWNERS PAYING FOR SIDEWALK PORTION OF THIRD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

B. Lowthert reported that there was a kick off meeting today and work will start tomorrow on the Third Street Reconstruction Project.

B. Lowthert expressed that Council had asked for more research on the sidewalks after some residents questioned why their portion needed to be replaced. Himself, Public Works Superintendent John Barton and Larson Design Group Engineer Kurt Hetrick walked the area and found the following four (4) properties that are only being replaced because they don't meet grade: 225 West Third Street, 213-215 West Third Street, 211 West Third Street and 305 West Third Street. If Council considers paying for the sidewalk replacement, it would amount to \$4,059.67. B. Lowthert pointed out that sidewalk work is not Liquid Fuels Funds eligible and would have to come from the General Fund.

Steve Coladonato, 210 West Third Street, asked what the criteria was and B. Lowthert stated they looked for cracks, spalling and lifting. Mr. Coladonato expressed that his sidewalks do not have any cracks or spalling and just one slab is raised because of a shade tree. He requested that his sidewalk be looked at again.

Oren Helbok feels the Town needs to give a reason why they aren't.

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by D. Knorr and voted on Three (3) (D. Knorr, F. Trump and C. Howell voting "Yes") to Four (4) (D. Levan, S. Costa, E. Bower and B. Kreisher voting "No"), the motion for the Town to pay for the four (4) properties that are in good condition was defeated.

D. Levan would like to have the Code Enforcement Officers look at the sidewalks also. B. Lowthert reminded Council that work is set to begin tomorrow. D. Levan expressed that the Code Officers could go out at 7:30 a.m. to take photos and detailed notes. She also asked if the findings could be compared with the sidewalk study.

Mr. Ferdock asked if this is passed, will property owners be offered monthly payments like the Market Street project and B. Lowthert indicated that a quarterly payment plan could be arranged when requested by the property owner.

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Four (4) (B. Kreisher, S. Costa, C. Howell and F. Trump voting "Yes") to Three (3) (D. Knorr, D. Levan and E. Bower voting "No"), Council approved having all property owners pay for the sidewalk portion of the Third Street Reconstruction Project.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising an ordinance amending the Zoning Map of the Town of Bloomsburg to change the zoning district in the vicinity of Third Street from Commercial to Residential-Urban.

A Public Hearing to receive input from the residents of the affected area will be scheduled for Monday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

WILLIAM LOWTHERT
Town Administrator and Secretary