

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Town Hall and via teleconference. The public joined by dialing: +1 646 558 8656 U.S. and included the meeting ID: 456-920-3798. The public could also join online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4569203798>.

Mayor Justin Hummel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., present were Council Members Toni Bell, James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, Bonnie Crawford, Nick McGaw (7:05 p.m. via phone) and James Huber (7:06 p.m. via Zoom), Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Director of Finance Kathy Smith, Director of Governmental Services Charles Fritz, Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman, Chief of Police Scott Price, and Fire Chief Scott McBride. Also present were Tyler Dombroski, Andrew Barton, Steph Severn, Geralee Zeiger, David's I-Pad, Barbara Coladonato, Dick Osborne, Teri's phone, Galaxy S10, Julye Wemple, Kim Wheeler (7:23 p.m.), and a resident (7:16 p.m.).

COUNCIL REMARKS.

Justin Hummel addressed a recent Press-Enterprise article by thanking the town staff for doing the jobs they were hired to do.

Executive sessions- Justin Hummel.

January 3, 2022 from 7:34 p.m.- 8:04 p.m. regarding a code personnel matter.

Geralee Zeigler and Teri Provost from SEDA-COG were present to provide Council the results of their review and give a recommendation on the Honeysuckle Lane stormwater mitigation project.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 12/13/2021 MEETING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from December 13, 2021 with no corrections or additions.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 1/3/2022 MEETING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from January 3, 2022 with no corrections or additions.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER LIST OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$545,349.91.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$109,993.43, Recycling Fund \$19,186.53, Street Lighting Fund \$6,464.70, Fire Fund \$16,758.20, Library Fund \$4,090, Pool Fund \$100.41, Liquid Fuels Fund \$3,708.31, CDBG Entitlement \$43,290.00 and December Payroll Authorization \$341,758.33.

APPROVAL OF A DISABILITY PENSION FOR OFFICER MATTHEW GOLLA PENDING THE WORKERS COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the disability pension for Officer Matthew Golla pending the worker compensation settlement.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT KENNETH J. ROBERTS LETTER OF RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE 2/3/2022.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council accepts with regret the resignation of Ken Roberts effective February 3, 2022.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO GLENN O. HAWBAKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,230.59.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Glenn O. Hawbaker in the amount of \$30,230.59.

APPROVAL TO SWITCH VISION PLANS TO VBA FOR POLICE VISION INSURANCE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved switching vision plans to VBA for police vision insurance.

APPROVAL TO CHANGE HOURS FOR TOWN HALL.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved changing the hours of operation for Town Hall to Monday- Thursday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (half hour lunch), Friday- 7:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. (no lunch).

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT PROCESSING PRICING PROPOSAL FROM NCR PAYMENT SOLUTIONS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment processing pricing from NCR Payment Solutions.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT ALEX DUBIL TO THE AIRPORT TASK FORCE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the appointment of Alex Dubil to the airport task force. J. Hummel thanked Alex for his service.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM NORTHEASTERN AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGIES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$791.18 FOR AN AUDIO SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN HALL CODES DEPARTMENT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Northeastern Automated Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$791.18 for an audio system for the Town Hall codes department.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT A TOWN SOLICITOR.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the appointment of Hill, Turowski, James and Lehman LLP as the town solicitor, leaving open the option to use specialty services when needed.

APPROVAL TO LIST ON MUNICIBID A 2004 CAT MODEL 242B SKID STEER LOADER AND A MANUAL (NO HYDRAULICS) COLD PLANER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WITH A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF \$18,000.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved listing on a Municibid a 2004 Cat Model 242B skid steer loader and a manual (no hydraulics) cold planer for the public works department with a minimum bid amount of \$18,000.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$445,000 TO SUPPORT THE HONEYSUCKLE LANE STORMWATER MITIGATION PROJECT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the acceptance of a grant from the DCED in the amount of \$445,000 to support the Honeysuckle Lane Stormwater mitigation project.

APPROVAL TO AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE HONEYSUCKLE LANE PROJECT TO: LIVIC

CIVIL IN THE LUMP SUM AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$63,000. MOTION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN'S SOLICITOR LEGAL OPINION AND THE FUNDING AGENCY'S (DCED) ACCEPTANCE OF THE TOWN'S LEGAL OPINION.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved awarding the professional services for the Honeysuckle Lane project to LIVIC Civil in the lump sum amount not to exceed \$63,000.

APPROVAL OF ENTERING INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SEDA-COG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,300 FOR THE HONEYSUCKLE LANE PROJECT. PLEASE NOTE, DELIVERY COSTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,400 IS ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT REIMBURSEMENT. HOWEVER, ADMINISTRATION FEES ARE NOT AN ELIGIBLE CDBG-DR EXPENSE UNDER THIS AWARD, \$8,900 (2%).

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved entering into a professional service agreement with SEDA-COG in the amount of \$17,300 for the Honeysuckle Lane project.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE LISTING THE BLIZZARD SNOW PLOW ATTACHMENT ON MUNICIBID THAT IS USED AT THE RECYCLING CENTER.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved listing the Blizzard snow plow attachment that is used at the recycling center on Municibid.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PURCHASING A NEW SNOW PLOW ATTACHMENT FROM BRADCO SUPPLY COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,300 TO BE USED AT THE RECYCLING CENTER.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchasing of a new snow plow attachment from Bradco Supply Company in the amount of \$7,300 to be used at the recycling center.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO SEDA-COG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,521.04 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE II (GENERAL FUND UNBUDGETED).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to SEDA-COG in the amount of \$26,521.04 for professional services for the floodwall expansion project phase II (general fund unbudgeted).

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO SEDA-COG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,036 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE II.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to SEDA-COG in the amount of \$11,036 for professional services for the floodwall expansion project phase II.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO LIVIC CIVIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,407.75 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE MILLER AVENUE SURVEY (COUNCIL ALLOCATED \$25,000 TO BE PAID OUT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved payment to LIVIC Civil in the amount of \$3,407.75 for engineering services relating to the Miller Avenue survey.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO LIVIC CIVIL IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$1,831.25 AND \$123.75 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO FUEL TANK BIDDING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to LIVIC Civil in the amounts of \$1,831.25 & \$123.75 for engineering services relating to the fuel tank bidding.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO LIVIC CIVIL IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$218.75 AND \$1,985.95 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO PAVING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to LIVIC Civil in the amount of \$218.75 and \$1,985.95 for engineering services relating to paving.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE GOING OUT TO BID FOR THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN HALL REQUIRED STRUCTURAL FIXES.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved going out to bid for Bloomsburg Town Hall required structural fixes.

Corey Kreisher welcomed the new chief of police to Town.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, the Council adjourned into an executive session at 7:36 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Town Council announced that there will be an internal posting for the Director of Codes position.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

Funding Commitment:

- Project under development in 2016 pursuing various funding sources, had successes over two years, had not made it to the financial finish line to do the project
- June 7, 2018, Columbia County approves an application for \$1,813,872.52 of Wyoming Valley funding, specifically for the phase of flood protection at located at Town Park
 - o I wrote the application, and it was approved with the signature of the Columbia County Chairman
 - o The application indicated that we projected the project cost to be: \$16,865,377.32
- Per the minutes of the November 1, 2018, Columbia County approved an agreement with the Town for \$1,813,872.52 of Wyoming Valley funding, specifically for the phase of flood protection at located at Town Park
 - o First item on the agenda, unanimously approved
- Construction commenced on March 15, 2019
 - o Staff of Columbia County were one of my main points of contact for the project
 - o Over the course of the project, I received 1,007 emails from county staff with project finances being a primary topic of conversation
- \$17 million funding package, 17 funding sources
 - o Only stipulation in the agreement between the county and the town was that the Wyoming Valley funds was to be the last funds on the project utilized, unless other sources could not pay the cost
 - Process to review and approval invoices included at:
 - Review by the construction inspector and engineer
 - Public Works Committee
 - Bloomsburg Town Council
 - Approval by Columbia County
 - Checks cut by Columbia County staff
 - Checks delivered by Columbia County staff by foot from their annex building to town hall; Hand delivered to town staff
 - Town hall staff pays bills
- Until fall 2020, only about \$150K of Wyoming Valley funding was utilized because other funding sources were being utilized first, per the agreement with the commissioners
- In fall 2020, I worked with county staff to develop funding projections of what was anticipated to be leftover of Wyoming Valley funds, to be provided to the county commissioners
 - o I cautioned at the time that the Wyoming Valley funding was going to have six figure drawdowns because the other various other grant sources were being exhausted
 - o I also cautioned that the financial projections were fluid because final change orders to the project had not been received
- As invoices were submitted for payment through Wyoming Valley, the commissioners voiced their opinions on the invoices
 - o We continued to follow the process of inspector, engineer, town, and county approvals
 - o I can recall a county commissioner complaint about HRI Pay App #18 in November 2020, concerning how long the schedule of values of their invoice was

- The final change order negotiations with HRI were a challenge, and it looked like we were going to court, given the financial gap that we had with them
 - o The negotiations were a challenge particularly because the project had to be complete by December 30, 2020, or else we would lose access to our \$10.2 million grant
 - o We did have to give more ground than we wanted on the final change orders
 - However, the contractor gave more ground than we did
 - Final project cost: \$17,048,938.64, we were with 1% of the projected project budget in the original Wyoming Valley application
- Project completed on December 10, 2020
 - o Demonstrated by four pieces of Tom Lawson correspondence to the project's contractors as well as notification to DEP
- Special Town Council meeting held on December 23, 2020, to specifically conclude the project
- At the February 4, 2021 Columbia County Commissioners meeting, engineer Tom Lawson provided a presentation which discussed all of the project change orders
- Tom Lawson is the county's engineer of record for county study effort to examine flood protection in both the east as well as west end parts of town
- Also per the minutes of the February 4, 2021, action was then taken by the Commissioners to set aside \$318,000 of remaining Wyoming Valley funds for future flood protection purposes
 - o This effectively lowered the amount of Wyoming Valley funding to \$1,495,872.52
 - Despite this action, the county utilized its discretion on what invoices it chose to approve or not approve
 - It had denied a previous Borton-Lawson, MATB, and SEDA-COG invoice
- So if you are still concerned about how finances were expended, how the project was managed, please know that it has and is going to be subject to a number of monitorings and audits

Successes:

- Last project (Autoneum/Windsor Foods) took five years to get a LOMR, this project took nine months to obtain
 - o Residents/businesses will be able to enjoy the benefits of much lower/eliminated flood insurance premiums much sooner than anticipated for this project
 - o Our organization has been at the table during the two most recent successes
- A more holistic view of flood protection perhaps for the west end
- Earmarked funds from February, for the proposed phase of flood protection to Kawneer,
 - o That project could not happen without this project being completed
 - o Otherwise, flood protection would still be at Windsor Foods
- This project is on a short list of success stories as it relates to flood protection in Bloomsburg
 - o And I am proud to say I was on the project team that successfully accomplished this challenging goal

Misc:

- Money not earmarked for the West End, has since been corrected in the Press Enterprise
- \$8 million idea (sewer and stormwater)
- Environmental Review primarily handled by EDA on the last flood protection project
- Our office had to orchestrate the environmental review requirements triggered for both the CDBG/CDBG-DR and the Wyoming Valley funding
 - o Perhaps the biggest environmental review ever undertaken by SEDA-COG
- Delays: Early 2019 wet weather, Governor Wolf executive order shutdown project at beginning of COVID, supply chain issues
- Completing a flood protection project of this magnitude is not an easy task,
 - o Particularly so on this project given the number of funding sources that were utilized, all of which have different requirements and deadlines
 - o Number of local stakeholders
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