

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, December 9, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor William Kreisher; Council Members Fred Trump, James Huber, James Garman, Bonnie Crawford, and Vince DeMelfi; Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley; Administrative Assistant Bobbi Erlston; Chief of Police William Gelgot; Director of Public Works John Fritz; Director of Governmental Services/Recycling Coordinator Charles Fritz; Director of Code Enforcement Ken Roberts; Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Magill, and Director of Finance Kathy Smith. Absent was Council Vice President Toni Bell.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

W. Kreisher announced that there was an executive session held on December 4, 2019 from 11:34 a.m. to 1:18 p.m. to discuss employee wages.

W. Kreisher noted that Council will be voting on adopting the proposed budget for 2020 later in the meeting.

W. Kreisher informed the public that SEDA-COG is currently accepting applications for the HOME program. The HOME program can assist low income families by making their home code compliant.

W. Kreisher noted that Councilman Vince DeMelfi selected to fill the 4 year Council position that he was elected for. The 2 year Council position that Vince DeMelfi was also elected for is vacant. Interested applicants can submit letters of interest before January 6th. During the Organizational meeting, applicants that have submitted a letter of interest will have an opportunity to speak before Council.

W. Kreisher mentioned that the holiday wreaths have been hung in the downtown. It was noted that in future years the wreaths should be hung before the annual WHLM Parade of Lights.

W. Kreisher informed the public of some statistics regarding tax millage, property values, and tax revenue for the Town of Bloomsburg and the surrounding municipalities.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Reid Skiro of 115 Iron Street informed Council that his roommate was given a disruptive conduct citation because a fight took place on the sidewalk in front of the property he resides at. Per their lease agreement, when any tenant receives any kind of citation they are also fined \$200.00 by the landlord. It was noted that 2 citations will result in eviction. Mr. Skiro requested Council to withdraw the citation because no tenants of 115 Iron Street were involved in the fight. W. Kreisher suggested Mr. Skiro talk with the Chief of Police to see if the citation could be withdrawn.

Ashley Mensch (Columbia Child Development Program) 215 E. Fifth Street read the following statement to Council:

Council Members and citizens of Bloomsburg,

I am Ashley Mensch of the Columbia Child Development Program.

In the 1980s, the Bloomsburg Town Council recognized the value of high-quality childcare and the benefits it provides to our community: Our children get educated and well taken care of while their parents hold family-sustaining jobs, and those children grow into productive citizens themselves.

In 1988, the Town entered into a fifty-year lease contract with Columbia Child Development. That contract includes the words “whereas, Town has determined that it is in the public interest for Town to participate with Day Care in the providing of child day care services...” the Town borrowed \$575,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture and had our building constructed.

From the very beginning, CCDP paid rent to the Town, that rental payment covering the Town’s expenses due to the building: For the first thirty years, by the lease contract, this meant that CCDP’s rent paid the mortgage as well as for all of the building’s insurance, and the rent even included an amount equal to what the Town would have received in property tax, even though the Town owns the land and a non-profit organization occupies the building. The rent money that did not go towards the mortgage went into a special fund in the Town’s bank account, earmarked for the building’s upkeep.

When the Town made the last mortgage payment, and according to the lease contract between the Town and CCDP, CCDP’s rent went down by the amount of the mortgage payment. We now pay \$1,412.00 per month; by the terms of the contract, this will increase annually, indexed to inflation, for the next nineteen years.

Unfortunately, this Council has now effectively abandoned the building. Our rental payments no longer go into an earmarked account but apparently disappear into the Town’s general fund; the Town has made no provisions for paying for upkeep on the building – a building owned by the taxpayers of the Town of Bloomsburg and an asset for which this Council has a fiduciary responsibility.

CCDP recently asked for repairs to be made on the baseboard heating units in the building; held together with duct tape and popsicle sticks, the units now present a hazard to the children in our care. We have an estimate of under \$8,000 to do the work. The building belongs to the Town, and as the landlord the Town has the obligation to make the repairs. The Municipal Code requires putting a job of this magnitude out for bids. This Council’s Public Works Committee refused to authorize doing so. Their reasons include “We already have the budget ready for next year with no tax increase” and “why did you wait so long to have this fixed? The work should have been done as needed and it wouldn’t be this expensive.”

I stand before Council and before the citizens of Bloomsburg tonight to ask the Town as our landlord, to do its duty – its duty to the Columbia Child Development Program, to the children in our care, and to the citizens of Bloomsburg – to commit to taking proper care of the building that we occupy and that the Town owns.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 11, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the November 11, 2019 Town Council minutes without any additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND NOVEMBER PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund, \$205,112.11; Recycling Fund, \$31,517.05; Street Lighting Fund, \$6,569.02; Fire Fund, \$5,652.37; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$4,582.32; CDBG Entitlement Fund, \$6,080.18; CDBG-DR Fund, \$868,741.31, and the November payroll authorization in the amount of \$224,019.40.

APPROVAL OF LOWERING THE INVESTMENT RATE FROM 7.5% TO 7.25%

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved lowering the investment rate from 7.5% to 7.25% for both employee and police plans.

APPROVAL TO MOVE FROM THE RP2000 FOR MUNICIPAL AND RP2000BC (BLUE COLLAR) FOR POLICE TO THE PUB2010G (GENERAL) FOR MUNICIPAL AND PUB2010S (SAFETY) FOR POLICE

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by F. Trump, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to move from the RP2000 for municipal and RP2000BC (blue collar) for police to the PUB2010G (general) for municipal and PUB2010S (safety) for police.

APPROVAL TO MODIFY THE EXPECTED IMPROVEMENT SCALE FROM AA TO THE MP SCALE

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved modifying the expected improvement scale from AA to the MP scale.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO AUTONEUM NORTH AMERICA INC. FOR OVERPAYMENT OF 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 TAXES

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Autoneum North America Inc. in the amount of \$13,072.68 for overpayment of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 taxes.

APPROVAL OF SELLING THE CANON IMAGE RUNNER 2025 COPIER ON MUNICIBID

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by F. Trump, and voted on unanimously, Council approved selling the Canon Image Runner 2025 copier on Municibid

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO ARCHCENTRAL ARCHITECTS FOR CONCRETE TESTING FOR THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on 5 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (J. Huber), Council approved payment to ArchCentral Architects in the amount of \$1,100.00 for concrete testing for the airport terminal building.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO ARCHCENTRAL ARCHITECTS FOR CONCRETE TESTING FEES FROM CMT LABS FOR THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING PROJECT

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on 5 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (J. Huber), Council approved payment to ArchCentral Architects in the amount of \$1,637.50 for concrete testing fees from CMT Labs for the Airport Terminal Building Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN PARK FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR RESTROOM MAINTENANCE

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved recommendation to approve payment to the Bloomsburg Town Park in the amount of \$4,563.00 for reimbursement for restroom maintenance.

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 HOLIDAY TICKETING SCHEDULE

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Huber, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2020 holiday ticketing schedule.

APPROVAL OF DISCONTINUING THE SERVICES OF EVERT CONSTRUCTION AS A THIRD PARTY INSPECTOR

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved discontinuing the services of Evert Construction as a third party inspector.

APPROVAL OF DISCONTINUING THE SERVICES OF AUNGST CONSULTING SERVICES AS THE TOWN'S PLANNER

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved discontinuing the services of Aungst Consulting Services as the Town's planner.

APPROVAL OF THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT HANGER/TIE DOWN LEASE AGREEMENT

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport Hanger/Tie Down lease agreement.

APPROVAL OF THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT RED BIRD SIMULATOR AGREEMENT

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport Red Bird Simulator agreement.

APPROVAL OF RECOGNIZING THE DEER DAY HOLIDAY FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 30, 2020

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved recognizing the Deer Day Holiday for the police department on November 30, 2020.

APPROVAL OF DOUG LEVANS RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 6, 2019

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Doug Levans resignation, effective December 6, 2019.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Huber, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the proposed 2020 budget.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1003 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by F. Trump, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Ordinance No. 1003 Tax Levy Ordinance.

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 WAGE LISTING

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2020 wage listing.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASING A SCHWARZE A7 TORNADO STREET SWEEPER WITH FINANCING TO BE FINALIZED IN JANUARY 2020 FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a Schwarze A7 Tornado Street Sweeper in the amount of \$260,441.00 with financing to be finalized in January 2020 for the Public Works Department.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford and voted on unanimously, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to Joe Gushen of 36 E. Main Street to remove a fire escape.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 4 'yes' votes and 2 'no' vote (J. Huber, F. Trump), Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to Joe Gushen of 36 E. Main Street to paint signage.

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to Marian Lehman of 356-358 Iron Street to install siding.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by V. DeMelfi and voted on unanimously, Council approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Bloomsburg Library of 225 Market Street for exterior renovations.

APPROVAL OF A 90 DAY EXTENSION TO LIVIC CIVIL ENGINEERING REGARDING THE BLOOMSBURG FAIRGROUNDS ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved a 90 day extension to Livic Civil Engineering regarding the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds Entrance Improvement Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO BORTON LAWSON ENGINEERING INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM JULY 1, 2019 TO OCTOBER 30, 2019 REGARDING THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Borton Lawson Engineering Inc. in the amount of \$41,450.23 for professional services from July 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019 regarding the Floodwall Expansion Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO HRI, INC. FOR GENERAL CONSTRUCTION REGARDING THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT

On a motion by F. Trump seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$456,122.08 for general construction regarding the Floodwall Expansion Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO OCTOBER 31, 2019 REGARDING THE FLOODWALL EXPANSION PROJECT

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. in the amount of \$34,372.50 for general construction regarding the Floodwall Expansion Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO DENT PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. FOR BASEBOARD COVERS AND TRIM REPLACEMENT AT THE COLUMBIA CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Huber and voted on unanimously, Council did not approve payment to Dent Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$7,690.00 for baseboard covers and trim replacement at the Columbia Child Development Program.

APPROVAL OF APPLYING FOR A COLUMBIA COUNTY EDCDI GRANT FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL AT BOONE'S DAM

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford and voted on unanimously, Council approved applying for a Columbia County EDCDI grant in the amount of \$6,500.00 for debris removal at Boone's Dam.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING THE SWISHER DISPOSAL CONTRACT FOR 2020

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Swisher Disposal contract for 2020.

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 SCOTT TOWNSHIP COMPOST SITE AGREEMENT

On a motion by J. Huber, seconded by V. DeMelfi and voted on 5 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (J. Huber), Council approved the 2020 Scott Township compost site agreement in the amount of \$25,000.00.

APPROVAL TO DENY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM D.B CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$237,310.00 FOR THE ELEVATION OF ABOVE THE REGULATORY FLOODPLAIN OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 270 E. 10TH STREET, WITH AN ADD ALTERNATIVE #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00 TO INSTALL A PASSIVE RADON SYSTEM

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved to deny request for proposal from D.B Construction in the amount of \$237,310.00 for the elevation of above the regulatory floodplain of the property located at 270 E. 10th Street, with an add alternative #1 in the amount of \$2,500.00 to install a passive radon system.

APPROVAL TO DENY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM F&N HOMES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$197,500.00 FOR HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION ABOVE BASE FLOOD ELEVATION AT 643 W. MAIN STREET, WITH AN ADD ALTERNATIVE #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT, AND ADD ALTERNATIVE #2 TO INSTALL A PASSIVE RADON SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by J. Huber and voted on unanimously, Council approved to deny request for proposal from F&N Homes, Inc. in the amount of \$197,500.00 for housing reconstruction above base flood elevation at 643 W. Main Street, with an add alternative #1 in the amount of \$5,000.00 for asbestos abatement, and add alternative #2 to install a passive radon system in the amount of \$2,000.00.

APPROVAL TO HOLD THE LOWEST BIDS FOR HOUSING ELEVATIONS FOR 270 E. 10TH STREET AND 643 W. MAIN STREET FOR MORE THAN 60 DAYS

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by J. Huber and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hold the lowest bids for housing elevations for 270 E. 10th Street and 643 W. Main Street for more than 60 days.

APPROVAL OF A BID FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE BALL FIELDS

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford and voted on 4 'yes' votes and 2 'no' vote (J. Huber, V. DeMelfi), Council approved McTish, Kunkel & Associates bid for the relocation of the Little League Ball Fields.

APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR HOSTING AND AIRCRAFT OWNER'S PILOT'S ASSOCIATION (AOPA) SEMINAR ON FEBRUARY 29, 2020

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by B. Crawford and voted on 5 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote (J. Huber), Council approved a memorandum of understanding for hosting and Aircraft Owner's Pilot's Association (AOPA) seminar on February 29, 2020.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO SIMONE COLLINS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2019 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2019 REGARDING THE WALKABILITY/TRAIL STUDY PROJECT

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by V. DeMelfi and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Simone Collins in the amount of \$422.04 for professional services from November 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019 regarding the Walkability/Trail Study Project.

APPROVAL OF A K9 AGREEMENT

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved the K9 agreement.

APPROVAL OF MELANIE BECK ATTENDING A HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS & CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FROM MARCH 16, 2020 TO MARCH 20, 2020

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved Melanie Beck to attend a Hostage Negotiations & Crisis Intervention training from March 16, 2020 to March 20, 2020.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO SEDA-COG FOR HOUSING ELEVATION REGARDING 270 E. 10TH STREET

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by V. DeMelfi and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to SEDA-COG in the amount of \$1,150.00 for housing elevation regarding 270 E. 10th Street

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO SEDA-COG FOR ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE BAUMAN AND SYLVESTER BID NOTICES

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to SEDA-COG in the amount of \$1,821.10 for advertisements of the Bauman and Sylvester bid notices.

APPROVAL OF ENFORCING THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT RECLAMATION & REVITALIZATION ACT IN 2020

On a motion by B. Crawford, and failure of a second, the topic of enforcing the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation & Revitalization Act will return to the Community and Economic Development Committee for further discussion.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:48 p.m. till 10:18 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and did not reconvene. Toni Bell did join for executive session at 8:55 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer