

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD BRISTOL, PA 19007 (215) 785-0500 FAX (215) 785-2131

COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Tarlini at 7:04 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: personnel and litigation were discussed.

President Tarlini called for a Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members, Tarlini, Pluta, Mobley, Monahan and Davis were present.

Public comments will be taken on Land Development and Official action items. General comments will be taken during Opportunity for Residents to Address Council

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Presentations to the Youth NBA Challenge Award Winners

Mayor Fenton, Cheri Champey and Tod Collier Jr. NBA & Jr. NWA Challenge provides boys and girls a chance to display their basketball skills while learning sportsmanship. The first place champions will now have an opportunity to compete in the regional competition to be held at the Wachovia Center. They could then go on to the regional finals. Certificates of appreciation were given to the first second and third place champions.

Mayor Fenton reported the open space money has been granted. The ground behind where we have our basketball field (the farm) should be looked at. If they don't open the farm we should look into purchasing it. They approached us about it previously. President Tarlini stated I asked, if available, we might be interested in looking into this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Monahan called for the motion to approve minutes from the December 4, 2008 Council Meeting. Second by President Tarlini.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	yes
	Councilwoman Davis	yes
	Vice President Pluta	abstain-not at Dec. 4 th meeting
	President Tarlini	yes

Motion Approved: 4 ayes, 1 abstain

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
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REPORT FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR:

Mr. Bartlett reported the street light maintenance contract expired. The company is to change current rates, but will not now. We will bid the street lights. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to bid the street lights. Second by Councilman Mobley. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

Mr. Bartlett stated Pennoni completed the final phase of the contract for the TRID Program. Councilman Pluta called for the motion to authorize signing of the TRID contract. Second by Councilman Monahan. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

Mr. Bartlett reported on the Township towing ordinance fees. The towing rates and fees are different all over. All of the information will be placed on the Web Site. There will be two weeks for discussion. The ordinance will change at the March 5, 2009 meeting.

Council, Mr. Kucher and I attended a government action committee meeting because the Redevelopment Authority is marketing sites. There were two meetings with the companies interested in coming to Bristol Township. The Government Action Committee took two groups around. Potentially, one has three-hundred twenty five and one has nine-hundred jobs.

The staffs are applying for grants. The neighborhood stabilization program is due tomorrow. Only two townships are eligible for funding. We are hoping for approval.

The Pennvest Grants and H2O Funding will be used for major upgrades for the sewer system. February 13 and February 17 they are due. The federal due date is February 16, 2009. We won't know until next year if we are approved.

COUNCIL ITEMS:

- A. Councilman Monahan called for the motion to approve Release Request #5 remaining of Phase I Bristol Commerce Center (AKA Green Lane Prop.) TMP#5-69-43 in the amount of \$140,000. Second by Councilwoman Davis.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	yes
	Councilwoman Davis	yes
	Vice President Pluta	yes
	President Tarlini	yes

Motion Approved 5-0

- B. Councilman Monahan called for the motion to approve Release Request #1 Phase II-A Bristol Commerce Center (AKA Green Lane Prop) TMP#5-69-43 in the amount of \$249,658.51. Second by Councilwoman Davis.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	yes
	Councilwoman Davis	yes
	Vice President Pluta	yes
	President Tarlini	yes

Motion Approved 5-0

- C. Call for a motion to approve Resolution 02-2009 authorizing the filing of a financial assistance application to Pennvest. Discussion ensued: Councilman Mobley asked where the money will come from? Mr. Bartlett responded this is a matching grant. Vice President Pluta stated the H2O grant and a Pennvest Loan. The grant can be used against the loan. This hinges on the stimulus plan. Mrs. Richardson stated since this was approved previously it was "grandfathered", more money may be available. Councilwoman Davis stated this should have been discussed sooner. Is this money from the ballot? There is a time frame. Mr. Bartlett stated there is a short time frame. Councilman Mobley requested the Act 537 information from January (the draft) and said this is needed. Vice President Pluta called for the motion to approve Resolution number 02-2009 authorizing the filing of a financial assistance application to Pennvest. Second by Councilman Monahan.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	yes
	Councilwoman Davis	yes
	Vice President Pluta	yes
	President Tarlini	yes

Motion Approved 5-0

- D. Call for a motion to approve Resolution number 03-2009 requesting an H2O PA Grant and designating authorized officials. Discussed ensued: Councilman Mobley stated we must inform rate payers. President Tarlini stated you were aware of the rate increase and said nothing. Councilman Mobley stated it is Mr. Bartlett's responsibility. Councilman Pluta stated meetings were held, if successful, we can make improvements. We are now forced to fix it and don't have the money. President Tarlini said Robert's Rules state each Councilmember can speak two times on each item. Vice President Pluta called for the motion to approve Resolution number 03-2009 requesting an H2O PA Grant and designating authorized officials. Second by President Tarlini.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	yes
	Councilwoman Davis	yes
	Vice President Pluta	yes
	President Tarlini	yes

Motion approved 5-0

- E. Discussion of Open Space Request for Proposals (RFP). Mr. Kucher stated the Township is eligible for \$1,077,380 in municipal open space funding. I spoke to Glen Bush (Bucks County Planning Commission). Up to \$10,000 could be reimbursed from the County. This would be for our update. They are looking for a cost not over \$6,000.00. Bristol Township is eligible for funding for parts of the river front. We could contract with the Bucks County Planning Commission to perform the study. Open public meetings will be held to discuss purchasing property. Mr. Sacco stated the County will refund up to \$10,000 for the plan (full reimbursement) as soon as we close on the first property. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to authorize the contract with Bucks County Planning Commission to perform the study (Open Space). Second by Councilman Pluta.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Mobley yes
 Councilman Monahan yes
 Councilwoman Davis yes
 Vice President Pluta yes
 President Tarlini yes

Motion approved 5-0

- F. Reaffirmation of PECO Land Development: Mr. Smith stated this was approved but expired. Councilman Pluta called for the motion to approve the reaffirmation for the PECO Land Development. Second by Councilman Monahan. Councilwoman Davis asked what happened with the one or two land owners who did not sign? Mr. Smith responded I don't know if the agreements were received. Mr. Sacco stated except one, it was resurveyed and showed that it was not on the property. They didn't need it. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

REPORT FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Lawson showed a slide show with pictures during his report. The pictures showed a few snow storms and minor complaints. He explained the trucks can't get around the streets with parking on both sides of the road. The public works department tries their best but they have a hard time with the cars on the street. The Township doesn't subcontract for plowing. It takes longer but saves money. It takes ten to eleven hours to do the roads, sixteen to eighteen hours to clear them curb to curb.

The park equipment was ordered.

When Council gets emails please tell the people who email you all the time to carbon copy the public works department. We will put it on our work schedule; the list is prioritized.

Vice President Pluta requested the status of the manholes on Belmont Avenue. Mr. Lawson responded the risers and manhole covers are on. All the lids were marked sewer; they were part of the storm sewer. In the spring we will complete it permanently.

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REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE:

Chief McAndrew stated Council passed a hiring freeze. I may have a chance to assign an officer to the multi county auto theft unit. \$125,000 will be picked up by the State (funded by the insurance commission in the Commonwealth). I am asking Council's permission, if assigned could I have an officer? Councilwoman Davis asked how long has this been in effect? Chief McAndrew responded the program has been in effect for twelve years, two years are left. Councilwoman Davis requested the information. Chief McAndrew responded I would come back, would Council be okay? Councilman Monahan stated I am in favor. President Tarlini stated my concern is if they decide not to fund it we would have to lay off an officer. I want more information. How do we know funding will continue? Chief McAndrew responded as long as I know there was no problem. Councilman Mobley stated we have a hiring freeze. If the program falls someone would be laid off. Vice President Pluta asked what the actual amount (in dollars) is and strength of officers? Chief McAndrew responded seventy six officers and funding depends on the pay rate of the officer. President Tarlini stated we need something in writing for the packet tomorrow. Councilman Monahan stated we should consider this. Chief McAndrew said our officers should be commended they did twelve hour shifts while Middletown officers attended the services for Chris Jones, who died in the line of duty. I am proud of those guys. President Tarlini stated we appreciate it.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF BUILDING, PLANNING AND ZONING:

Mr. Kucher stated the Township blitz program is on for nuisance, high grass, house numbers and abandoned cars. The door knockers will be placed at the home.

Vending; we just received the last ordinance from the other Townships. I will give the information to Council.

Pathmark; it was stated at the last meeting that Pathmark was closing its' store because of the I95 turnpike connection. The turnpike will not interfere with this. Pathmark in Bristol Plaza is not closing, they said so.

Councilman Mobley asked what happened to Mr. Scott's property? Mr. Kucher stated that is still under discussion.

REPORT FROM FINANCE OFFICER:

Mrs. Gordon stated two days ago we received the audit. The sewer fund audit was received a week prior. It was late because of the scheduling of the audit firm. In March the audit will be here. We want the audit by April 15, 2009.

December invoices are posted to last year. I will report to Council. Ninety three percent of the taxes were collected in 2008. Ninety two percent were collected in 2007.

The Township Audits will be on the website. Questions can be addressed to the manager's office.

REPORT FROM SOLICITOR:

Mr. Sacco stated I have no report. To clarify public comment, prior to deliberation of an item you must take public comment and must provide time. We are complying with the sunshine law. Most townships will put an item on the agenda and ask for comments. We are complying, she is streamlining the meetings. Councilman Mobley stated I only get to speak two times on an item. President Tarlini stated each member has two times to speak. A question can be asked, no speeches, this is to get the meetings in an orderly function. Councilman Mobley stated we will have open discussion.

OTHER:

Councilman Pluta asked the residents to send letters to be on boards and commissions. The Public Works Director and Sewer Department Director were commended in their attempt to secure the facility. As sewer liaison Councilman Pluta asked that he be contacted to supply documents as needed. Councilman Mobley stated the information is public.

Councilwoman Davis thanked Amy and Jess for their kind gestures yesterday. At the last meeting, Rob's Automotive wanted to buy Weed Chevrolet. Council was thrilled (Weed Chevrolet was in the Township for eighty years). Council just got the information that night; they were not objecting to that. They did proceed and will go through the process and land development. They are thrilled about doing a lot in the Township.

President Tarlini stated we are looking for residents for boards and commissions. Your resumes would be appreciated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. N. Mormando-did not speak.
2. Gallus Obert-said the road and budget committees are vital. What is the status of Verizon getting the Township meetings? Councilwoman Davis stated they will try to fast-track this and received many calls. Mr. Obert stated residents should be allowed to direct questions to the directors. President Tarlini stated I am trying to follow the rules of order and keep the meeting moving along. Department heads are here during the public comment forum.
3. Carol Esterline-said the meetings should be open (to public speaking) as before. President Tarlini stated your comment is appreciated but this is the right way for the meeting.
4. Joan Mormando: waived time to Mrs. Richardson-Mrs. Richardson spoke of the good job Mr. Lawson did during the snow storm.
5. Anne Vesce-said the public comes out for input, now everyone will need to fill out the form or they will not be allowed to speak. Also Ms. Vesce was glad Rob's Auto got addressed because the Township needs the tax base.

6. Jake Tryon-said the people who pay the Township for the billboards should clean up under the signs or be charged for the cleanup. Mr. Bartlett stated the Township charges a fee for inspection (a sign permit). The rentals go to the property owner. I will check for the owner.
7. Susan Gulus-spoke of drainage problems in Fergusonville (Ford Road). The drainage grate has water coming out of it. The area has been flooding for years. The problem needs to be resolved. A complaint was placed with the Township. Mr. Lawson stated there was a problem; wood material was obstructing the water. We dug it out. It was corrected. We ordered a metal grate to stop the wood from going into the drain. I will look into that. Ms. Gulus stated the trucks are in and out of that area 24/7. That road wasn't made for trucks. Opus promised trucks wouldn't use that entrance. Councilman Mobley and President Tarlini agreed. Mr. Lawson stated we wouldn't put the signs on that road, it isn't dedicated. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Kucher did notify them to use the other exit. President Tarlini stated I am aware of the problem. Chief McAndrew stated I will have an officer check tomorrow and report back.
8. Bob Lewis-said the Roberts Rules process is not being followed all the time. Also the increase in sewer rates should have been discussed earlier. Councilwoman Davis said it was discussed. Mr. Lewis stated it has gone up three times. Mrs. Gordon stated the increase was ten percent. The inter-authority treatment services have gone up. Councilwoman Davis stated we have a moratorium, what would you suggest we do? Mr. Lewis responded use the engineer and the director, also don't get behind and do the infiltration study.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to adjourn. Second by President Tarlini. Poll: all ayes.
Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:00: P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Denise Gorry
Secretary

/dg

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- 1) Approve minutes from the December 4, 2008 Council Meeting.
- 2) Bid the street lights.
- 3) Authorize signing of the TRID contract.
- 4) Approve Release Request #5 remaining of Phase I Bristol Commerce Center (AKA Green Lane Prop.) TMP#5-69-43 in the amount of \$140,000.
- 5) Approve Release Request #1 Phase II-A Bristol Commerce Center (AKA Green Lane Prop) TMP#5-69-43 in the amount of \$249,658.51.
- 6) Approve Resolution number 02-2009 authorizing the filing of a financial assistance application to Pennvest.
- 7) Approve Resolution number 03-2009 requesting an H2O PA Grant and designating authorized officials.
- 8) Authorize the contract with Bucks County Planning Commission to perform the study (Open Space).
- 9) Approve the reaffirmation for the PECO Land Development.

2/5/09

	NAME	STREET ADDRESS	AGENDA (X)	OTHER (X)
1	N. MORMANDO	1319 MINDOT AV	GEN	
2	GALLUS OBERT	FARM BROOK	X	X
3				
4	CAROL ESTERLINE	BRISTOL TWP		✓
5	Joan Mormando	BRISTOL TWP (Croyden)		✓
6	ANNE Vesce	Lumel Bend - Bristol		✓
7	JAKE TRYON	905 W N KENWOOD		✓
8	Susan Gilus	1824 Ford Rd		✓
9	Bob Lewis	BRISTOL TWP	✓	✓
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NOT HERE

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8:37

100 Wilson
Dickson

9:55