

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a public hearing on Monday, August 14, 2023 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Town Hall to hearing testimony and possibly take action on a request from Casa Realty, LLC to vacate/abandon a paper alley.

Casa Realty, LLC has requested the Town vacate/abandon a twelve (12) foot wide unnamed alley located between 341 Fair Street and 347 Fair Street. The hearing started at 6:38 p.m. Ervin Blank Associates, Inc. was present to be the stenographer.

Only one citizen spoke and was in support of the project, Jamey Harding.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 4 to 2 (Hummel and Huber abstained), Council approved to vacate and abandon the twelve (12) foot wide alley located between 341 Fair Street and 347 Fair Street.

The public hearing ended at 6:46 p.m.

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, August 14, 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 Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., present were Council Members Bonnie Crawford, James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, Nick McGaw (6:36 p.m.) and Jim Huber (6:44 p.m.). Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Town Solicitor Matt Turowski, Chief of Police Scott Price, Fire Chief Scott McBride (6:49 p.m.), Public Works Director John Fritz (6:41 p.m.), Director of Finance Kim Pogash (Town Council meeting- TCm), Director of Governmental Services Charles Fritz (TCm), and Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman (TCm). Also present were MJ Mahon, David Hill (TCm), Andrew Barton (TCm), Dennis (7:38 p.m.), Stacy Wagner (TCm), Amelia Steiner, Lyza Klein, Donna Kreisher (TCm), Bill Kreisher (TCm), Chris Bennett (6:38 p.m.), Carolyn Yagle (TCm), Corey Kreisher, Dawn Moore, Stephen Hummel, Jamey Harding, Orlando (TCm), James Dutt (6:42 p.m.), Cardy Pursel (6:44 p.m.), Betts Cassady (6:44 p.m.), Ann McHugo (6:44 p.m.), Theresa Huff (TCm), Pam Sriharsha (TCm), Syreeta Combs-Cannaday, Pamela Sriharsha (TCm) and Janine Penman (7:18 p.m.). Absent was Toni Bell. Note, if there is no TCm reference that means the individual stayed for both the public hearing and the Town Council meeting.

Council remarks.

Reminder from the Mayor that all are welcome to review and respond to the draft zoning ordinance. Please go online at www.bloomsburgpa.org and access the green button at the top labeled "Zoning Draft" for the current draft version.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 07.25.2023-.01- MARKET STREET CONNECTIVITY PROJECT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved Resolution 07.25.2023.01 – Market Street Connectivity Project.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 07.25.2023.02- 7TH STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 07.25.2023.02 – 7th Street Pedestrian Improvement.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 08.14.2023-01- HANDICAP LOCATION RESOLUTION.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 08.14.2023.01 – Handicap Location Resolution.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 08.14.2023.02- FEE RESOLUTION.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved Resolution 08.14.2023.02 – Fee Resolution.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Pamela Sriharsha, Chris Bennett and Amelia Steiner all spoke to Council regarding traffic safety and the constant speeding in the areas of Iron Street, Railroad, 4th Street, Catherine Street and 5th Street.

James Dutt was present to voice his opposition to the proposed protected bike lane on Market Street. The proposed bike lane will detract from the beauty of Market Street, will become a burden for the Public Works department in required maintenance and is a major waste of taxpayer money. Mr. Dutt submitted a prepared statement which is attached at the end of these minutes.

Cardy Pursel a long-time resident of Market Street collected 50 signatures of citizens, all opposing the proposed bike lane.

William Kreisher was present to discuss the support of the bike lane on 5th Street but would like to see the bike path on each directional side of the traffic lane rather than on the west side of the street.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 7/17/2023 MEETING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the 7/17/2023 meeting with no corrections or additions.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF JULY BILLS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$603,241.76, Recycling Fund \$51,681.61, Street Lighting Fund \$2,384.34, Fire Fund \$3,569.12, Pool Fund \$25,428.04, Liquid Fuels Fund \$212,734.99, Airport Fund \$16,015.99, CDBG Entitlement Fund \$35,700.00, CDBG-DR/FMA \$84,033.90 and the July Payroll Authorization \$266,526.25.

APPROVAL TO HIRE NOLAN BARDUA AS A LIFEGUARD I AT A RATE OF \$11 FOR THE NORRIS E. ROCK MEMORIAL POOL WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF 8/4/2023.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hire Nolan Bardua as a lifeguard I at the rate of \$11 per hour for the Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool with the effective date of 8/4/2023.

APPROVAL OF LEO WUKOVITZ INTERNSHIP IN THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT FROM AUGUST 29, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY OF 2024 FROM 1 P.M.- 4 P.M. THIS IS FULLY PAID FOR BY CENTRAL COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Leo Wukovitz for an internship in the Code Enforcement Department from August 29, 2023 through January of 2024 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. This is fully paid for by Central Columbia High School and will be under the supervision of Director Michael Reffeor.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE ACTUARIAL INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES LOWERED FROM 7.25% TO 7% IN BOTH PENSION PLANS PER KORN FERRY'S RECOMMENDATION.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 5 to 1 (McGaw voting no),

Council approved to have the actuarial investment interest rates lowered from 7.25% to 7% in both pension plans per Korn Ferry's recommendation.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE INVESTMENT ASSUMPTION MOVED TO THE SMOOTHING METHOD IN BOTH PENSION PLANS PER KORN FERRY'S RECOMMENDATION.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to have the investment assumption moved to the smoothing method in both pension plans per Korn Ferry's recommendation.

APPROVAL TO LEAVE THE REMAINING FUNDS EARMARKED FOR THE TOWN COMMUNITY WIDE WALKABILITY UPGRADES AS EARMARKED ON 8/23/2021 UNANIMOUSLY BY FULL COUNCIL (\$3,000,000).

A motion to leave the remaining \$3,000,000 in funds to be earmarked for the Town community wide walkability upgrades was made by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on 3 to 3 with Garman, McGaw and DeMelfi voting no, and Crawford, Hummel and Huber voting yes, the motion failed. The prior motion from 2021 still stands.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASING MOUNTED SPEED SIGNS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,190. NOTE: THIS WAS NOT A BUDGETED ITEM.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of mounted speed signs in the amount of \$5,190.

APPROVAL OF TRAINING COSTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,595.80 FOR THE AIRPORT DEPARTMENT. NOTE: THERE IS \$1,000 BUDGETED FOR 2023. THE REQUEST IS FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,595.80 TO BE APPROVED.

Motion to approve training costs in the amount of \$2,595.80 for the Airport Department was made by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on 3 to 3 with Huber, Hummel and DeMelfi voting no, and Crawford, Garman and McGaw voting yes, the motion failed.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASING A USED BUCKET ATTACHMENT FROM CLEVELAND BROTHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,250. NOTE: A NEW ONE IS \$1,700- \$1,800 AND THIS WAS NOT A BUDGETED ITEM.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved purchasing a used bucket attachment from Cleveland Brothers in the amount of \$1,250.

APPROVAL OF SARATOGA ADVISORS GROUP, LLC COMPLETING TWO BACKGROUNDS INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PROCESS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 PER CANDIDATE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Saratoga Advisors Group, LLC to complete two background investigations for the civil service hiring process at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 per candidate.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR A SEASONAL COMPOST SITE ATTENDANT FOR THE 2024 SEASON. NOTE: VOTE WILL BE PENDING THE AUTOMATIC GATE PRICING.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising for a seasonal compost site attendant for the 2024 season.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM CRAIG SEAMANS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FROM THE ZONING HEARING BOARD WITH A TERM EXPIRING 12/31/2025.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept the resignation of Craig Seamans effective immediately from the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring 12/31/2025.

APPROVAL TO PAY BLOOMSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT \$500 - \$1,000 FOR SERVICES PROVIDED DURING THE RACE THE NORTH EVENT FROM 2022. NOTE: A FLAT AMOUNT NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MOTION.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to pay the Bloomsburg Fire Department \$500 for services provided during the Race the North event from 2022.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW PARKING METERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,355 FROM POM INCORPORATED. NOTE: THIS PURCHASE WAS APPROVED AT THE MARCH 27, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING BUT AT THE TIME THE QUOTE WAS NOT RECEIVED AND BASED ON PRIOR PURCHASE FIGURES WITH THE VENDOR.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of new parking meters in the amount of \$10,355 from POM Incorporated.

APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE 2024 RECYCLING FEE FOR CURBSIDE RESIDENTS IN BLOOMSBURG. NOTE: THE CURRENT 2023 ANNUAL FEE PER UNIT IS \$60.00. THIS UNIT RATE IS EFFECTIVE MAY 1ST THROUGH JULY 14TH. PAYMENT MADE AFTER JULY 14TH IS \$72.00 PER UNIT. ACCOUNTS SENT INTO COLLECTION WILL BE ASSESSED AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY FEE AND WILL BE PAYABLE AT \$84.00 PER UNIT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 4 to 2 (Huber and DeMelfi voting no), Council approved a \$6.00 increase to the 2024 curbside recycling fee for Bloomsburg residents.

APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 2024 PAVILION AND BANDSHELL RENTAL FEE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved to waive the 2024 pavilion and bandshell rental fee.

APPROVAL TO HOLD A JULY 2024 EVENT ON JULY 4, 2024 IN THE TOWN PARK. WITH A RAIN DATE OF JULY 5, 2024. NOTE: STAFF OVERTIME RATES DO APPLY, SOME STAFF DONATED THEIR TIME ON THE HOLIDAY ALONG WITH EMA PERSONNEL, FIRE POLICE AND FIRE FIGHTER VOLUNTEERS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hold the 2024 July 4th celebration in the Town Park with a rain date to July 5th, 2024.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE CATAWISSA MILITARY BAND PLAY AT A RATE OF \$300. REFERENCE TO A CURRENT \$600 AN HOUR CHARGE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to have the Catawissa Military Band perform at the 2024 July 4th event at a rate of \$300.

APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT FOR A FIREWORK VENDOR.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to enter into a contract with Skyshooters, Inc. for a firework display on July 4th, 2024 with a rain date of July 5, 2023.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE FUNDS COME OUT OF THE TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2024 FIREWORKS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council

approved to have the funds for the 2024 July 4th firework display be paid out of the Town Budget.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$111.11 FROM THE SAVE THE GEESE FOR THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN DOG PARK.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Hummel, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the acceptance of a donation of \$111.11 from Save the Geese for the Bloomsburg Town Dog Park.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$100 FROM BIG TOP TEAMS FOR THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN DOG PARK.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the acceptance of a donation of \$100 from Big Top Teams for the Bloomsburg Town Dog Park.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE ENCLOSED MURALS PAINTED AT THE NORRIS E. ROCK MEMORIAL POOL. CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE THROUGH THE FRIENDS OF THE POOL OR THE KREISHER FAMILY. NOTE: BOTH ARTWORKS WOULD BE DONE BY JULES MUCK. THE WAVES AND BUTTERFLY SCENE ON THE CATHERINE STREET SIDE OF THE BATHHOUSE. BUTTERFLY AND BICYCLE ON THE MULCH SIDE OF THE BUILDING LEADING INTO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE BATHHOUSE.

On a motion by N. McGaw, no second motion, motion dies.

On a motion by J. Hummel, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to have murals painted on the Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool by whomever the Friends of the Pool Committee chooses along with whatever mural they would elect to do. All costs will be covered by contributions.

APPROVAL OF AN INVOICE FROM LIVIC CIVIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,888.75 FOR AN UPDATED CRS MAPPING. NOTE: TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED UP TO \$2,500 ON 6/12/2023.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice from LIVIC Civil in the amount of \$2,888.75 for updated CRS mapping.

INFORMATIVE ITEM: THE MARKET STREET AND FIFTH STREET SIGNAL REPLACEMENT GRANT EXTENSION HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND APPROVED BY PENNDOT. COUNCIL DID APPROVE THE PROJECT TO KUHARCHIK CONSTRUCTION ON 3/27/2023 BUT NO WORK HAS BEEN STARTED.

This item was for information purposes only, no action was required.

APPROVAL TO AWARD BID TO AN ENGINEERING FIRM REGARDING THE PENNDOT TRAFFIC SIGNAL TECHNOLOGIES GRANT FOR CONNECTION OF SIGNALS ALONG THE SR 11 & MARKET STREET CORRIDOR THROUGHOUT TOWN. NOTE: BID OPENING IS SCHEDULED FOR 8/14 AT 10 A.M.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to award the bid for engineering services for the PennDOT Traffic Signal Technologies grant to LIVIC Civil Engineering.

INFORMATIVE ITEM: THE HONEYSUCKLE LANE STORMWATER MITIGATION CONTRACT WITH SOKOL, INC. HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 2023.

This item was for information purposes only, no action was required.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE KATYA NEWCOMER JOB SHADOWING THE AIRPORT COORDINATOR UNTIL THE AUGUST 2023 START OF SCHOOL.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Katya Newcomer to job shadow the Airport Coordinator until the August 2023 start of school.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE DEGENSTEIN FOUNDATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO BE USED FOR POOL ASSETS. A SPECIAL THANKS TO RON PRATT FOR APPLYING FOR THIS GRANT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept the Degenstein Foundation grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for pool assets. Special thanks to Ron Pratt for applying for this grant.

APPROVAL OF A STORMWATER EASEMENT AND ACCESS AGREEMENT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a stormwater easement and access agreement with Geisinger-Bloomsburg Hospital.

APPROVAL OF ABBEY ROAD CONTROL INC. TO PERFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANCE DURING THE 2023 BLOOMSBURG FAIR EVENT AT A RATE OF \$36.45. NOTE: THE EXPECTED AMOUNT WILL COST APPROXIMATELY \$5,904.90.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 5 to 1 (Huber voting no), Council approved Abbey Road Control, Inc. to perform traffic control assistance during the 2023 Bloomsburg Fair event at a rate of \$36.45.

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m. with the consensus of no further business to discuss.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer