

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, November 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, Bonnie Crawford, Vince DeMelfi, James Garman, Jaclyn Kressler 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, Fire Chief Scott McBride, Code Officer Kyle Bauman (Zoom), Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman, Airport intern Nadia, Director of Finance Kim Pogash (Zoom) and Administrative Assistant Christine Meeker (Zoom). Also present were Jared Pickell, Theresa Huff, Jim Dutt, MJ Mahon, Dawn Moore, Nate Person, Joe Gushen, Patricia Bower, Eric Bower, Joel Young, Steve Mayernick, Dennis (7:44 p.m.), David Hill, Barbara Coladonato (Zoom), Andrew Barton, Clo, Tanner Dilg (7:20 p.m.), three citizens and Corey Kreisler.

Nate Person came before Council with concerns regarding the way the code office handles complaints and the status of structures that have condemnation notices attached but seemly nothing has been done to them. M. Reffeor addressed these issues.

Joe Gushen voiced his concerns regarding the amendments to the zoning ordinance and made a few suggestions in regards to the commercial district and residential housing on the first floor.

Patricia Bower was present to discuss an issue with a property on Catherine Street. Ms. Bower stated there is people in and out home at all hours of the day and night and police were called but no officers arrived. Ms. Bower questioned whether a rental license has been issued for the property.

Dawn Moore addressed Council regarding feral cats in Town and suggested the Town make a donation to PA Pets to help cover the cost of a Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program. This item is to be discussed at the next Community & Economic Development meeting.

ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG VACATING A PORTION OF NORTH PENN STREET, A PORTION OF WIRT STREET AND AN OPEN AND UNNAMED ALLEY BETWEEN FRANKLIN AVENUE AND NORTH PENN STREET IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG ALL RUNNING ALONG THE LINES OF LANDS OF FRANK ROBBINS AT 80 FRANKLIN AVENUE, BLOOMSBURG PENNSYLVANIA (PIN NOS.: 05E05 34900 AND 05E05 34800).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved enactment of an ordinance of the Town of Bloomsburg vacating a portion of North Penn Street, a portion of Wirt Street and an open and unnamed alley between Franklin Avenue and North Penn Street in the Town of Bloomsburg all running along the lines of lands of Frank Robbins at 80 Franklin Avenue, Bloomsburg Pennsylvania (pin nos.: 05E05 34900 and 05E05 34800).

APPROVAL OF FEE RESOLUTION 11.13.2023.01- AIRPORT AND PAPER ALLEY.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the fee resolution 11.13.23.01 – airport and paper alley fee.

PROCLAMATION- NOVEMBER IS FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

Mayor Hummel read a proclamation proclaiming November as Family Court Awareness Month.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 10/23/2023 MEETING.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the 10/23/2023 with no corrections or additions.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF OCTOBER BILLS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment of the following monthly bills: General Fund \$1,255,878.91, Recycling Fund \$28,409.07, Street Lighting Fund \$5,446.58, Airport Fund \$112,531.73, Fire Fund \$4,650.30, Pool Fund \$11,186.14, Liquid Fuels Fund \$7,824.69, CDBG Entitlement \$41,055.12, and the October Payroll Authorization \$257,415.55.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE TRACY LANZAFAME VS. TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG LAWSUIT IN THE UNITED STATES COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, DOCKET NUMBER 4:20-CV-02090.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the resolution of the Tracy Lanzafame vs. Town of Bloomsburg lawsuit in the United States Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, docket number 4:20-cv-02090.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 BUDGET.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved the 2024 budget. Council member Bonnie Crawford abstained from the vote due to a work-related conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on 5 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved the 2024 tax levy ordinance. Council member Bonnie Crawford abstained from the vote due to a work-related conflict of interest.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A \$100 DONATION FOR THE TOWN PARK FROM STEPHANIE KESSLER, JOSH HINKEL, MAYA & ZEB FROM CATAWISSA. NOTE: THEY RECENTLY HELD THEIR WEDDING AT THE PARK.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept a \$100 donation for the Town Park from Stephanie Kessler, Josh Hinkel, Maya and Zeb from Catawissa.

APPROVAL TO HIRE BACK NICHOLAS THORPE WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH HIS SENIORITY REINSTATED EFFECTIVE 11/13/2023.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hire back Nicholas Thorpe in the Police department with his seniority reinstated effective 11/13/23.

APPROVAL TO HAVE THE TOWN MANAGER/ TOWN MAYOR SIGN FOR AN EXTENSION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION LOAN WITH FIRST COLUMBIA REGARDING THE \$1,216,000 LOAN THAT WAS ORIGINALLY EXTENDED TO 11/15/2023 TO BE EXTENDED AGAIN TO 1/15/2024 FOR THE TOWN PINE PARKING LOT PROJECT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to have the Town Manager/Town Mayor sign for an extension for the construction loan with First Columbia regarding the \$1,216,000 loan that was originally extended to 11/15/2023 to be extended again to 1/15/2024 for the Town pine parking lot project.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BETTS CASSADY FROM THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH A TERM EXPIRING 12/31/2025.

On a motion by N. McGaw with thanks, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept the resignation of Betts Cassady from the Human Relations Commission with a term ending 12/31/25.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE HIRING A 2024 SEASONAL COMPOST SITE ATTENDANT AT THE RATE OF \$15 AN HOUR.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hire Chris Young as the 2024 seasonal compost site attendant at the rate of \$15 an hour.

APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL FUND DEPOSITORY – FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO. TO JOURNEY BANK- A MUNCY COLUMBIA FINANCIAL COMPANY.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the general fund depository – First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. to Journey Bank a Muncy Columbia Financial Company.

RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE A CDBG PROGRAM INCOME BANK ACCOUNT ENDING IN 8124 WITH JOURNEY BANK.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to close a CDBG program income bank account ending in 8124 with Journey Bank.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A PURCHASE OF A F-350 PICK-UP/ PLOW SETUP PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,335 WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to purchase a F-350 Ford pick-up with plow setup for the Public Works department in the amount of \$62,335 with American Rescue Funds.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PURCHASING PISTOLS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,407.20 WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL. ALSO NOTED IS A TRADE IN VALUE THAT WILL OFFSET SOME OF THE EXPENSE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved purchasing pistols for the police department in the amount of \$18,407.20 with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council. Also noted is a trade in value that will offset some of the expense.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PURCHASING LIFE VAC ANTI-CHOKING DEVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,300 WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to purchase life vac anti-choking devices for the Police department in the amount of \$1,300 with American Rescue Funds.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR UP TO \$5,000 FOR A PROPOSAL FOR ADA COMPLIANCE AT TOWN HALL WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved engineering services for up to \$5,000 for a proposal for ADA compliance at Town Hall with American Rescue Funds.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO \$30,000 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT SOFTWARE UPGRADES WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to \$30,000 for the Police department software upgrades with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO \$15,000 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES TO THE PARKING MOBILE APPLICATION WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to \$15,000 for police department upgrades to the mobile application with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO \$60,000 FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES FOR THE TOWN WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to \$60,000 for technology upgrades for the Town with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO \$50,000 FOR AN OVERALL CAMERA SYSTEM WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to \$50,000 for an overall camera system with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE UP TO \$600,000 FOR THE SOLAR PROJECT WITH AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS. NOTE: A SPECIFIC QUOTE NEEDS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL ALONG WITH HAVING A FURTHER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FULL SCOPE OF THE PROJECT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved up to \$600,000 for the solar project with American Rescue Funds. Note: a specific quote needs to come back to Council along with having a further understanding of the full scope of the project.

RECOMMENDATION TO ADVERTISE THE 2024 TOWN ENGINEER SERVICES.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to advertise the 2024 town engineer services.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT THE TOWN PARK. NOTE: ALL COSTS WILL BE COVERED BY THE TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. PUBLIC WORKS WILL HELP WITH SECURING THE PLAQUES.

- a. HARRY SHUMAN- BAND SHELL
- b. HERVEY SMITH- TENNIS COURTS

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the placement of memorial plaques at the Town Park. Note: all costs will be covered by the Town Park Improvement Association. Public Works will help with securing the plaques.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BLOOMSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING RECYCLING SERVICES.

On a motion by T. Bell seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an intergovernmental agreement with Bloomsburg School District regarding recycling services.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING THE AMENDED ORDINANCE FOR FORT MCCLURE BOULEVARD SPECIFYING THE DISTANCE FROM RAILROAD STREET.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising the amended ordinance for Fort McClure Boulevard specifying the distance from Railroad Street.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANTS AS THE AIRPORT ENGINEER FOR MARCH 11, 2024- MARCH 10, 2029.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6 to 1 (Hummel voting no), Council approved to appoint Delta Airport Consultants as the airport engineer from March 11, 2024 to March 10, 2029.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER 2 WITH ROBERT C. YOUNG FOR THE PINE AVENUE PARKING LOT PROJECT IN THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$26,250.80.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order 2 with Robert C. Young for the Pine Avenue lot project in the increased amount of \$26,250.80.

APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE INSURANCE REQUEST FOR THE BLOOMSBURG POST OFFICE TO PLACE A DROP OFF BOX IN THE TOWN OWNED WEST PINE PARKING LOT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to waive the insurance request for the Bloomsburg Post Office to place a drop off location in the Town owned West Pine parking lot.

APPROVAL OF THE STREET VACATION PROCEDURE AND ASSOCIATED FEES.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the street vacation procedure and associated fees.

APPROVAL OF A 90-DAY EXTENSION FOR THE GEISINGER- BLOOMSBURG HOSPITAL SUBDIVISION WITH A NEW DEADLINE OF 2/11/2024.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a 90-day extension for the Geisinger-Bloomsburg Hospital subdivision.

APPROVAL TO RELEASE \$59,161 OF ESCROW FUNDS RELATING TO THE VEOLIA LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to release \$59,161 of escrow funds relating to the Veolia land development project.

Executive Session.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned into an executive session at 8:44 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Town Solicitor amending the Bloomsburg a Town ordinance 1008: an ordinance requiring that applications for municipal permits, licenses, or approvals relating to real property located in the Town of Bloomsburg be denied to the property owner if delinquencies of taxes or municipal charges or serious violations of state law or codes exist on real property owned by the applicant in the Town.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council ended the meeting at 9:07 p.m. with no other business to discuss.

Lisa Dooley

Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer