

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, April 13, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Diane Levan, Paul Kinney, Kathy Shepperson, Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell and Bill Kreisher; Town Administrator Carol Mas; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Fire Chief Hugh Gross; Office Assistant Amy Seamans and Solicitor Jack Mihalik. Absent were Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz and Code Enforcement/ Zoning/ Planning Officer Ed Fegley.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION - 2008/2009 DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PARKING STUDY

Prior to the regular meeting Justin Jackson of McTish, Kunkel and Associates presented the 2008/2009 Downtown Bloomsburg Comprehensive Parking Study report to Town Council. Mr. Jackson reported that surveys were conducted, a questionnaire postcard was mailed and a parking study committee was formed. Committee members Deborah Brennan and Alex Dubil were also present.

The committee found that the perception of parking in Bloomsburg is poor. The following recommendations were developed and approved by the parking study committee: develop a color coded system dividing the downtown parking areas into four (4) main colors; remove the meter heads from the approximately 24 handicap parking spaces which do not generate a significant amount of revenue and place in other existing areas as well as reconsider the space locations themselves; adopt an ordinance amendment in order to effectively remove employees and employers from parking on Main Street and include a type of off-street parking requirement for new development projects; enhance parking regulation signs, parking directional signs and update current parking brochure; expand the hours/days of parking enforcement; acquire land for parking lot expansion and additional parking areas (long-term solution); change the Pine Avenue lot layout and enhance the entrance and construct a parking facility (long-term solution).

The presentation concluded at 6:38 p.m.

ADOPTION OF 2008/2009 DOWNTOWN BLOOMSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PARKING STUDY

On a motion by K. Shepperson, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council adopted the 2008/2009 Downtown Bloomsburg Comprehensive Parking Study.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr reported on the following upcoming meetings: Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. is a public meeting to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan hosted by the Planning Commission, Block Party is this weekend, Mayor Knorr will be meeting with Dr. Soltz on April 27th and May 17th is the annual Bengali New Year Festival at Town Park.

RECOGNITION OF AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Knorr stated he recently attended an Airport Advisory Committee meeting. He has added the Committee to the Council agenda so a representative may attend and bring to Council's attention any business they may have. Chair, Jeff Wolfe introduced the following members that were in attendance: Shirley Brobst, Richard Sharrow, John Yohey, Dave Ruckle and Charles Carlson.

BUDGET REVIEW

Mayor Knorr reviewed the budget year-to-date by department. Property taxes down \$9,000; real estate transfer taxes down \$11,000; gross receipts tax is over the projected budget; local services tax is a little higher than last year at this time but it was noted that the tax is now spread out over the year; motor vehicle fines down \$40,000 and it was noted that the new increased fines weren't implemented until this past week; total interest down \$12,225; Administrative Department \$12,700 under budget; Police Department \$21,000 over budget; Fire Department \$5,800 under budget; Code Enforcement Department \$7,000 under budget and Public Works Department \$38,000 under budget. The actual 2009 deficit AS OF March 31st is \$249,930 with a projected deficit of \$176,686.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 23, 2009 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS AND MARCH PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills and the March payroll authorization: General Fund, \$131,095.22; Recycling Fund, \$13,262.24; Street Lighting Fund, \$7,914.04; Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool, \$700.47; FFY 08 CDBG Entitlement Program, \$11,500.00; Day Care Project, \$3,562.00; Airport Expansion Project, \$343.76; Liquid Fuels, \$7,080.26 and the March payroll authorization in the amount of \$117,990.85.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO BOYER AND RITTER FROM THE POLICE PENSION PLAN

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Boyer & Ritter from the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,150.00 for 2008 auditing services.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILL TO BOYER AND RITTER FROM THE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Boyer & Ritter from the Town Employees Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,150.00 for 2008 auditing services.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS TO TOWN VENDOR LIST

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved adding the following companies to the Town Vendor List: Effective Communications, Inc., Melcot Radiator, Traffic Sign Store, PA Police Accreditation Coalition, Spitler Vehicle Specialties and General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Simunition Operations, Inc.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT HOLLY MCANALL

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Law Enforcement Administrative Assistant Holly McAnall from the Bloomsburg Police Department with regret effective May 15, 2009.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR A PART-TIME POLICE CLERK

On a motion by B. Kreisher, seconded by S. Costa and voted on Six (6) (B. Kreisher, S. Costa, D. Knorr, D. Levan, K. Shepperson and C. Howell voting "Yes") to One (1) (P. Kinney voting "No"), Council approved advertising for a part-time, under 32 hours per week, Police Clerk for the department with a pay range between \$11.00 and \$14.00 per hour depending on experience and no benefits.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS DISPOSITION LIST

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved disposing of various financial records from 1997 to 2001. The files will be shredded at the Recycling Center.

APPROVAL OF RECYCLING CENTER BALER SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved renewing the baler service agreement in the amount of \$610.00. The service will be scheduled for October.

ACCEPTANCE OF BID FROM BARLETTA MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR 2009 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the bid from Barletta Materials and Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$65,283.90 for the 2009 Street Resurfacing Project and increasing the amount of the project by 25%.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL FROM HERBERT, ROWLAND AND GRUBIC, INC. FOR TENNIS COURT PROJECT

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by S. Costa and voted on unanimously, Council accepted a professional engineering proposal from Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. in the amount of \$32,300.00 for the Tennis Court Project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICE NO. 4 TO HRI, INC. FOR OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL AT THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved the payment of invoice no. 4 to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$30,794.89 for obstruction removal at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE MOWER WITH SNOW BLOWER

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a hard cab John Deere mower with snow blower in the amount of \$15,468.00 for the Public Works Department. It was noted that the Town Park Improvement Association is contributing \$5,000.00 towards the purchase.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL FROM SEDA-COG TO DEVELOP A MASTER SITE PLAN FOR THE FORMER STREATER PROPERTY

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by K. Shepperson and voted on unanimously, Council accepted a proposal from SEDA-COG in the amount of \$10,800.00 for the development of a master site plan for the former Streater Property.

APPROVAL OF BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT WORK RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Bloomsburg Police Department Work Rules, Policies and Procedures.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF TWO (2) LIGHT BARS

On a motion by P. Kinney, seconded by C. Howell and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of two (2) light bars in the amount of \$4,000.00.

K-9 PROGRAM DISCUSSION

L. Sokoloski asked Council what the status is of the K-9 Program. Mayor Knorr expressed that approximately \$7,000 in donations have been received and another \$1,000 has been pledged. This amount would be enough to bring back one dog for the remainder of this year. Mayor Knorr, D. Levan and S. Costa expressed they would like to see the drug dog return. They also noted that if a dog were brought back it would only remain as long as there were donated funds to support it.

APPROVAL OF DEPUTY CHIEF SIGNING PURCHASE ORDERS IN FIRE CHIEF'S ABSENCE

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council approved Deputy Chief, Bob Rupp to sign purchase orders for the Fire Department in Fire Chief Hugh Gross' absence.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss K-9 negotiations and real estate and did not reconvene.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary