

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, October 9, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Bonnie Crawford, James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, and Nick McGaw. Town Manager / Secretary/ Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Town Solicitor Matt Turowski, Chief of Police Scott Price, Public Works Director John Fritz, Director of Code Enforcement Mike Reffeor, Director of Governmental Services/ Recycling Coordinator Charles Fritz, Code Officer Kyle Bauman, Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman (Zoom) and Administrative Assistant Christine Meeker (Zoom). Also present were MJ Mahon, William Kreisher, Jaclyn Kressler, Jamie Shrawder, Theresa Huff, Kim Kus, Jason Huff, Dennis, Maria Valentin, Julie Petty, Alex Dubil, Scott McBride, David Hill, Rick Boger, William Eschenfelder, Andrew Barton, Stacy Wagner, Susan McGarry, 8 other citizens, and Corey Kreischer.

#### **NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF A COUNCIL MEMBER.**

Mayor Hummel opened the floor for introductions of the residents interested in serving out the term on Council. William Kreisher, Jaclyn Kressler, Theresa Huff and Maria Valentin each spoke briefly on the reasons for their interest. Candidate Colleen Levi was not present.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council opened the floor to receive nominations to fill the vacant Council position.

N. McGaw made a motion to nominate Jaclyn Kressler.

V. DeMelfi made a motion to nominate William Kreisher.

T. Bell made a motion to nominate Theresa Huff. Being no other nominations, the Mayor closed the nominations.

Mayor Hummel called for a vote on the first candidate Jaclyn Kressler, the vote was 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no). Voting was closed since Council reached a majority vote.

Mayor Hummel administered the oath of office to Ms. Kressler. Ms. Kressler also signed the residency affidavit.

#### **Citizen to heard.**

Julie Petty attended via Zoom to express her concerns regarding the permit parking system in Town. Ms. Petty would like to see changes in the way residents are notified about parking permits, she also requested that a grace period be added and a reduced fine for residents that forget to renew their parking permits.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 9/11/2023 MEETING.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the 9/11/2023 with no corrections or additions.

#### **ADOPTION OF AMENDING CHAPTER 7 IN RELATION TO FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR INTERCONNECTED SMOKE DETECTORS.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved amending Chapter 7 in relation to fire prevention and fire protection for interconnected smoke detectors.

#### **ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 15 IN RELATION TO ONE-WAY STREETS ESTABLISHED. ADDING ONE WAY WEST AND THEN NORTH ON FORT MCCLURE BOULEVARD FROM RAILROAD STREET TO THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE TO STREATER FIELD.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 6 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no) Council approved the adoption of Chapter 15 in relation to one-way streets established. Adding one way West bound and then North on Fort McClure Boulevard from Railroad Street to the driveway entrance to Streater Field.

**ADOPTION OF FEE RESOLUTION 10.09.2023.01.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the adoption of fee resolution 10.09.2023.01.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 10.09.2023.02- STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the adoption of resolution 10.09.2023.02 regarding statewide local share assessment grant for the hangar project at the airport.

**PROCLAMATION- OCTOBER AS LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH AND THE MONTH OF OUTFEST.**

Mayor Hummel read a proclamation declaring October LGBTQ history month and the month of Outfest. Two members from the Outfest Committee were present to thank the Council and the community for their support.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE 2024 MMO'S FOR BOTH POLICE AND NON-POLICE PENSION PLANS.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2024 MMO'S for both the police and non-police pension plans.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ENDING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF OFFICER TORI FITZWATER EFFECTIVE 10/3/2023.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved ending the probationary period of Officer Tori Fitzwater effective 10/3/2023.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE 2024 MEETINGS.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2024 meeting schedule.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE LEGAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MCNERNEY, PAGE, VANDERLIN & HALL.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the legal engagement of Mc Nerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall as an additional legal vendor.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF SEPTEMBER BILLS.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$1,406,077.05, Recycling Fund \$26,577.10, Street Lighting Fund \$6,200.78, Airport Fund \$8,901.41, Fire Fund \$3,537.56, Pool Fund \$5,578.60, Liquid Fuels Fund \$7,459.65, CDBG-DR/FMA \$450.00, Commercial Loan Repayment \$11,000.00 and the September Payroll Authorization \$240,574.55.

**APPROVAL OF TWO SEASONAL WORKERS FOR BLOOMSBURG FAIR ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT: ELIZABETH KILE & MALIK THOMPSON AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$15 PER HOUR EFFECTIVE 9/22/2023 ALONG WITH THE OVERTIME RATE OF \$22.50.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved two seasonal workers for Bloomsburg Fair assistance for traffic control in the police department: Elizabeth Kile

& Malik Thompson at an hourly rate of \$15 per hour effective 9/22/2023 along with the overtime rate of \$22.50.

**APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRICITY RATE FOR THE POOL ACCOUNT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the electricity rate of \$0.09050/kWh for the Norris E Rock electricity pool account.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SERGEANT CERTIFIED LIST. APPROVAL OF APPOINTING DAVID BOWMAN TO SERGEANT IN THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 4, 2023.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the sergeant certified list and the appointment of David Bowman to Sergeant in the Bloomsburg Police Department effective December 4, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF A PUNCH LIST AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER POOLS.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the punch list agreement with Premier Pools.

**APPROVAL OF A PAY APPLICATION TO PREMIER POOLS.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a pay application to Premier Pools.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER # 1 REGARDING THE BLOOMSBURG AREA RECREATIONAL TRAIL (BART) FROM MITCHELL KNORR CONTRACTING IN THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$172,174.75. NOTE: THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE 9/11/2023 COUNCIL MEETING BUT WITHOUT AN EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order #1 regarding the Bloomsburg Area Recreational Trail (BART) from Mitchell Knorr Contracting in the increased amount of \$172,174.75.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER # 2 REGARDING THE BART IN THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$2,099.76 FROM MITCHELL KNORR CONTRACTING WITH THE EXTENDED SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE OF NOVEMBER 22, 2023.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order #2 regarding the BART in the increased amount of \$2,099.76 from Mitchell Knorr Contracting with the extended substantial completion date of November 22, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN INVOICE RELATING TO PPL WORK FOR THE PARKING LOT PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,247.63. NOTE: THIS WORK WAS BUDGETED.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice relating to PPL work for the parking lot projects in the amount of \$18,247.63. Note: this work was budgeted.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FROM SOKOL, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,870 TO DEMOLISH A HOUSE THROUGH THE CONDEMNATION PROCESS AT 405 MILLVILLE ROAD. APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUNDS TO BE USED FROM THE CODE OFFICE.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Sokol, Inc. in the amount of \$10,870 for demolition through the condemnation process of the residential structure located at 405 Millville Road. Approval to expense to the Codes Department and use general funds.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO 20 ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS (ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$8,000 FOR INSTALLATION COSTS) WITH THE LOCATIONS TO BE SELECTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. FUNDS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE STREET LIGHTING ACCOUNT. AUGUST ENDING BALANCE: \$193,071.45.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to 20 additional street lights to be installed in locations and selected by the Public Works Director. Estimated cost for installation to be around \$8,000. Funds will be deducted from the street lighting account.

**RECOMMENDATION TO NOT ADVERTISE ANY AIRPORT TASK FORCE MEETINGS FOR 2024 BUT APPOINT THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS IN NEED OF A MEETING/ PROJECT DISCUSSION. FULL COMMUNICATION WILL STILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE AIRPORT COORDINATOR TO THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved not to advertise any Airport Task Force meetings for 2024 but to appoint the task force members in the event a meeting/project discussion is needed. Full communication will still be maintained by the Airport Coordinator to the task force members.

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER ONE FOR THE CRACK AND RESEAL PROJECT WITH CRILON CORP IN THE DECREASE AMOUNT OF \$15,444.49 THAT OCCURRED AT THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. CONTINGENT UPON DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANT'S APPROVAL.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order #1 for the crack and reseal project with Crilon Corp in the decrease amount of \$15,444.49 that occurred at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

**APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PAY APPLICATION WITH CRILON CORP FOR THE CRACK AND RESEAL PROJECT AT THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,433.96. CONTINGENT UPON DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANT'S APPROVAL.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the final pay application with Crilon Corp for the crack and reseal project at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport in the amount of \$19,433.96. Payment is contingent upon Delta Airport Consultant's approval.

**APPROVAL OF ENTERING INTO A TASK ORDER NUMBER FOUR WITH DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANTS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000 TO CONSTRUCT A PERIMETER FENCE AT THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 0 to 7, Council voted not to enter into a task order number 4 with Delta Airport Consultant's in the amount of \$80,000 to construct a perimeter fence at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

**POTENTIAL APPROVAL NEEDED FOR THE TOP COAT PAVING IN THE PINE LOT PARKING LOT TO OCCUR PRIOR TO THE POLE RELOCATION OCCURRING. UPDATE FROM LIVIC CIVIL.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the top coat paving in the Pine Avenue parking lot prior to the installation of the new utility poles.

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER 2 REGARDING THE HONEYSUCKLE LANE STORMWATER MITIGATION PROJECT IN AN INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$7,962 AND AN EXTENSION DATE OF OCTOBER 15, 2023. CONTINGENT UPON SEDA-COG'S APPROVAL.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order #2 regarding the Honeysuckle Lane stormwater mitigation project in an increased amount of \$7,962 and an extension of October 15, 2023. Contingent upon SEDA-COG's approval.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING AN ORDINANCE CHANGING OYER AVENUE BEING CONVERTED TO A ONE-WAY STREET NORTH BOUND FROM W. RIDGE AVENUE TO W. FIRST STREET.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to advertise an ordinance changing Oyer Avenue being converted to a one-way street North bound from W. Ridge Avenue to W. First Avenue.

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREATING TO BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> FROM 6 P.M.- 9 P.M. EVERY YEAR FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BEING HELD RAIN OR SHINE.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Halloween Trick-or-Treating to be scheduled for October 31 for 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. every year for the foreseeable future being held rain or shine.

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO RELEASE THE REMAINING \$12,208.38 IN FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR LANDMARK SIGNATURE HOMES, LLC PROJECT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the release of the remaining \$12,208.38 in financial security for Landmark Signatures Homes, LLC project.

**APPROVAL OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE INVOICE FOR SEDA-COG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,550 REGARDING THE OWNER- OCCUPIED HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an administrative invoice for SEDA-COG in the amount of \$1,550 regarding the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program.

**APPROVAL OF WAIVING THE BOND FOR THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WORK FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET PROJECT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6-1 (Hummel voting no), Council agreed to table this item.

**APPROVAL OF MOVING FORWARD TO USE THE \$50,286 REMAINING CDBG-DR GRANT DOLLARS ON THE HONEYSUCKLE STORMWATER PROJECT. PENDING GRANT AGENCY, SOKOL AND SEDA-COG'S APPROVAL.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved moving forward to the use the \$50,286 remaining CDGB-DR grant dollars on the Honeysuckle Stormwater project. This is pending the grant agency, Sokol and SEDA-COG's approval.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned into an executive session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss a legal matter with the option to reconvene. The executive session ended at 9:42 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF WAIVING THE BOND FOR THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WORK FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET PROJECT.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved waiving the bond for the Municipal Authority work for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Lisa Dooley  
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

I'm here to speak in response to the streetlight that was installed directly in front of my bedroom window last month.

Thank you to Toni Bell who's heard some of my concerns and to John Fritz who shielded the light. I appreciated that, because no, I have not slept well since the light went up.

My neighbor suggested I get blackout curtains. But shielding and blackout curtains are a band aid slapped on a bigger problem. If I wanted to live in a place lit up like a gas station, I would move to the city. That's not what I want. I live in a small town because I like the small-town charm. It's quiet, and it is--or was--darker.

When my husband and I first started dating, we sat on my front porch and watched an eclipse of the moon. It was magical. I love watching the moon and the stars. Or I did. That is gone now.

I'm told the streetlights are for public safety. I am in favor of public safety. But the new LED lights do not make me feel safer. The light is very bright. It casts dark shadows that you can't see into. That is dangerous. Before the light went up, my home was anonymous, just one more house on the street. Now there's a spotlight in front of it, pointing it out to any mischief-maker. And I already had lights. They were motion-activated. Now anybody could walk up to the front of my house, and I wouldn't know. The streetlight makes me feel less safe.

I understand an argument for putting up additional lights was that in 1919 the town already had this discussion. But in 1919 the streetlights were gentler on the eye. It wasn't the LED blue light that we know is so bad for people. I keep my laptop and cell phone out of the bedroom. I don't want that blue light shining in my window. Also back in 1919 there weren't nearly as many streetlights. People who wanted it darker could still find that. In 1919 it was also common to turn off or dim streetlights at midnight. It made sense: illuminate the streets when people were out and about, go dim when people needed to sleep, and save money.

Jim Huber was right when he cautioned this council that some people don't want extra light seeping into their bedrooms. I'm one of them, but I'm not the only one. I've talked to several people who agreed that the lights are annoyingly bright. Most shrugged and said, "Well, that's just the way it is." But that's *not* just the way it is. People chose to put up these lights. People can choose to change that. I draw your attention to Code section 27-806 that requires minimal light trespass. This shouldn't be for just the university and hospital.

I might be the only person stubborn enough to come here and talk to you, but I'm not the only one annoyed by these lights. Shielding one streetlight is a good first step. Better would be working with homeowners before putting up a light. The best would be to adopt the best practices of the PA Outdoor Lighting Council. I urge council to act on this. Thank you.

--Katie Yelinek

E Third Street resident