

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, February 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, James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, Bonnie Crawford, Nick McGaw and James Huber via Zoom, Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Town Solicitor Matt Turowski, Chief of Police Scott Price, Director of Governmental Services Charles Fritz, Director of Public Works John Fritz, Fire Chief Scott McBride, and Director of Code Enforcement Michael Reffeor. Also present were MJ Mahon, Corey Kreischer, Dawn Moore, Barbara Coladonato, Dennis, Lara Sabatino, Stacy Wagner, 7 Bloomsburg University students and Shaun Creighton.

Council remarks.

- An executive session was held on January 30, 2023 from 7:43 p.m.- 7:48 p.m. regarding a pool personnel matter.
- An executive session was held on January 31, 2023 from 12:15 p.m.- 12:30 p.m. regarding a legal matter.
- An executive session was held on February 8, 2023 from 11:13 a.m.- 12:02 p.m. regarding two personnel matters and a potential litigation matter.

Corey Kreischer read a prepared statement requesting Council members explain their opposition to proposals that are being voted on. The statement is attached to these minutes.

Shaun Creighton is a resident of E. 3rd Street and questioned Council in regards to the lack of mailed notification for the zoning rehaul. Mr. Creighton stated that a postcard should have been sent to all residents within the Town.

Roy Pointer was present to voice his concerns regarding the lack of notification about the zoning rehaul. He stated that he was not aware of the project or any of the meetings.

It was mentioned that the annual recycling calendar had all the dates published in the document that was sent to all Town residents regarding the zoning rehaul. All of the proper advertisements were made in the local paper required by the MPC.

Mayor Hummel read a proclamation for the American Heart Month.

RESOLUTION 02.13.2023.01- DISPOSITION LIST FOR POLICE/PARKING AND ADMINISTRATION.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 02.13.2023.01 for a disposition list for police/parking and administration files.

RESOLUTION 02.13.2023.02- DCNR GRANT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 02.13.2023.02 for a DCNR Grant.

RESOLUTION 02.13.2023.03- DCNR GRANT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 02.13.2023.03 for a DCNR Grant.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 1/30/2023 MEETING.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the 1/30/2023 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF JANUARY BILLS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$457,482.78, Recycling Fund \$20,336.22, Street Lighting Fund \$430.00, Fire Fund \$4,888.86, Pool Fund \$159,791.37, Liquid Fuels Fund \$1,451.91, Library Fund \$3,737.44, CDBG Entitlement \$38,123.01, CDBG-DR/FMA Fund \$3,570.00 and the January Payroll Authorization \$282,848.57.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM AIRIAM IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,784.97 FOR UPGRADING THREE COMPUTERS THAT ARE PAST THEIR USEFUL LIFE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Airiam in the amount of \$4,784.97 for upgrading three computers that are past their useful life.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ENDING THE SIX-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF WADE VERCHIMAK- EFFECTIVE 2/1/2023.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved ending the six-month probationary period of Wade Verchimak with the effective date of 2/1/2023.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT STEVE HUMMEL'S RESIGNATION FROM THE BLOOMSBURG HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH A TERM ENDING 12/31/2024.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept Steve Hummel's resignation from the Bloomsburg Human Relations Commission. Council expressed their appreciation of Hummel's service.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT MARIA VALENTIN TO THE BLOOMSBURG HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH A TERM ENDING 12/31/2024.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved appointing Maria Valentin to the Bloomsburg Human Relations Commission with a term ending 12/31/2024.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A DONOR SIGN AT THE DOG PARK TO BE DISPLAYED AS \$100, \$500, \$1,000+ TIERS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a donor sign at the dog park to be displayed as \$100, \$500 and \$1000+ tiers.

APPROVAL OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement.

APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a memorandum of understanding between Columbia County Conservation District and the Town of Bloomsburg.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW A GRACE PERIOD FOR LICENSING REGULATED RENTAL UNITS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved moving forward with drafting an ordinance to allow a grace period for licensing regulated rental units.

Council adjourned the meeting into an executive session at 7:30 p.m. regarding a pool personnel matter, a litigation matter and a union negotiation matter. The meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the lifeguard starting rate at \$11.00 per hour, without experience and \$12.00 per hour with experience.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

February 13, 2023

I have been attending town meetings for many years. Two decades of civic involvement including dozens of Planning Commission and Historical Architectural Review Board events, and probably over a hundred Town Council meetings, have exposed me to a lot of the workings of local government.

Over time I have witnessed first hand much debate regarding all kinds of concerns including zoning, planning, parking, student housing and university relations. The nuts and bolts discussions involving finances, maintenance, and ordinances – while sometimes tedious – help explain decisions made and actions taken.

I have experienced five different mayors and dozens of council members, as well as numerous administrators. I have enjoyed all the various personalities and styles of both officials and citizens. Of course I did not always agree with folks, but I always respected them. When there was disagreement, I could at least understand their views because I was present at, and participated in, many of the meetings. I asked questions, or expressed concerns, and would then get immediate feedback. That way I was involved in, and had a better understanding of, the outcome.

That is how representative government works. Different ideas can be presented, examined, and argued – but when after due diligence, choices are made by elected officials – the decisions should be honored. Of course in this country, we do have the right to appeal and challenge, but there is a proper way to do that.

My point in submitting this is to state that during discussion and debate, I think it is appropriate and necessary that opposing views be shared – especially by those who will be deciding, and voting, on something of significance. While it's hard to endure relentless, unyielding advocacy for an item that might be voted against, it is even more exasperating to hear a “nay” vote from a member who did not share their arguments, and reasons, during the discussion. I understand those members are not obligated to explain their position, but would that not make more sense? In closing, I am requesting opposition to proposals be revealed and explained by council members prior to voting on them.

Finally, I want to express appreciation for all that council and other committee members do. They perform a tough and sometimes thankless job.

Corey Kreischer 