

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023 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 (Zoom), James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, Bonnie Crawford (Zoom), and James Huber (7:11 p.m. via Zoom), Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Town Solicitor Matt Turowski, Chief of Police Scott Price, Director of Governmental Services Charles Fritz (7:42 p.m.), Director of Public Works John Fritz, Director of Finance Kim Pogash, Fire Chief Scott McBride, Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman, Director of Code Enforcement Michael Reffeor, Christine Meeker (Zoom) and Code Officer Greg Ash. Also present were MJ Mahon, Corey Kreisler, Dawn Moore, Barbara Coladonato, Dennis, Stacy Wagner, Betts Cassady, Charles Pursel, Alex Dubil, Jamie Harding, Michael (7:33 p.m.), George Mantas (7:11 p.m.), Kim Morris, David Hill, Joan Lentzner, Brad & Tiffany Kelly, James Dutt, Andrew Barton, and Jack Devine. Absent was Council Member Nicholas McGaw.

Council remarks.

- An executive session was held on February 27, 2023 from 8:36 p.m. – 9:01 p.m. regarding a litigation matter, potential litigation matter, and a personnel matter.
- An executive session was held on February 28, 2023 from 10:45 a.m.- 11:27 a.m. regarding a potential real estate property.
- An executive session was held on March 6, 2023 from 2:00 p.m.- 2:38 p.m. regarding a police personnel matter and a litigation matter.
- An executive session was held on March 8, 2023 from 10:28 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. regarding a personnel matter.

Citizens to be heard.

Betts Cassady and Charles Pursel presented a letter to Council outlining their concerns in regards to the possible expansion of the Market Street bike lane. The addition of a bike lane on the northern end of Market Street creates numerous safety hazards for the elementary school, churches, businesses and residents.

James Dutt and Joan Lentzner voiced their opposition to the bike lane expansion, citing safety hazards.

Alex Dubil informed Council of a company in Berwick, JDog Junk Removal & Hauling that will take electronics, TV's, etc. and suggested the recycling coordinator contact them.

Dawn Moore presented the proposed informational sign for the Bloomsburg Town Park. The sign will be 2 ft. by 3 ft. and provides information on geese and why feeding them is detrimental to their health and the ripple effect it has on the environment. Council was okay with this signage placement.

Jamie Harding read a statement before Council in support of the HARB decision to deny a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) regarding the window replacement/repair at 125 W. Main Street. The statement is attached to these minutes.

125 West Main Street – Replacement of 6 Windows – Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) Denial.

Brad Kelly was present to request Council overturn the HARB denial of a CO to replace the 6 windows on the front of the building. Code Officer Greg Ash explained that the applicant was given permission to replace the windows on the side and rear of the building with vinyl replacements at the December 2022 meeting. However, due to the historic value and the impact to the historic integrity of the building the removal of the front windows

would have on the building, HARB requested the applicant secure three quotes for the repair/rehab of these windows and submit them to the board at the next meeting. Mr. Kelly submitted one proposal to the HARB to remove the existing windows and install a two-piece vinyl design by Plygem. The HARB board voted 2 to 2 on the proposal resulting in a denial twice.

A motion was made by V. DeMelfi to accept the proposal and approve the application, motion died for lack of a second.

Council members Hummel, Garman, Crawford, Bell and Huber stated they would like more information and additional quotes before they could make a decision and directed the applicant to return the March HARB meeting.

A motion to deny the application was made by J. Hummel, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved the denial of the 6 replacement windows at 125 West Main Street.

161 E. 5TH STREET – Redesign of rear garage section – HARB Denial.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the denial of the application for 161 E. 5th Street per the recommendation of the HARB.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, PART 5 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Part 5 entitled “Fire Prevention and Fire Protection” of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PART 6, SECTION 8 ENTITLED “ONE HOUR PARKING” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 15, Part 6, Section 8 entitled “One Hour Parking” of the Code of Ordinance of the Town of Bloomsburg.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, APPENDIX C ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS CERTAIN DAYS AND HOURS” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 15, Appendix C, entitled “Parking Prohibited in Specific Locations Certain Days and Hours” of the Code of Ordinance of the Town of Bloomsburg.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PART 6, SECTION 6, ENTITLED “ASSIGNED HANDICAPPED PARKING AREA” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adoption of an Ordinance Chapter 15, Part 6, Section 6 entitled “Assigned Handicapped Parking Area” of the Code of Ordinance of the Town of Bloomsburg.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 2/27/2023 MEETING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the 2/27/2023 meeting with no corrections or additions.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR A CROSSING GUARD AT A RATE OF \$9.50 PER HOUR. FIFTY PERCENT OF COSTS (ADVERTISING AND HOURLY PAY) ARE REIMBURSED BY THE BLOOMSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to advertise for a crossing guard at a rate of \$9.50 per hour. Fifty percent of the cost of advertising and wages are both reimbursable by the Bloomsburg School District.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF FEBRUARY BILLS.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$327,500.81, Recycling Fund \$27,016.13, Street Lighting Fund \$4,001.63, Fire Fund \$19,460.10, Pool Fund \$25,120.94, Liquid Fuels Fund \$12,459.65, Airport Fund \$7,272.07, CDBG Entitlement \$337,601.81, CDBG-DR/FMA Fund \$9,290.00 and the February Payroll Authorization \$235,305.86.

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED CIVIL SERVICE LANGUAGE (WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING DUE TO LEGAL SENDING IT BACK ON 3/13/2023).

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council denied approval of the updated civil service language due to several items needing revised yet and the document is not ready for approval.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A NEW CIVIL SERVICE SEARCH FOR THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council denied approval for a new civil service search for the Bloomsburg Police Department due to waiting on the revised civil service regulations.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR A RECYCLING POSITION AT THE RATE OF THE CONTRACT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved to advertise for a recycling position at the rate of the current contract.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF OSTERGAARD ACOUSTICAL ASSOCIATES CONSULTING SERVICES TO THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 FOR SERVICES PERFORMED IN 2023.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved authorizing an extension of Ostergaard Acoustical Associates consulting services to the Town of Bloomsburg not to exceed \$5,000 for service performed in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING A FIRE ESCROW CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$666.67 FOR 52 LINCOLN AVENUE.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting a fire escrow check in the amount of \$666.67 for 52 Lincoln Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE APPOINTING DIANE LEVAN TO THE CODE APPEAL BOARD WITH A TERM EXPIRING 12/31/2025.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the appointment of Diane Levan to the Code Appeal Board with a term expiring 12/31/2025.

APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FROM DENT PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,199 TO REPLACE AN EXISTING UNIT HEATER AT PUBLIC WORKS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Dent Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$3,199 to replace an existing unit heater

at the Public Works Maintenance building.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR THE 2023 CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN.

On a motion T. Bell, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the schedule for the 2023 CDBG Annual Action plan.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PLACING THE PARKING LOT PROJECT OUT TO BID- PINE AVENUE LOT, E. PINE AVENUE LOT AND W. PINE AVENUE LOT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved placing the parking lot project out to bid, contingent upon the plans being approved by USDA and SEDA-COG. Project includes the Pine Avenue, East Pine Avenue and West Pine Avenue parking lots.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM RECYCLING EQUIPMENT CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,120.80 FOR THE RECYCLING BALER OIL CHANGE.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from the Recycling Equipment Corporation in the amount of \$9,120.80 for the recycling baler oil change.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL AIR PATROL SQUADRON 522 PLACING A SMALL BANNER ON THE AIRPORT FENCE NEAR THE ENTRANCE.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 522 to place a small banner on the airport fence near the entrance to the airport.

APPROVAL OF AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH JOHN D. BERGER, III.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved an easement agreement with John D. Berger, III.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned into an executive session at 8:20 p.m. regarding a personnel matter. Council reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously (4-0, B. Crawford left the meeting during executive session), Council approved the appointment of Michael Reffeor as Deputy EMA Coordinator at a salary of \$1,500 for 2023.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

My Statement for Council -- Monday, March 13, 2023

Regarding window replacement at West End Ale Haus, (Their Facebook page says "Established 2013").

Bloomsburg is well known for its historical buildings as evidenced by the former Holly Trail House Tours here and the Historical Society's Walking Tour guide and App.

I also acknowledge that small business owners have faced an additional burden of staffing issues and price increases, as well as additional pandemic related stressors. Considering this some leeway should be given to the owners.

I would however like to remind Council of the "Revitalize or Die" symposium that our mayor hosted at Carver Hall. The expert talked about "how much value there is in communities with historically significant buildings", especially in a downtown. Bloomsburg has many such properties, including in our downtown, with this being one of them.

I personally feel that the community assets that we currently still have standing, should be given priority in taking corrective actions, for repairs and/or replacement.

I strongly feel the six windows in the front of the building need to be custom made and replaced. There are limited craftsmen available to do so, but companies such as a local company, Doolittle Construction have master-woodworkers who can rebuild these. And while it may come at a premium cost, it's clear that preventative maintenance has not been done on these windows. As such the town should not permit a substandard and visually detracting change to occur. Even the architectural detailing of the surround brick adjacent to the windows shows these windows need to be arched. Vinyl replacement windows have already partially been done in the alleyway, and that's fine for the alley side in my opinion. But the one's on Main Street need to be rebuild or lovingly restored.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jamey Harding