

The Bloomsburg Town Council held an informational meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022 beginning at 6:00 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>. There were 16 citizens other than Council members and staff present for the meeting.

Andrew Barton of LIVIC Civil presented a PowerPoint presentation for the proposed walk/bike trail along Ft. McClure Blvd. and Market Street. In 2019, funding became available and a study was done by Simone Collins that included four public stakeholder's meetings to gather input from the community for the project. In August of 2021, American Rescue Funds were allotted to the town to help offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with one component being the design and implementation of projects to benefit the health and well-being of communities across the country. With this in mind, Council authorized LIVIC Civil in October 2021 to look at the existing conditions and formulate a plan for a walk/bike trail with the goal to connect with the existing rail to trail network.

The Bloomsburg Walk/Bike focus group was formed and came to Council with the request for a bike lane on Market Street starting at 6th Street and extending to the area of the floodwall on south Market Street. The request was for a 10-foot-wide bike lane on the West side of Market Street that would be painted to identify it as a bike lane. The parking area in front of First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. would likely need to be eliminated due to traffic pulling out from the bank.

Resident Mike Wallace stated his concern for cars pulling out from parking spots along Market Street. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the cars will not see bikes coming, plus drivers will be required to be looking 30 feet beyond the stop sign.

Jim Dutt had concerns for the safety of residents and questioned snow removal needs.

Seth Wilkerson said it's a step in the right direction for the safety of children.

Mary Ann Padglick suggested the addition of signage in the areas of the stop sign alerting drivers to the bike lane.

The meeting closed at 6:58 p.m.

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, June 13, 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 (via Zoom) and James Huber (via Zoom), Town Manager/ Secretary/ Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Town Solicitor Matt Turowski, Director of Finance Kathy Smith, Director of Governmental Services/ Recycling Coordinator Charles Fritz, Director of Public Works John Fritz, Chief of Police Scott Price, Fire Chief Scott McBride, Code Enforcement Officer Greg Ash. Also present were Corey Kreischer, MJ Mahon, Lynn Schaeffer, Lehman, Tim Wagner, Patricia Magda, Dawn Moore, Mary Ann Padglick, Jim Padglick, Andrew Barton, Jamey Harding, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Devine, Cynthia Whitenight-Hammel, William Hammel, Mike Wallace, Steve Diltz, Dave Quinn, Michelle & John Hintz, Chuck Wagner, Seth Wilkerson, Kayla Wilkerson, Sofia Wilkerson, Monty Hittle, Jorgi Ann, Sarah Brown, Austin Appel, Frank Bebenek, Kathy & Cleve Hummel, Jon White-Spunner, Jane Whiteside, Ron Flick, and Dick Osborne.

Council remarks.

Executive sessions – Justin Hummel

June 7, 2022 from 11:39 a.m.- 12:28 p.m. regarding the pool legal matter.

The Dog Park grand opening will be held on Saturday, June 18th from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the corner of East 13th & Catherine Streets.

Chief Price applied and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$33,000 through the Arconic Foundation for ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics) training for all officers in Bloomsburg and surrounding areas. ICAT was developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to provide officers with the mindset, skills and abilities to effectively defuse volatile incidents in a crisis situation. The results of ICAT were empirically validated by Dr. Robin Engle, University of Cincinnati Research Institute, in a stepped wedge research analysis in Louisville (Louisville Metro Police) which demonstrated significant reductions in officer injuries, citizen injuries and complaints.

Andrew Barton provided an update on proposed UGI work that will take place in the areas of 10th, 11th and 12th Streets, Port Noble Drive, Market Street, Catherine Street to Railroad Street.

Chuck Wagner provided an update on the Summer Concert series in the Town Park. He reported that the tennis program has been taking place for 19 years and going strong. The Annual Ice-cream and Cake Festival will be held on August 4th and mentioned that cakes would be appreciated. Mr. Wagner went on to state that he has been with the Town Park Improvement association for 25-30 years and the goose flock has grown exponentially over the years and reminded everyone that the park was created for people.

Frank Bebenek was present to discuss the dog park. Mr. Bebenek stated that as a neighboring property owner he should have been notified of the project and would like to see an impact study and expressed the need for a sight and sound buffer zone. The full statement is attached to the minutes.

Jim Dutt a resident of 5th Street brought up concerns regarding limited parking in his neighborhood. Mr. Dutt stated that he and his wife cannot entertain due to no available parking in the vicinity of his residence. The full statement is attached to the minutes.

Corey Kreischer questioned Chief Price on school safety and if the police department was working with the school on the issue. Chief Price stated that he is coordinating with Jonathan Cleaver, Superintendent for the Bloomsburg School District on physical plant security assessment for the buildings and that he has also been in contact with St. Columba.

Dawn Moore, Monty Hittle, Mike Sauers, Jane Whiteside, Kathleen Suroka and Pat Magda were present to discuss the geese situation at the park. Ms. Moore stated that their group is willing to work with the Town, not against the Town on mitigation measures. Mike Sauers and Jane Whiteside proposed that the Town purchase a sweeper for the removal of the geese droppings for the park.

Justin Appel voiced his concern with the bike lane not traveling with traffic when traveling north on Market away from the park. He mentioned as a cyclist, it goes against traffic laws.

Dick Osborne was present as a citizen of the West end of Town, he lives 0.2 miles from the race track and reported his green carport is red with dust and the noise is unbearable. He stated that he called the fair office to complain and was offered four free tickets for a race. He suggested that he would like four free car washes.

Mayor Hummel announced the flood awareness proclamation.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved resolution 06.13.2022.01- Flood Mitigation for applying for the 7th Street storm water and road enhancement project.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 5/23/2022 MEETING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from May 23, 2022 meeting with two adjustments. One in regards to the Bloom Heights letter of support for application number two. Also, the wording of the Market Street bike motion.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE MAY LIST OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$745,639.39.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on 6 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$410,248.94, Recycling Fund \$25,553.92, Debt Service Fund \$2,380, Street Lighting Fund \$4,281.57, Fire Fund \$7,054.44, Pool Fund \$25,016.24, Liquid Fuels Fund \$17,428.39, Commercial Revolving Loan \$1,105.00, Airport Fund \$888.20, CDBG Entitlement \$5,683.10, CDBG-DR \$11,650.00 and the May Payroll Authorization \$234,349.59.

APPROVAL TO AWARD BID FOR THE 2022 PAVING PROJECT- BID OPENING 6/13/2022 AT 9:15 A.M.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved awarding the 2022 Paving project in the amount of \$136,082 to Don. E. Bower.

APPROVAL TO AWARD BID FOR THE RECYCLING CENTER AND TOWN PARK VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS- BID OPENING 6/13/2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved awarding the bid for the Recycling Center and Town Park Village Improvement projects in the amount of 130,267 to Don E. Bower.

APPROVAL OF THE DOG PARK HOURS TO BE POSTED FROM 7 A.M.- 9 P.M.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Hummel, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the dog park hours to be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

APPROVAL TO SPEND UP TO \$3,500 FOR THE ROADWAY MARKINGS AND REFLECTORS FOR THE MARKET STREET BIKE (FLOODWALL TO 6TH STREET) LANE 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 spending up to \$3,500 for the roadway markings and reflectors for the Market Street bike lane (Floodwall to 6th Street) out of the American Rescue Plan funds.

APPROVAL OF A QUOTE OF \$7,251.82 FOR EGG TREATMENT AND GOOSE ROUND-UP FROM MARCH 1, 2023- SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council denied approval of a quote of \$7,251.82 from the USDA for egg treatment and goose round-up from March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE 2022 CDBG PROFESSIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT (ROUGHLY 17.20% OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATION).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2022 CDBG Professional & Administrative Services agreement with SEDA-COG.

RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOW THE 2022 RACE THE NORTH EVENTS IN 2022 TO UTILIZE THE AIRPORT TERMINAL RESTROOMS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2022 Race the North events to use the airport terminal restrooms.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE BLOOMSBURG AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION TO UTILIZE THE PUBLIC WORKS FUEL PUMPS FROM MONDAY- FRIDAY FROM 7:00 A.M.- 3:30 P.M. AND THE SETUP COSTS PAID BY THE AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION- 3 AMBULANCES-MONTHLY INVOICE BY FINANCE.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Ambulance Association to utilize the Public Works fuel pumps Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and the setup costs to be paid by the ambulance association – 3 ambulances and monthly billing by the finance department. Council member, Toni Bell offered to pay for the setup costs for the Bloomsburg Ambulance Association.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Program for Public Information Plan.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE SOP.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Town of Bloomsburg Drainage System Maintenance SOP.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #12 FROM HEPKO CONSTRUCTION INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,103 FOR THE ADDITIONAL FLOOR LEVELING SERVICES FOR THE BATHHOUSE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order 12 from Hepko Construction Inc. in the amount of \$1,103 for the additional floor leveling services for the bathhouse reconstruction project.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE BLOOMSBURG THEATRE ENSEMBLE (BTE) TO PLACE 45 BANNERS ON THE

LAMP POSTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THEIR 45TH SEASON IN SEPT. OR OCT. OF 2022.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) to place 45 banners on the lamp posts for the beginning of their 45th season in September or October of 2022.

Citizen to be heard.

Jon White-Spunner from BTE thanked the Council and everyone involved in helping Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble reach their 45th anniversary.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Council met from 9:32 p.m.- 9:36 p.m. regarding the potential sale of Town owned property.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

I own the property that is immediately adjacent, and directly abutted, to the new dog park.

I am, admittedly, not pleased with the location of the new dog park. I believe that, during the planning or decision making phase, it would have been appropriate for someone from Town Administration, Council or Planning to inform or discuss how this dog park would impact the area, with the people that it would directly affect.

While I am not opposed to a dog park, I just don't believe that this is the best location for it.

I have to assume that, somewhere, there is a listing or posting of the dog park rules and regulations. Would it be possible to get a copy of those rules, or be pointed to where they are listed online?

My concerns are with several things. Parking, noise, trespassing, trash and odor being the most important.

I visited 3 dog parks in our area. S. Williamsport, Loyalsock, and Hazelton. The thing that they all had in common was distance from housing and sound and sight buffer zones. The mature tree buffer zones, at these parks, ranged from a minimum of 150 feet to over 300 feet. The closest residence to the Hazelton dog park is over 1000 feet.

Bloomsburg has installed a dog park 150 feet from a residence and have no tree or sound buffer at all. I believe that this is an oversight that definitely should have been considered. I also believe that if that if there had been prior communications, this concern could have been included in the development plans.

I don't wish to fight with the Town. Let's see if we can't work together to find some suitable solutions that would be mutually beneficial to this and any other issues that may come up.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Jim Dutt
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570 854-1156

Statement Read at Beginning of Bloomsburg Town Council Meeting
June 13, 2022

As all of the members of Town Council know, we nearly lost our 5th St home on January 12, 2020. As I stated at the previous Town Council meeting, we decided to restore our house. I seriously doubt that any of you (members of Town Council) would have done so as the cost of doing an historic (level) restoration was much more than our insurance company (the notorious Snakefarm) gave us. We invested a considerable amount of our savings in to the restoration.

As I stated at the last meeting, we are regretting our investment, and now believe we should have had the house bulldozed, taken our money and moved elsewhere. One of the reasons is the noise and dust due to the Bloomsburg Fair Association's decision to spend well over a million dollars on a race track. Rather than standing up to the Fair Association, the town government decided not to contest this decision. Instead it has been fighting Matt Zoppetti who wanted to develop a halfway house. Basically, the town government took a not in NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) position and wasted a sizable sum of tax money fighting Zoppetti while letting the Fair association walk all over it.

Now I'm not here tonight to discuss the fair's racetrack, but rather to talk about parking and the town parking regulations. Another reason I now wish we had left Bloomsburg.. The work on our house was completed in September of 2021, and we moved back home toward the end of September 2021. Shortly after we were back in our house, Tell our next door neighborhood, Mark Jones alerted us to the new parking sign that had just been erected. The new sign - see image I - NO PARKING 7 PM to 7 AM MON-FRI 7 PM? Not only did it say 7 PM, Mark's daughter and son-in-law both had been ticketed at 7:02 and 7:03 pm respectively a few days after the signs were put up. What a great place to live!

One of the reasons that we bought our house in the first place is because I enjoy cooking and having a group of friends over for dinner or just to sit and talk. Our house WAS made for entertaining family and friends. Unfortunately that's in the past. It now appears that the only days we can entertain are Saturdays and Sundays. Let me inform you that once I retired every day is a Saturday. If you want to have a group of 6 or more people over, you

can't limit yourself to two possible days. Everyone is busy, and you are fortunate if you can find one evening where everyone can come.

Are you going to cook a meal, have people over, have a glass of wine or a beer and then tell them they have to leave at 7 o'clock because they aren't allowed to park in front of your house? Of course, we could entertain more people as long as they came in the same car with our parking visitor hanger or hire Rabbit Transit to shuttle guest back and forth from a designated municipal parking lot. A friend suggested that that we just have people park in the E. Pine Avenue lot and walk 2-1/2 to 3 blocks to our house. We're both in our early late 70s early 80s and, not surprisingly, many, probably most of our friends are of the same age. We are suppose to tell our friends to park in the lot on East Pine, walk to our house and then walk back to their car in the dark, or back and forth in the dark in the winter. The Town of Bloomsburg is now dictating how and when when can invite people to our house, and Joan and I do do not appreciate that.

I see this regulation is limited to 5th St. between East and Market Streets. Pray tell what we, the residents, have done to deserve this honor. I would like to know who on council is responsible for proposing this new regulation. What problem was this addressing? If there is a problem were alternative solutions explored?

I recently asked the mayor, about the regulation and he wasn't able to give specifics on the why and agreed that a starting time of 7 PM seemed inappropriate. I would like to know whose idea this was and why was this was proposed and adopted? Was there any discussion of its impact on residents. Who on Council voted for the new regulation and who did not? I strongly recommend that each of you thoroughly read Castle Rock's On Street Parking Policy. Please pay attention to Phase 3. Implementing a similar policy would greatly reduce the time you spend trying to appease irate citizens. You would involve them in the process and not surprising them at the last minute

The proposed addition of an inside bike lane is another prime example. This is not a biking issue, but a parking issue and that should have been made clear from the beginning. I wish the town leaders would look after the interests all of the people affected by pet projects initiated by external groups

I came to the last meeting and talked about the race track and pointed out that the fair board had to know that there race track would create lots of dust and noise. I accused them of not considering the consequence of their decision. I now accuse Town Council of doing the same thing.

I would now like to turn our attention to Residential Parking Policy. We have been living at 48 East 5th St. since July 1, 1993. Permit parking resulted from students parking their cars on the streets near the University during the week. I remember yelling at a coed when she arrived to retrieve her car one Friday afternoon. Permit parking was implemented to stop students from "warehousing" the cars on local streets. It was not implemented as a way for the Town of Bloomsburg to make money. During the past 20 years we've had relatives and friends park their cars in front of our house for several days without causing any problems or getting any tickets. The permit simply allowed us, the residents, to call the police if a car unknown to any of us was parked on our block for more than a day or two. The permit did achieve its intended purpose: students stopped warehousing their cars. We have had no parking issues on our area of 5th St since then.

Unfortunately, what started out as a preventative measure has now become a new method of taxation. It now costs we, the residents of a permit zone, \$10 per car (maximum 2) to park in front of our homes and an additional \$20 for a guest permit. Note that residents not living in a permit zone are not taxed. And, Heaven forbid if one fails to renew one's hanger, you get a \$40 fine. No first time warning. What a friendly place to live. Sometimes I think The Town would be quite happy if we all left.

Another parking issue that I believe illustrates how the Town uses parking violations as a major revenue source is the twice a month ban on parking on one side of the street except in the fall when it's every week. It's my understanding that this policy was enacted to permit the town crews to clean the streets and certainly agree that it's easier to do so if the side being cleaned is empty. While I may very well be wrong, it appears that the frequency of street cleaning has decreased, probably due to costs. Whether or not that's true the streets are not cleaned 24 times a year, but tickets are given out 24 times.

If the purpose of the other-side-of-the-street parking policy is to allow town crews to clean the streets, then why are tickets given out even when the town isn't cleaning them. I want a clean street and move my car so that can happen. When I do that I expect the street to be cleaned. That's part of the bargain. When the town decides not to clean the streets, there is no reason to ticket cars, unless that isn't the real reason for the policy.

What is the rationale for the \$40 fine for disobeying the policy. (BTW The fine is \$15 in Lewisburg). The high level of the fines for almost all violations of the residential parking policy suggest that it is primarily a revenue generating policy. In other words, a tax.

For example, there are several times during the year that for whatever reason, budgetary issues, weather, etc., that streets are not cleaned. One would expect that since the streets weren't being cleaned, cars parked on the street would not be ticketed. The fact that they

are is a clear indication that the primary purpose of the fines is to generate income for the town and nothing else.

I would now like you to look at image II (on Center between 5th and 4th). This pole has three different signs on it. The topmost reads: NO PARKING FRIDAY 8 AM - 3 PM. The Second: RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY 7 AM - 7 PM MON - FRI. The third sign, added most recently, says 2 HR PARKING MON - THUR 8AM - 5PM. I basically understand the top two, but the bottom one makes no sense to me. The second sign reads RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY 7 AM - 7 PM MON - FRI, while the third sign, says 2 HR PARKING MON - THUR 8AM - 5PM. Does the third sign trump the second sign? I was confused by the two hour parking as this is a residential area. To me it's obvious parking related to a business, and if it is why aren't there parking meters there. Parking meters extend all the way down East St., even though there are very few businesses and it is primarily a residential area. Shouldn't that strip be designated two hour parking as well. Or if the primary purpose of those meters is to generate revenue for the town, the two hour parking spots on Center between 4th and 5th should be metered. I can see one possible explanation for the absence of meters. There is only one business within a block of those spaces, which until recently was occupied by a law firm

A final observation which I think underscores parking fines as a main revenue source. Last year the town hired a second parking enforcement officer. I suggest that was done to increase revenue from parking violations and for no other reason. Have parking violations increased so much during the past several years that we need a second officer to keep the residents inline? How does enforcing residential parking make Bloomsburg a safer place to live. Given the vandalism that is occurring at the Town Park, I think hiring an additional police officer at least on a part time basis would have been much better expenditures of our tax dollars. It would not, however, increase parking fine revenue which appears to be the central objective of Town Council.

I would like to receive a report showing the revenue from parking violations for each of the past five years broken down by meter and other downtown parking violations and residential parking violations. I also would like to know how revenue from parking fines is used and what percent of the town's yearly expenditures comes from parking fines: 0.001%, 0.01%, 0.1%, 1.0%

I want to thank Council for allowing me the opportunity to speak and apologize for being long winded. I like to be as detailed as I can when presenting an argument. Please excuse any typos, spelling mistakes or grammatical errors. They all are my iPad's fault.



Image I



Image II