

A Public Hearing of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, August 29, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Sandy Davis, Council Members W. Carey Howell, Sylvia Costa, William Kreisher, Fred Trump, Eric Bower, and James Huber; Town Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz; Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Magill; Administrative Assistant Amy Seamans, and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

Mayor Davis stated the Public Hearing is being held to consider for enactment amendments to the supplementary regulations for off-street parking in the Commercial Zoning District. She turned the hearing over to Solicitor Mihalik. Solicitor Mihalik expressed that Council plans to have more public input and that Mayor Davis will be making a statement. He also noted that the pending ordinance rule still applies.

Mayor Davis suggests taking no action on the proposed ordinance this evening and proposes sending the ordinance amendment back to the Community and Economic Development Committee for more public input and possible re-advertisement of a future public hearing.

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved sending the proposed ordinance back to the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting for more public input and discussion.

B. Kreisher asked to hear comments from the public that were in attendance.

Matt Zoppetti expressed concern regarding the continuous discussion on parking in Bloomsburg. He compared the parking issue to musical chairs and stated that the solution to the issue would be to find a way to add more parking spaces. He stated the Town could hire him for a penny for 30 days and he will show the Town how to make 100 parking spots without spending any additional money. He suggested having Solicitor Mihalik look into the legality of businesses purchasing parking spaces and the spaces being marked for their use only as he has seen being utilized in other communities such as Williamsport.

Steve Coladonato stated that in reference to the ordinance amendment as it is written now, he does not feel that small businesses in the Downtown should have to provide parking for their customers. He stated that apartments in the upper floors of the Downtown should be required to provide adequate parking for the tenants in their buildings. He also suggested making parking lots a permitted use anywhere in Town and because it is considered a commercial business, gross receipts taxes should be paid to the Town accordingly.

Rob Davidson stated that he's a land use planner and wanted to make Council aware that there are potential lawsuits concerning low income housing projects not having to provide parking for tenants per the stance that it could potentially be perceived as an additional unnecessary regulation. He also noted that he understands Bloomsburg's vibrant downtown and feels that there are solutions to the problem out there per utilizing suggestions from the previous studies.

Hearing no additional public input, the Public Hearing concluded at 6:29 p.m.

Lauren Martz  
Town Manager/Secretary