

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD
BRISTOL, PA 19007

November 19, 2015

COUNCIL MEETING

President Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call:	Mr. Bailey	Present
	Mr. Brennan	Present
	Mr. Glasson	Present
	Mr. Monahan	Present
	Ms. Murphy	Present
	Vice President Longhitano	Present
	President Bowen	Present

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.

Council President Bowen stated matters of personnel and litigation items were discussed in executive session prior to the meeting.

VOUCHER LIST & MINUTES

- A. Call for a motion to approve the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions for November 19, 2015

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Mr. Glasson to approve the outstanding voucher list and requisitions for November 19, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- B. Call for a motion to approve minutes from the Council Meeting on October 28, 2015

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Vice President Longhitano to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on October 28, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

COMMENDATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS

- A. President Bowen presented Certificate of Commendations and \$50 gift cards from TD Bank for exemplary recycling efforts.

Deputy Township Manager, Scott Swichar, announced the final yard waste collection dates and stated that yard waste collection will officially conclude by Monday December 14, 2015. Mr. Swichar stated that residents should only dispose of leaves in brown paper bags or hard containers rather than plastic bags.

Swichar stated that as part of the “Get Caught Recycling Campaign” the Township’s Environmental Officer inspects resident’s trash and recycling containers to make sure they are recycling. He stated that the Township randomly picks two residents who are doing a great job recycling and awards each family with a \$50 gift card at the monthly Council meeting.

Swichar thanked TD Bank for their sponsorship of Bristol Township’s “Get Caught Recycling Campaign.” Swichar thanked township residents for their recycling efforts, and then presented the Roth family of Levittown and the Monroe family of Levittown each with a \$50 gift card from TD Bank.

Mr. Swichar reminded residents there would be no trash collection on Thanksgiving Day.

- B. Appointment of Special Fire Police Officer: Consideration to Appoint.

Mr. McCauley stated that Croydon Fire Company has nominated Tanya Zeekovich (SP?) to the appointment of Special Fire Police.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to appoint Tanya Zeekovich to the Special Fire Police.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- C. Appointment of Council Member to Blight Committee

Mr. McCauley stated that at the direction of Council, the administration will increase its efforts to tackle blight and eliminate vacant houses. Further he stated that the Blight Committee needs to be updated. Mr. McCauley appointed the Director of Building and Planning, Tom Scott to the committee and recommended that a Council member be appointed to the Blight Committee.

Motion by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Glasson to appoint President Bowen to the Blight Committee.

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0, President Bowen abstained due to a conflict of interest.

D. Presentation on Blight Abatement Program.

President Bowen stated that despite the challenges of abating blighted or vacant homes, Council is committed to increasing its abatement efforts.

Township Manager McCauley introduced Project Manager, Randee Elton, who has been hired to manage the blight abatement program and that Council has identified blight as a high priority. Mr. McCauley stated that the Township will partner with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority and invest \$1 million to abate blight.

Randee Elton gave an overview of guidelines for demolishing a blighted structure, explained the definition of a blighted property, and discussed the steps needed to blight a property. Ms. Elton stated there are approximately 200 homes on the blighted property list.

Mr. Brennan stated the program will encourage banks to clean up properties in their possession and sell them more quickly.

Council member-elect Patrick Antonello questioned if the Township could abate multiple homes at once rather than one home at a time.

Mr. Brennan stated that the Township will allocate \$1 million for administrative fees and to purchase blighted properties and that the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority will sell the blighted property. Mr. Brennan stated that the Township will recover its money after the property is sold.

Mr. Bowen questioned Ms. Elton's background. Ms. Elton stated she has 15 years government experience in planning, a Master in Public Administration degree and was a former assistant township manager.

Mr. McCauley stated that the funding for the program will come from \$1 million surplus funds in the Capital Fund in order to abate 10-15 properties a year. He stated that the program will be a revolving fund that will pay for itself and replenish when the properties.

E. Presentation from Kurt Schroeder on Municipal Complex Circulation and Accessibility Improvements.

Mr. Schroeder gave an overview of the proposed exterior improvements to the municipal complex.

He stated that the proposed renovations include accessibility improvements to comply with ADA regulations, beautification enhancements, signage, and traffic improvement upgrades to reduce

liability. He stated that he has provided initial cost estimates to the Township and that a final design will be provided to the Township.

President Bowen questioned if new curbs would be installed. Mr., Schroeder stated that curbs in good condition would be saved, but that many new curbs and sidewalks would need to be installed.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 160, Article IV, Sewer Use Regulations for Bristol Township System, of the Code of the Township of Bristol, By Establishing Uniform Pretreatment Requirements for the Users of the Bristol Township Wastewater Treatment Facility: Consideration to Adopt.

Mr. McCauley stated that since the township's waste water treatment plant is under a consent order with the E.P.A, they are required to update pretreatment requirements for industrial users. Mr. McCauley stated that the Township has increased enforcement actions of industrial users who violate their pre-treatment agreements, and that they recently negotiated a \$100,000 settlement with an industrial user in the township.

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to amend Chapter 160, Article IV, Sewer Use Regulations for Bristol Township System , of the Code of the Township of Bristol, by establishing uniform pretreatment requirements for the users of the Bristol Township wastewater treatment facility.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

B. A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Equipment: Consideration to Adopt

Mr. McCauley stated that a 1993 mobile command bus will be sold.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Glasson authorizing the sale of a 1993 mobile command bus.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

C. A Resolution Requesting the Township's Federal and State Legislative Delegations Prepare and Submit Legislation Authorizing Municipalities to Exercise Control over Group Homes, Recovery and Halfway Houses and Further Limit the Number of Such Institutions by Requiring Every Municipality to Have its "Fair Share" of such Residential Institutions Located inside their Boundaries: Consideration to Adopt.

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Mr. Edward Zanine, on behalf of Solicitor Randy Flager, stated that Council had requested that his office to prepare a Resolution to encourage state and federal legislators to enact legislation that would address the issue of recovery homes and limit the number of recovery home institutions in Bristol Township. He stated that the Resolution would be mailed to state and federal legislators as well as Bucks County Commissioners.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Ms. Murphy to adopt a Resolution requesting the township's federal and state legislative delegations prepare and submit legislation authorizing municipalities to exercise control over group homes, recovery and halfway houses and further limit the number of such institutions by requiring every municipality to have its "fair share" of such residential institutions located inside their boundaries.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. McCauley stated he had no formal report. .

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Mr. Zanine, on behalf of Solicitor Flager, stated he had no formal report.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for Waiver of Land Development from SFF Realty Associates, LLC for property located at 510-516 Browns Lane, Croydon (Tax Parcel #5-007-010) in order to construct an accessory garage in an M-1 Light Manufacturing zoned district: Consideration to Approve.

Attorney Mike Peters, of Eastburn and Grey, on behalf of SFF Realty Associates, stated that the property's tenant is Straightforward Fence Company. He stated their proposal is to build a 4,132 square foot parking garage on an existing pad and they are willing to comply with the engineer's review letter.

Ms. Murphy questioned the location of the property. Mr. Peters stated that 501 Browns Lane is located at the bend in the road and the commercial space is located behind the homes.

Vice President Longhitano questioned who owns the property. Mr. Peters stated that SFF Realty owns the property.

President Bowen questioned what product is being made at the site. Mr. Peters stated that the tenant is a fencing company and that fences will be stored in the garage.

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Township Engineer Kurt Schroeder stated that the review letter is fairly straightforward, however the property may be located in a flood plain, and that a variance would be needed if it is determined to be in a flood plain. He stated that the project is suitable for a waiver of the land development process.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Mr. Monahan to approve the waiver of land development from SFF Realty Associates, LLC for the property located at 510-516 Browns Lane, Croydon (Tax Parcel #5-007-010) in order to construct an accessory garage in an M-1 Light Manufacturing zoned district:

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- B. Change Order #1 dated November 11, 2015 for Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. Modifications to the Traffic Signal Improvement Project in the Amount of \$23,104.00: Consideration to Approve

Mr. McCauley stated the traffic signal improvements are funded by the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority and that grant funding is available for the additional upgrades.

Motion by Ms. Longhitano and seconded by Ms. Murphy to approve change order #1 dated November 11, 2015 for Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. modifications to the Traffic Signal Improvement Project in the Amount of \$23,104.00

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- C. Change Order #1 for Sewer Specialty Services, Inc. in the Amount of \$58,495.25 for Additional Work under the 2015 Inflow and Infiltration Project Contract: Consideration to Approve .

Township Manager McCauley stated that the township spends a considerable amount of money each year to improve its sewer collection system. He stated that the additional work would provide for even more improvements to the collection system.

Motion By Ms. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Monahan to approve change order #1 for Sewer Specialty Services, Inc. in the Amount of \$58,495.25 for additional work under the 2015 inflow and infiltration project contract.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- D. *First Reading of Proposed 2016 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 2016 proposed budget of \$52,690,925 and that no increase in millage is proposed. Millage will

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stay at 23.98, the trash fee will remain \$317, and the sewer fee will not be increased. He recommended that Council authorize the advertisement of the 2016 budget and stated a formal budget hearing is scheduled for December 17.

Mr. McCauley stated that the millage rate was in fact reduced in 2012 and 2015, and that taxes were held steady in 2013 and 2014.

Motion by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to approve the 2016 proposed budget authorization of advertisement of notice of availability for public inspection.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

John Riotto, of 2160 Maple Avenue, questioned if the Earned Income Tax would be increased.

President Bowen stated the current Council would not increase the Earned Income Tax.

Mr. Brennan stated that the Bristol Township School District requested that the township increase the E.I.T by .5%, but they are not willing to do so.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Longhitano stated that she received a message about leash laws not being enforced. She also questioned whether residents could be notified about the flood plain issue. Ms. Longhitano stated that residents and political leaders need to work together on the issue of recovery homes. She stated that a house bill was recently passed regarding recovery homes and that she will not press for a moratorium at this point.

President Bowen stated that the Keystone Playground committee will hold a fundraiser on November 22 at the Bristol Pike Bowling Lanes to support the construction of new playgrounds at the Mary Devine School. He stated that the Township will have a holiday parade on November 21 at 12:00 pm.

President Bowen stated that there are two vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board. He recommended that Fred Breaker and Sue Lewis be appointed to the board.

Motion by John Monahan and seconded by Mr. Brennan to appoint Fred Breaker, of 44 Begonia Lane and Sue Lewis, of 1100 Newportville Road to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

President Bowen stated there is a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission. He recommended that his son, Shane Bowen be appointed to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion by Ms. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Glasson to appoint Mr. Shane Bowen to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

Township Engineer Kurt Schroeder stated that an Ordinance was adopted by Council in March 2015 that re-delineated the flood zone map, however all communities starting receiving notices about newly amended flood plain maps in May 2015. He stated that approximately 1,100 residents will be affected by the revised flood maps. He stated that notifications will be made to residents that are affected by the revised flood plain maps. Mr. Schroeder stated that there FEMA is implementing an appeals process and that residents can hire a land surveyor or contact the Township for assistance with the process.

Vice President Longhitano questioned if notification letters that would explain the process could be sent to residents affected by the change.

Engineer Schroeder stated that this idea is being considered, however they will also make notifications on the township's website. He stated that the appeal process is normally 90 days, however it may be longer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Thomas Devlin, of Goodturn Drive, stated that he recently bought a house and invested \$35,000 to fix up the property. He is concerned that his property value will decrease as a result of recovery homes in his neighborhood.

Mr. Brennan stated that decreasing property values are only partially caused by recovery homes. He stated that elevated school taxes have contributed to decreasing property values and discouraged homes from being owner occupied.

Yolanda Davila, of Gooseneck Drive, stated that she is concerned about the group homes in her neighborhood and that residents of the homes need to be engaged in constructive activities. She questioned if the group homes have a manager or supervisor.

Dan Primavera, of Red Cedar, stated that he had a medical procedure at Jefferson University and questioned if this type of procedure should have been performed. He questioned if the Township Solicitor is responsible for the well-being of its residents.

Edward Zanine, on behalf of Solicitor Flager, stated that his office does not represent private citizens on behalf of the Township.

Ann Vesce, of Laurel Bend, stated that storm drains are clogged in the Laurel Bend neighborhood.

William Derkaces, of Goldenridge Drive, questioned the date of the recovery home meeting.

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President Bowen stated that the recovery home meeting would be held on November 25 at 7:00pm and that he in fact chose the date.

Township Manager McCauley stated that the November 25 date was chosen since Congress and the legislature would not be in session.

William Derkaces of Goldenridge Drive, stated that his neighborhood has deteriorated due to half-way homes.

West Rexler, of Western Drive, stated that most residents of group homes are court mandated to be there. He questioned the whereabouts of Solicitor Flager. He questioned why Don Mobley no longer attends Council meetings. He also questioned police procedures on accepting a subpoena.

President Bowen stated that he was asked why Ms. Murphy was appointed to the Board of Lower Bucks Joint Municipal Authority. He stated that Ms. Murphy was chosen because of her financial expertise since there is evidence of financial misappropriation and malfeasance related to their former Finance Officer.

Mr. Glasson stated that Levittown Fire Company #2 will be selling Christmas trees this year.

Motion by Troy Brennan and seconded by President Bowen to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

RECAP OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

1. Approved the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions from November 19, 2015. .
2. Approved the October 28, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Presented Monthly Awards for Exemplary Recycling Performance.
4. Appointed Tanya Zeekovich to the Special Fire Police.
5. Appointed President Bowen to the Blight Committee.
6. Amended Chapter 160, Article IV, Sewer Use Regulations for Bristol Township System of the Code of the Township of Bristol, by establishing uniform pretreatment requirements for the users of the Bristol Township wastewater treatment facility.
7. Authorized the sale of a 1993 mobile command bus.
8. Adopted a Resolution requesting the township's federal and state legislative delegations prepare and submit legislation authorizing municipalities to exercise control over group homes, recovery and halfway \houses and further limit the number of such institutions by requiring every municipality to have its "fair share" of such residential institutions located inside their boundaries.
9. Approve the waiver of land development from SFF Realty Associates, LLC for the property located at 510-516 Browns Lane, Croydon (Tax Parcel #5-007-010) in order to construct an accessory garage in an M-1 Light Manufacturing zoned district.
10. Approved change order #1 dated November 11, 2015 for Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. modifications to the Traffic Signal Improvement Project in the Amount of \$23,104.00
11. Approved change order #1 for Sewer Specialty Services, Inc. in the Amount of \$58,495.25 for additional work under the 2015 inflow and infiltration project contract.
12. Approve the 2016 proposed budget authorization of advertisement of notice of availability for public inspection.
13. Appointed Fred Breaker, of 44 Begonia Lane and Sue Lewis, of 1100 Newportville Road to the Zoning Hearing Board.
14. Appointed Shane Bowen to the Civil Service Commission.
15. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.