



# BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

## Office of the Township Manager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BRISTOL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A \$57.6 MILLION BUDGET AND APPROVES BRISTOL TOWNSHIP POLICE CONTRACT**

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Bristol Township Council unanimously adopted a \$57.6 million budget at their December 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. “The Council has again acted responsibly by approving a Township budget that holds property taxes steady, does not increase any fees, and keeps a tight lid on spending, but also directs resources for continued Capital Improvements and increased Public Safety,” said Council President Craig Bowen. This is the eighth adopted budget with no tax increase.

The adopted operating budget is balanced and includes funding for ten new Police Officers, mainly due to retirements, as well expanding our part-time Parks and Recreation coordinator full-time status. Bristol Township continues to deliver high quality services to Township residents. “Local government has an important role to play in making the lives of all people better and residents will see even more investments to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood,” said Bowen.

Investments that improve the quality of life in Bristol’s neighborhoods includes \$140,000 for new police patrol vehicles as well as \$125,000 capital grants for Bristol’s five volunteer fire companies and two rescue squads. Bristol Township will also continue to invest in our blight elimination program to reduce uninhabitable and vacant houses in the community. “Since the program began in late 2015, we’ve seen the number of vacant homes decrease from 208 homes down to 60. The program has significantly improved property values and stabilized our neighborhoods,” said Bowen.

The adopted budget also invests more than \$7 million to expand the Croydon Wastewater Treatment Plant, a project that has been on the horizon for many years and will finally come to fruition in 2021. The bids are due in January 2021 and Council is looking forward to awarding the bids for the addition of a second clarifier to increase Plant capacity and encourage economic growth.

Additionally, a new four-year police contract was approved at last Thursday’s Council meeting. The contract significantly aids in the reduction of the unfunded post-retirement health care liabilities in the future and is the first contractual agreement between the Township and Police Benevolent Association without requiring arbitration since 2008.

“Since coming into office eight years ago, we’ve made the tough decisions necessary to get Bristol Township headed in the right direction and we’ve become the greatest comeback story in Bucks County,” Bowen said. “I want to thank my fellow Council colleagues and staff for their hard work and dedication in adopting a budget that continues Bristol Township moving forward,” concluded Bowen.

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