

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a Council meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Town Hall and via teleconference. The public joined by dialing: +1 646 558 8685 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 Bonnie Crawford, James Garman, Jaclyn Kressler, Nick McGaw and Jessica Jordan. Town Manager/ Secretary/ Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Chief of Police Scott Price, Public Works Director John Fritz, Director of Code Enforcement Mike Reffeor, Director of Finance Jack Breech, BJ Teichman, and Fire Chief Scott McBride. Also attending were Andrew Barton, MJ Mahon, Mark Gardner, Dawn Moore, Lonnie Crawford, William Stewart, Kat Holdrin and Joe Bleznuck, Thomas Pfeiffer (7:06 p.m.), David Bowman (7:06 p.m.), Elizabeth Dowd, three public citizens, and Tim Wagner. Attending via Zoom were Administrative Assistant Christine Meeker, Dennis, David Hill, Barbara Coladonato, Steve Coladonato, Kyle Bauman, Jamie Shrawder, TJ, Sam's iPhone. Absent was Maria Valentin.

Mayor Hummel gave a shout out to Tim Wagner in recognition of his efforts in sourcing a new panel Christmas tree for the Town and soliciting the funds to pay for it. Great job Tim and thank you.

Dawn Moore questioned the reasoning behind the decision to not re-hire officer Nicholas Thorpe.

Mark Gardner questioned the development of the proposed new director of community services position and exactly how that came about. J. Hummel stated this item is on the agenda and will be discussed in length.

APPROVAL TO PLACE THE BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT OUT TO BID.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to place the boat launch project out to bid.

APPROVAL TO PLACE THE PICKLEBALL PROJECT OUT TO BID.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to place the pickleball court project out to bid.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12.16.2024.01 TO ADOPT UPDATED CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION PERTAINS SOLELY TO REVISING THE WORDING OF HIRING REGULATIONS AND DOES NOT INVOLVE THE APPROVAL OR ADVERTISEMENT OF ANY POSITIONS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved resolution 12.16.2024.01 to adopt updated Civil Service regulations, with the understanding that this resolution pertains solely to revising the wording of hiring regulations and does not involve the approval of advertisement of any positions.

APPROVAL OF THE FEE RESOLUTION 12.16.2024.02.

On a motion by J. Kressler, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the fee resolution 12.16.2024.02.

ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT, LLC.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the enactment of an Ordinance of the Town of Bloomsburg authorizing the execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Town and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 11, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Jordan, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the November 11, 2024 Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 21, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Jordan, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the November 21, 2024 Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 3, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Jordan, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the December 3, 2024 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER LIST OF BILLS.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$276,670.79, Recycling Fund \$114,911.28, Street Lighting Fund \$3,274.28, Fire Fund \$22,077.78, Pool Fund \$6,851.63, Liquid Fuels Fund \$8,778.09, Airport Fund \$198,538.60, CDBG Entitlement Fund \$9,864.22, Swift \$43,586.50 and the November Payroll Authorization \$255,296.92.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the budget amendment for the public works department.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 ANNUAL BUDGET.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Jordan, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2025 annual budget for the Town of Bloomsburg.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2025 tax levy ordinance.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 SALARY LISTING.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Jordan, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2025 salary listing.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING JOHN FRITZ'S RETIREMENT WITH THE LAST DAY OF WORK ESTIMATED AT OCTOBER 1, 2025.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting John Fritz's retirement with the last day of work estimated at October 1, 2025.

APPROVAL OF JOHN FRITZ'S RETIREMENT PACKAGE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the retirement package for John Fritz.

DISCUSSION OF 2025 DEPARTMENT HEAD STRUCTURE.

A discussion was held on the possible restructuring of the department leader positions. J. Hummel envisions a position in which the public works, recycling, code and the airport are managed by one individual that would in turn report to the town manager.

Mark Gardner commented that given the amount of overall knowledge that this one person would need to fulfill this role; the proposed salary of \$75,000 - \$85,000 is grossly inadequate and therefore the position will probably be impossible to fill. Mr. Gardner went on to suggest that the combining of the public works and recycling departments is a step in the right direction, but the process should be slowed down and input from the employees gathered.

Scott McBride agreed that a restructuring of departments may be a great idea, but it needs to be done in the right way. Again, no one person will have the knowledge to step into such a role and succeed. What will happen to the current department leaders at the end of 2025?

APPROVAL OF CREATING A DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE POSITION.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to create a Director of Community Service position.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE INTERNALLY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE POSITION AT A SALARY RANGE OF \$75,000- \$85,000.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 2 to 4 (Hummel and Kressler voting yes, Garman, McGaw, Crawford and Jordan voting no), Council did not approve to advertise internally or publicly the Director of Community Services position. Council wishes to discuss in 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 CAPER.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Caper.

APPROVAL OF SELLING A QUANTITY OF 4 REMINGTON MODEL 870P 12-GAUGE SHOTGUNS TO BLOOMSBURG POLICE OFFICERS AT \$300 EACH. NOTE: THIS IS A REQUEST MADE FROM CHIEF PRICE ON 12/11/2024.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved selling a quantity of 4 Remington Model 870P 12-gauge shotguns to Bloomsburg Police officers at \$300 each.

APPROVAL OF UTILIZING THE MUNICIBID PROCEEDS OF \$11,900 FROM THE SALE OF THE 2011 JOHN DEERE GATOR MODEL 825 GAS UTV ON 11/19/2024, TO FUND AXON TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE AT A RATE OF \$22.50 PER TASER MONTHLY AND LASTING FOR 30 MONTHS FOR A TOTAL OF \$10,929.30. NOTE: THIS ITEM WAS NOT BUDGETED FOR 2025. NOTE: THIS IS A REQUEST MADE FROM CHIEF PRICE ON 12/3/2024.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved utilizing the Municibid proceeds of \$11,900 from the sale of the 2011 John Deere gator model 825 gas UTV on 11/19/2024, to fund Axon transcription service at a rate of \$22.50 per taser monthly and lasting for 30 months for a total of \$10,929.30. Note: this item was not budgeted for 2025. Note: this is a request made from Chief Price on 12/3/2024.

UPDATE ON THE AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.

L. Dooley provided an update on the American Rescue Funds on what remains to be paid out.

RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE TO GUARDIAN FROM STANDARD FOR SHORT- AND LONG-TERM DISABILITY.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to move to Guardian from Standard for short and long-term disability coverage.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE APPROACHING THE POLICE UNION FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASING THE EXISTING \$600/ \$1,100 HEALTH CARE DEDUCTIBLE WITH GEISINGER TO \$1,250/ \$2,500 AND THE TOWN SETTING UP AN HRA TO COVER THE EXCESS DEDUCTIBLE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved approaching the police union for approval of increasing the existing \$600/\$1,100 health care deductible with Geisinger to \$1,250/\$2,500 and the Town setting up an HRA to cover the excess deductible.

APPROVAL ON SECURING THE NON-POLICE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE WITH GEISINGER.

On a motion by J. Kressler, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved securing the non-police health care coverage with Geisinger.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE MCKEE (\$1,000 DEDUCTIBLE FOR PROPERTY) FOR THE 2025 PACKAGE POLICY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,554.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved McKee (\$1,000 deductible for property) for the 2025 package policy in the amount of \$140,554.

RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVING THE 2025 COUNCIL/ COMMITTEE MEETING DATES.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2025 Council/Committee meeting dates.

RECOMMENDATION TO DENY NICHOLAS THORPE RETURNING TO DUTY AT THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT.

On a motion by J. Jordan, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council denied Nicholas Thorpe return to duty in the Bloomsburg Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE \$25 AN HOUR FOR FUTURE TESTIMONY NEEDED FROM PAST TOWN EMPLOYEES RELATED TO THE FAIR RACETRACK LITIGATION.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved \$25 an hour for future testimony needed from past Town employees related to the Fair racetrack litigation.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE WITH RTI FOR THE DUO APPLICATION FOR \$36.00 EACH MONTH FOR 12 USERS.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Jordan, and vote on unanimously, Council approved the quote from RTI for the DUO application for \$36.00 each month for 12 users.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer