

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD
BRISTOL, PA 19007

November 21, 2016

COUNCIL MEETING

President Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Roll Call:	President Bowen	Present
	Vice President Longhitano	Absent
	Mr. Allen	Present
	Mr. Antonello	Present
	Mr. Glasson	Present
	Mr. Monahan	Present
	Mrs. Murphy	Present

Also Present: William J. McCauley, III, Township Manager; Scott Swichar, Deputy Township Manager; Edward Zanine, Deputy Township Solicitor; Kate Murphy, Township Secretary.

Deputy Township Solicitor, Edward Zanine announced that personnel, litigation and real estate matters were discussed in Executive Session prior to the meeting.

Council President Bowen announced that the monthly reports are available for review in the Township Manager's Office and public comment on land development and official items will be taken during the meeting. In addition, residents may offer general comments at the end of the meeting.

President Bowen announced Councilwoman Amber Longhitano sends her regrets for being unable to attend tonight's meeting and wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

VOUCHER LIST & MINUTES

- A. Call for a motion to approve the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions for November 21, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Monahan to approve the outstanding voucher list and requisitions for November 21, 2016.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Glasson abstained due to absence.

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B. Call for a motion to approve minutes from the Council Meeting on October 26, 2016.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Antonello to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting on October 26, 2016.

Motion carried by a vote of 5 – 0. Mr. Glasson abstained due to absence.

President Bowen introduced the 2016 Bristol Township Promotional Video highlighting the infrastructure improvements made since 2012 and to promote the positive developments in the township. The video can be viewed on the Township’s website.

PRESENTATIONS and APPOINTMENTS

A. Presentation of Certificates of Commendations for exemplary recycling efforts.

Mr. Swichar thanked the residents for their commitment to making Bristol Township a “Greener” place to live with their outstanding recycling efforts.

B. Appointment of Special Fire Police Officers: Consideration to Appoint.

Fire Police Lieutenant, Dawn Alstatt of Newportville fire Company No. 1 requested the nomination of Edward Girardi and Michael Kemp to the appointment of Special Fire Police Officer.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Mr. Antonello to appoint Edward Girardi and Michael Kemp to the Special Fire Police.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

The Council and Township Manager thanked the Fire Police for their dedication and service to Bristol Township.

ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the PennDot Multimodal Grant Program for the Wistar Bridge Deck Replacement and Pedestrian Mobility and Safety Improvements in the Amount of \$552,500: Consideration to Adopt

Township Engineer, Kurt Schroeder, stated that throughout the years the Township has done patchwork to maintain the concrete deck of the bridge which has become costly. The Multimodal Grant would allow for the replacement of the bridge deck as well as allow for upgrades for pedestrian mobility and safety.

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Mr. Antonello asked if there existed any structural underpinning or just a deck. Mr. Schroeder stated that it is a steel deck with concrete over top.

Larry Mascia, 32 Crabtree Drive, requested that the plaque with his mother's name be returned to him before demolition. Mr. Schroeder stated that the plaque can be mounted to the newly constructed deck if he wishes.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Glasson Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the PennDot Multimodal Grant Program for the Wistar Bridge Deck Replacement and Pedestrian Mobility and Safety Improvements in the Amount of \$552,500.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

B. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the PennDot Multimodal Grant Program for the Streetscape Enhancement and Pedestrian Connection Improvement Project in the Amount of \$3,000,000: Consideration to Adopt.

Mr. McCauley stated that Council is in receipt of a Preliminary Analysis for a Beautification Program for the benefit of its residents, visitors and businesses. As a first step in the planning process and potential budget discussions, a preliminary analysis was conducted to identify important gateways, intersections, sidewalks, streetscapes and design concepts for review. The level of investment the Township will make depends on the amount of grant money received, however the Township is prepared to put Capital money up to do a base level of approximately \$1.7 million and if the grant money is received through the PennDot Multimodal Program the amount invested would extend to \$3 million to place pedestrian walkways and other beautification projects.

McCauley asked Council to authorize the submittal of the grant application.

Mr. Schroeder added that this is the same grant program as the Wistar Bridge Deck Replacement.

Mr. Antonello inquired on what areas would be targeted.

McCauley stated there are six (6) focus areas that include New Falls Road; Mill Creek Parkway; Bristol Pike/Route 13; Veterans Highway/Route 413; South Oxford Valley Road and Levittown Neighborhoods. McCauley further stated that discussions with PennDot would be necessary due to the fact the most blighted areas are State Highways. The Township is willing to use our monies but it would be nice if the Commonwealth and PennDot would contribute to the project.

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Mrs. Murphy Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the PennDot Multimodal Grant Program for the Streetscape Enhancement and Pedestrian Connection Improvement Project in the Amount of \$3,000,000.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

- C. A Resolution of the Township of Bristol Authorizing the Submission of an Application for Traffic Signal Approval for Edgely Road and Mill Creek Road and the Township Manager to Sign the Application: Consideration to Adopt.**

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Allen to Approve a Resolution of the Township of Bristol Authorizing the Submission of an Application for Traffic Signal Approval for Edgely Road and Mill Creek Road and the Township Manager to Sign the Application.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

- D. A Resolution of the Township of Bristol Authorizing the Submission of an Open Space Grant Application to the Bucks County Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager to Sign the Application: Consideration to Adopt.**

Motion by Mr. Antonello and seconded by Mr. Glasson Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Bucks County Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager to Sign the Application.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Township Manager McCauley stated the Township is in receipt of check in the amount of \$27,627.00 from the Housing and Redevelopment Insurance Exchange which represents the results of the Township's 2015 Workers Compensation and Liability Audit.

The Township is in receipt of an arbitration award from Lawrence S. Coburn, Arbitrator in respect to the change of insurance carrier from Keystone 5 to the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust (DVHIT) for the police and retirees. As a result of the previous arbitration award the Township moved the police employees into DVHIT, which 90 percent of municipalities in Bucks and Montgomery County are members and enjoy the coverage received. The Police Benevolent Association (PBA) represented that the Township violated the PBA agreement by changing insurance carriers. The Arbitrator ruled that because there were two areas that required a \$20 co-payment for mental health versus a \$5 co-payment with Keystone 5 and a \$20 co-payment for orthoptic and pleoptic therapy versus a zero co-payment with Keystone 5, while not taking into consideration the areas in which DVHIT provides better and more extension coverage than Keystone 5, the Arbitrator ruled that the Township has to place the covered employees back into the Keystone 5 plan by March 1, 2017. McCauley stated that this is illustrative of the problems for management and municipalities in getting a leveled playing field be it in arbitration, the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board or trying to get assistance from the legislature. The full family

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health insurance for these employees cost over \$30,000 per year with no contribution by the employee. Meanwhile the Bristol Township taxpayer continues to get hit. McCauley explained that the process is broken in if you can choose from a pool of ten (10) arbitrators eight will be biased towards the union, one will be so-so and one will be fair and impartial consequently the chances of getting relief are slim. The Township is faced with \$85 million dollars in unfunded liabilities and the Township is doing a great job on a year to year bases but the fact of the matter is that the future for Bristol Township is either selling assets or bankruptcy and quite frankly the Township does not have enough assets to sell as our sewer plant would not raise the necessary capital in order to reserve as the Township is pushing \$30 million to have on hand for the \$85 million. Of the \$85 million, \$75 million of that is the post-retirement health insurance that has been a financial albatross around the Township's neck since its implementation. The last time the Township went to arbitration for financial relief not only was relief denied but the DROP program was awarded to the officers which immediately added an additional \$1 million to the unfunded liabilities. No other municipality, including the wealthy ones, has post-retirement benefits to the extent that Bristol Township does, where even after death the benefits for those in the household are paid. The Township pays roughly \$2 million a year on post-retirement benefits which is not sustainable. The Township did a \$11.4 million taxable bond in 2008 and the money was deposited into their account and unfortunately the equity market went down that year. McCauley stated that it is incumbent upon him to contact DCD and start the bankruptcy conversation. All that the Township has done has been done ourselves and unless Harrisburg can offer assistance the sad message being delivered to the Council is that the future of Bristol Township is bankruptcy.

President Bowen stated this is not the Township saying the officers do not deserve to be paid appropriately especially within the last two years and what they do and how hard they work, the problem lies in figuring out a way to pay for everything.

McCauley stated the Township has a fine department and our people do a great job it is just a question of financial sustainability. The Township is over 18 mills for general purposes and you can only go to 30 mills under the First Class Township Code and that would give the Township 4.8 million dollars which is not enough as we would need to be close to 30 million which would further cripple the taxpayer. Bristol is not the highest millage rate in Bucks County but the Bristol School District is the highest.

McCauley continued that the reason the Township went to DVHIT was to control cost and if you look at the budget historical Council is spending less money than in 2010 and 2011 from utilities to trash service and have cut cost in every way imaginable but the magnitude of the problem is so great that we are not seeing a relief.

Mr. Glasson inquired if bankruptcy were filed would that relieve the Township of the benefits package and arbitration awards.

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Mr. McCauley stated that what he has read about municipalities that have availed themselves to bankruptcy the contracts go away and the municipality has the opportunity to redo the benefits.

Mr. Allen asked if Philadelphia stops at five years once Medicare is reached and what are the general negatives of bankruptcy for a municipality.

Mr. McCauley stated that the negatives include having a third party oversee your finances and would stay on your books for quite some time hindering future financial endeavors.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Edward Zanine on behalf of Flager & Associates wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Application for Preliminary Subdivision/ Land Development Approval from Two Farms Inc. (a Maryland Corp.), 3611 Roland Ave., Baltimore MD, in order to consolidate three parcels, construct a Royal Farms convenience store w/gasoline, a restaurant w/drive-thru and a bank on the properties located at 3105 & 3113 Veterans Highway, Bristol (Tax Parcels #5-20-5-1, 5-20-5-2, 5-20-4 & 5-20-5) in a C-Commercial zoned district of Bristol Township: Consideration to take Appropriate Action.**

Christen G. Pionzio, of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin, PC, presented Royal Farms application for Preliminary Subdivision/Land Development in order to consolidate three parcels, construct a Royal Farms convenience store w/gasoline, a restaurant w/drive-thru and a bank on the properties located at 3105 & 3113 Veterans Highway, Bristol (Tax Parcels #5-20-5-1, 5-20-5-2, 5-20-4 & 5-20-5) in a C-Commercial zoned district of Bristol Township. The client has received conditional use approval from Council, been to the Zoning Hearing Board and received all zoning relief and have filed a land development application for preliminary and final approval, a recommendation from the Planning Commission has been presented for approval of the application and all the waivers requested. A draft approval resolution from the Township Solicitor has been reviewed by the client and all conditions within the resolution have been approved for signage by the client. Royal Farms is a hybrid of retail sales, dine in fast food and eight gas pumps along Veterans Highway with a right-in and right-out along the highway. There is a full access drive out to Ford Road via an easement from the property owner of the hardware store. A bank and a fast food place holders have been placed at the corner of property for a suitable and acceptable vendor. A connection to the apartments next door for pedestrian walking has been provided. All the required landscaping has been provided along the property.

Mrs. Murphy asked if the Township Engineer had comments concerning the proposed property.

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Mr. Schroeder stated there are outstanding approvals and waivers needed which are outlined in the resolution as a will comply.

Motion by Mr. Antonello and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Approve the Application for Preliminary Subdivision/ Land Development Approval from Two Farms Inc. (a Maryland Corp.), 3611 Roland Ave., Baltimore MD, in order to consolidate three parcels, construct a Royal Farms convenience store w/gasoline, a restaurant w/drive-thru and a bank on the properties located at 3105 & 3113 Veterans Highway, Bristol (Tax Parcels #5-20-5-1, 5-20-5-2, 5-20-4 & 5-20-5) in a C-Commercial zoned district of Bristol Township.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

President Bowen requested the client to reach out to local trades and inquired to when construction may start.

Ms. Pionzio stated as soon as possible.

B. Proposal from Cohen Law Group to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services: Consideration to Accept.

Mr. McCauley stated that the fee of \$16,920 is a discounted fee as the Township retains Cohen Law Group for the Verizon Franchise Agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Approve the Proposal from Cohen Law Group to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Allen abstained due to a conflict of interest.

C. Bids for 2016-2018 Snow Plowing: Consideration to take Appropriate Action.

Mr. McCauley stated it is the recommendation of the administration to reject the one bid that was received and that the Township is already sending out to bid again as is required by PennDot to use Liquid Fuels monies.

Mr. Antonello asked who submitted the bid. McCauley stated the bid received was from ABC Construction.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Mr. Antonello to Reject the Bid for 2016-2018 Snow Plowing.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

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D. First Reading of Proposed 2017 Township Budget and Authorization of Advertisement of Notice of Availability for Public Inspection: Consideration to Approve.

Township Manager McCauley stated that Council is in receipt of the 2017 proposed budget of \$55,274,380 with no tax increases, rate increases or fee increases being proposed. The main components are the General Fund of \$23,888,500; the Capital Fund of \$5,364,000; the Refuse Fund of \$5,281,400; the Liquid Fuels Fund of \$1,915,000 and the Sewer Fund of \$11,749,180 which includes the \$6 million for the wastewater treatment project.

If the proposed budget were enacted the average homeowner would pay \$428.69 in real estate taxes with a refuse fee of \$317 for a total of \$745.69. In 2010, the average resident paid \$766 for real estate tax and refuse fee. The General Millage would remain at 18.08; Recreation at .9; Fire at 2 mills; Rescue at .55; the Debt Fund at 2.45 mills for a total millage of 23.98 mills which is the same as 2016.

Council action is in order to authorize the advertisement of notice availability for public inspection and the public hearing will be at the December 15, 2016 Council Meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Monahan to Approve Authorization of Advertisement of Notice of Availability for Public Inspection.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Bowen announced the Tree Lighting will be Sunday December 4th at the Township Building.

President Bowen also thanked the employees for an excellent job on the Christmas Parade.

Mr. Allen thanked the owner of the Haines Road 7-11 for opening the employee bathroom to the parade participants.

Mr. Antonello announced Truman High School will have their breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 10th.

Mr. Glasson announced that Levittown Fire Company No. 2 will be selling Christmas trees.

Council wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

West Rexler, West Bristol, discussed issues unrelated to the Agenda.

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Gerard Lykon, Bath Road, announced that Lykon Automotive along with other business owners will be donating a Christmas to a needy family through an organization named Christmas Blessings. On Sunday December 4th residents can get their pictures taken with Santa while supporting a great cause. For more information please contact Lykon Automotive at 215-788-6088.

Motion by Mr. Antonello and seconded by the entire Council to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

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RECAP OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

1. Approved the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions from November 21, 2016.
2. Approved the October 26, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Presented Monthly Awards for Exemplary Recycling Performance.
4. Appointed Edward Girardi and Michael Kemp as Special Fire Police Officers.
5. Approved Resolution 2016-58 Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the PennDOT Multimodal Grant Program for the Wistar Bridge Deck Replacement and Pedestrian Mobility and Safety Improvements in the Amount of \$701,250.00.
6. Approved Resolution 2016-59 Authorizing the Township Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Application to the PennDOT Multimodal Grant Program for the Streetscape Enhancement and Pedestrian Connection Improvement Project in the Amount of \$3,000,000.
7. Approved Resolution 2016-60 Authorizing the Submission of an Application for Traffic Signal Approval for Edgely Road and Mill Creek Road and the Township Manager to Sign the Application.
8. Approved Resolution 2016-61 Authorizing the Submission of an Open Space Grant Application to the Bucks County Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager to Sign the Application.
9. Approved Resolution 2016-62 for Preliminary Subdivision/ Land Development Approval from Two Farms Inc. (a Maryland Corp.), 3611 Roland Ave., Baltimore MD, in order to consolidate three parcels, construct a Royal Farms convenience store w/gasoline, a restaurant w/drive-thru and a bank on the properties located at 3105 & 3113 Veterans Highway, Bristol (Tax Parcels #5-20-5-1, 5-20-5-2, 5-20-4 & 5-20-5) in a C-Commercial zoned district of Bristol Township.
10. Approved Proposal from Cohen Law Group to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services.
11. Rejected the Bid from ABC Construction for Snow Plowing.
12. Approved First Reading of Proposed 2017 Township Budget and Authorization of Advertisement of Notice of Availability for Public Inspection.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm.