

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 18, 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), 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, Director of Finance Kim Pogash (Zoom) and Administrative Assistant Christine Meeker. Also present were MJ Mahon, Andrew Barton, Steven Hummel and engineer, Jamie Shrawder, Elizabeth Helsel, Landon Ferrara, Milo Schell-McGaw, Elise Hughes, Barbara Coladonato, Jess Jordan, David's I-Pad, Stacy Wagner, Liz Clammer, Eileen Chapman, and Cindy Shultz.

Council remarks.

An executive session was held on November 8, 2023 from 12:22 p.m.- 12:26 p.m. to discuss a Public Works personnel matter.

An executive session was held on November 13, 2023 from 8:44 p.m.- 9:06 p.m. relating to a code legal matter. Fireworks are confirmed at the Town Park on 12/31/2023 at 9 p.m. Thank you to La Malbec and Realty Zero for the contributions.

Citizens to be heard.

Milo Schell-McGaw came before Council to request permission to install three pet clean-up stations along the BART trail as an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Shell-McGaw explained the cost of each station is \$230 each and he would be fund raising through the winter and would purchase the three stations in the spring of 2024 and will work with the Public Works department to determine where to place them.

Elizabeth Helsel, Rettew Associates presented a proposal to Council for a roof top solar arrays analysis. Included in the proposal would be structural analysis, solar glare analysis for FAA regulations and solar array design. The cost of this proposal is \$66,200.

On a motion by V. DeMelfi, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the proposal in the amount of \$66,200.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 CAPER.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2022 CAPER.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12.18.2023.1-CODE BLUE EMERGENCY POLICY.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 12.18-23.01 – Code Blue Emergency Policy.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF BILLS FROM NOVEMBER.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the list of bills from November.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 WAGES.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2024 wages. Note: Public Works and Recycling are pending negotiations rates and are reflected at 2023.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT SERGEANT LEONARD ROGUTSKI'S RESIGNATION IN THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT. SGT. ROGUTSKI'S LAST DAY OF SERVICE WILL BE JANUARY 6, 2024.

On a motion by J. Garman with regret, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept the resignation of Sergeant Leonard Rogutski in the Bloomsburg Police Department. Sgt. Rogutski's last day of service will be January 6, 2024.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT JOSEPH WONDOLOSKI'S RESIGNATION AS EMA COORDINATOR WITH HIS LAST DAY OF SERVICE BEING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept the resignation of Joseph Wondoloski as EMA Coordinator with his last day of service being December 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE FROM WEX TO FLORES FOR THE HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT FOR 2024.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to change from WEX to Flores for the health reimbursement account for 2024.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A SEDA-COG INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,560 FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 CDBG-DR HONEYSUCKLE LANE STORMWATER MITIGATION.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a SEDA-COG invoice in the amount of \$3,560 for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 CDBG-DR Honeysuckle Lane Stormwater Mitigation.

APPROVAL OF SEDA-COG INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,290 FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 CDBG-DR HONEYSUCKLE LANE STORMWATER MITIGATION.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a SEDA-COG invoice in the amount of \$5,290 for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 CDBG-DR Honeysuckle Lane Stormwater Mitigation.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A SEDA-COG INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,550 FOR THE HOME PROGRAM.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a SEDA-COG invoice in the amount of \$1,550 for the HOME program.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A SEDA-COG INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,954 FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2022 CDBG ENTITLEMENT – W. PINE AVENUE PARKING LOT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a SEDA-COG invoice in the amount of \$9,954 for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 CDBG Entitlement – W. Pine Avenue parking lot.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A SEDA-COG INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,954 FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2022 CDBG ENTITLEMENT – E. PINE AVENUE PARKING LOT.

On a motion by J. Kressler, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a SEDA-COG invoice in the amount of \$9,954 for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 CDBG Entitlement – E. Pine Avenue parking lot.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE RETURNING \$781.85 IN UNUSED FUNDS TO PEMA FOR THE FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved returning \$781.85 in unused funds to PEMA for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant program.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CLOSING BANK ACCOUNT: FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM ACCOUNT ENDING WITH 9840 WITH JOURNEY BANK.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved closing bank account: Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant program account ending with 9840 with Journey Bank.

APPROVAL TO REMOVE VINCE DEMELFI AS A CHECK SIGNOR EFFECTIVE 12/31/2023 WITH JOURNEY BANK.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to remove Vince DeMelfi as a check signor effective 12/31/2023 with Journey Bank.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE BONNIE CRAWFORD AS A CHECK SIGNOR EFFECTIVE 1/1/2024 WITH JOURNEY BANK.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously Council approved Bonnie Crawford as a check signor effective 1/1/2024 with Journey Bank.

RECOMMENDATION TO END THE SIX (6) MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR JAMES LETTERMAN IN THE RECYCLING DEPARTMENT WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF 12/12/2023.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved ending the six (6) month probationary period for James Letterman in the Recycling department with the effective date of 12/12/2023.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO BONNIE CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32.50 FOR 2022 FOUNTAIN DECORATIONS AND \$95.08 FOR 2023 FOUNTAIN DECORATIONS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted 6-0-1 (Bonnie abstained), Council approved payment to Bonnie Crawford in the amount of \$32.50 for 2022 fountain decorations and \$95.08 for 2023 fountain decorations.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT \$6,000 FROM THE BLOOMSBURG PILOTS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PURCHASING THE SAY WEATHER STATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,848.75 FOR THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. NOTE: \$32,000 FROM THE 2022 GENERAL FUND WILL BE APPLIED TOWARDS THIS PURCHASE AND \$5,848.75 OF AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to accept \$6,000 from the Bloomsburg pilots to move forward with purchasing the Say Weather Station in the amount of \$43,848.75 for the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport. Note: \$32,000 from the 2022 General Fund will be applied towards this purchase and \$5,848.75 of American Rescue Funds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A SPRING UNPAID INTERNSHIP WITH THE BLOOMSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT- AMITY SELL.

Council acknowledged Amity Sell for a spring unpaid internship with the Bloomsburg Police Department.

APPROVAL TO HAVE MICHAEL REFFEOR SERVE AS TREASURER FOR THE PA ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to have Michael Reffeor serve as Treasurer for the PA Association of Floodplain Managers.

APPROVAL OF 2024 HEALTH CARE.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the 2024 health care with Geisinger.

APPROVAL OF THE USW LOCAL 1928-06 AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG FOR AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT THROUGH 1/31/2024.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the USW Local 1928-06 agreement with the Town of Bloomsburg for an extension agreement through 1/31/2024.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE LEAVING THE MARKET STREET BIKE PATH UNTOUCHED UNTIL FUTURE NEWS ARRIVES FOR THE GRANTS THAT WERE APPLIED FOR.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 6 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved leaving the Market Street bike path untouched until future news arrives for the grants that were applied for.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER THREE FOR THE BART PROJECT WITH MITCHELL KNORR CONTRACTING IN THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$89,369.76. NOTE: THIS CHANGE ORDER ALSO INCLUDES A DATE EXTENSION UNTIL MAY 1, 2024.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order three for the BART project with Mitchell Knorr Contracting in the increased amount of \$89,369.76. Note: this change order also includes a date extension until May 1, 2024.

APPROVAL OF PAY APPLICATION FIVE FOR THE BART PROJECT TO MITCHELL KNORR CONTRACTING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,009.88.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved pay application five for the BART project to Mitchell Knorr Contracting in the amount of \$160,009.88.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER THREE REGARDING A DECREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,799.15 WITH ROBERT C. YOUNG FOR THE PARKING LOT PROJECTS.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order three regarding a decrease in the amount of \$32,799.15 with Robert C. Young for the parking lot projects.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM EQUIPMENT DEPOT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,891 FOR BOLT ON FORKS CONVERSION ATTACHMENT FOR THE RECYCLING CENTER.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Equipment Depot in the amount of \$2,891 for bolt on forks conversion attachment for the Recycling Center.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM SWISHER DISPOSAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700 PER MONTH SEPTEMBER-APRIL AND \$740 PER MONTH MAY-AUGUST FOR SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE PICK UP AT RECYCLING, PUBLIC WORKS AND THE NORRIS E. ROCK MEMORIAL POOL.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Swisher Disposal in the amount of \$700 per month September-April and \$740 per month May-August for solid waste and refuse pick up at Recycling, Public Works and the Norris E. Rock Memorial Pool.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN INVOICE FROM THE RECYCLING EQUIPMENT CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,825.60 FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE BALER AT THE RECYCLING CENTER.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice from Recycling Equipment Corporation in the amount of \$2,825.60 for emergency repairs to the baler at the Recycling Center.

APPROVAL OF AN INVOICE FROM MITCHELL KNORR CONTRACTING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,800 FOR SITE WORK AT THE NEW ENTRANCE AT THE COMPOST SITE.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice from Mitchell Knorr Contracting in the amount of \$3,800 for site work at the new entrance at the compost site.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN ANNUAL EXPLORER POST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an Annual Explorer Post Memorandum of Understanding for the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

APPROVAL OF AN INVOICE FROM BUSCH SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,740.45 FOR RECYCLING BINS. NOTE: THIS EXPENSE WILL BE REIMBURSED THROUGH A GRANT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice from Busch Systems in the amount of \$7,740.45 for recycling bins. Note: this expense will be reimbursed through a grant.

APPROVAL TO NOT HAVE THE BLOOMSBURG AREA RECREATIONAL TRAIL MAINTAINED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS ALONG WITH THE BIKE PATH ON MARKET STREET.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved not to have the Bloomsburg Area Recreational Trail maintained during the winter months and the bike path on Market Street being maintained.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO TO DCNR GRANT LWCF 42-01608 FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BALL FIELDS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved amendment number two to DCNR grant LWCF 42-01608 for additional funding for the ball fields.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO SOKOL, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,660.00.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Sokol, Inc. in the amount of \$4,660.00.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO SOKOL, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,041.60 FOR REMOVAL AND HAULING OF STREET SWEEPER WASTE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Sokol, Inc. in the amount of \$11,041.60 for street sweeper waste.

APPROVAL OF SIGNING AN AMENDED AGREEMENT REGARDING THE LEASE WITH P3 TOWERS AT THE BLOOMSBURG RECYCLING CENTER.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved signing an amended agreement regarding the lease with P3 Towers at the Bloomsburg Recycling Center.

APPROVAL OF SIGNING THE PUNCH LIST COMPLETION AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER POOL RENOVATIONS, INC.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved signing the punch list completion agreement with Premier Pool Renovations, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH NO NONSENSE NEUTERING.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved applying for a grant through No Nonsense Neutering.

APPROVAL TO RELEASE \$11,833 OF ESCROW FUNDS RELATING TO THE VEOLIA LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. NOTE: THIS FINAL AMOUNT WILL CLEAR OUT THE FULL PERFORMANCE BOND ON RECORD FOR THIS PROJECT.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to release \$11,833 of escrow funds relating to the Veolia land development project. This final amount will clear out the full performance bond on record for the project.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A WAIVER REQUEST FOR CASA REALTY, LLC 347 FAIR STREET, ALLOWING REBAR TO BE SET IN LIEU OF REQUIRING MONUMENTS TO BE SET AT ALL EXTERIOR CORNERS.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6-0-1 (J. Hummel abstained), Council approved a waiver for CASA Realty, LLC 347 Fair Street, allowing rebar to be set in lieu of requiring monuments to be set at all exterior corners.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR CASA REALTY, LLC , 347 FAIR STREET - LOT CONSOLIDATION WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS BEING MET:

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on 6-0-1 (J. Hummel abstained), Council granted conditional approval for CASA Realty, LLC 347 Fair Street, lot consolidation with the following conditions:

1. The Columbia County Planning Commission comments shall be mitigated.
2. The plan shall be signed by the plan preparer.
3. The "Certificate of Ownership and Acknowledgement of Lot Consolidation Plan" statement provided on the Plan shall be signed by the Owner and notarized.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF MINOR SUBDIVISION - 520 KRESSLER AVENUE – WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS BEING MET:

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council granted conditional approval for a minor subdivision at 520 Kressler Avenue with the following conditions:

1. The Columbia County Planning Commission comments shall be mitigated.
2. The "Certificate of Ownership and Acknowledgement of Plan" shall be signed by the Owner and notarized.

3. Restrictions in the legal description of the lot must be added to ensure compliance requiring a building permit, financial security, and stormwater analysis to address any future planned development onsite.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING THE PEDALCYCLE ORDINANCE.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 2 to 5 (Hummel and McGaw voting yes, Bell, Crawford, Garman, DeMelfi and Kressler voting no), Council voted not to advertise the pedalcycle ordinance. The ordinance will be sent back to Committee for discussion.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE INCREASING THE EAST 2ND STREET METERED SPACES TO \$2.00/HOUR AND ALL OTHER PARKING SPACES TO \$0.75/HOUR.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 6 to 1 (DeMelfi voting no), Council approved increasing the East 2nd Street metered spaces to \$2.00/hour and all other parking spaces to \$0.75/hour.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGING/INCREASING THE FOLLOWING PARKING ITEMS:

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 6 to 1 (McGaw voting no), Council approved changes/increases to the following parking items:

- Discontinue head in Parking fines.
- Expired meter increased from \$10 to \$20.
- Street maintenance fines decrease from \$40 to \$25.
- Fire hydrant fine increase from \$50 to \$100.
- Handicapped parking fine increase from \$50 to \$100.
- Blocking driveway or garage fine increase from \$40 to \$50.
- Parked on private property fine increase from \$40 to \$50.

APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING FEES ON THE FEE SCHEDULE TO BEGIN JANUARY 2, 2024:

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to increase the following fees on the fees schedule beginning January 2, 2024.

- Meter space rentals increase from \$10 to \$15.
- Boot fee increase from \$75 to \$150.
- Temporary parking permits increase from \$2 to \$5.
- Discontinue summer parking permit.

Mayor Hummel acknowledged the passing of Corey Kreischer. Mr. Kreischer previously worked for the Town and was a regular attendee of Council meetings. Mayor Hummel noted that Mr. Kreischer was an example of good citizenry of being involved and had insightful questions. Council member Nicholas McGaw mentioned Mr. Kreischer's fundamentals and kindness.

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned into an executive session at 9:11 p.m. regarding a pool litigation matter and did not reconvene. The executive session lasted until 9:54 p.m.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer