

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD
BRISTOL, PA 19007

October 28, 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.

DEDICATION OF THE ROBERT (BOB) LEWIS, JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Township Manager, Bill McCauley read into the record Resolution 2015-36 dedicating the newly renovated Council Chambers in honor of Robert (Bob) Lewis, Jr.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by the entire Council to dedicate the Council Chambers in honor of Robert (Bob) Lewis, Jr.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

Solicitor Randy Flager introduced the Honorable Clyde W. Waite.

The Honorable Clyde W. Waite stated that Bob Lewis was a close friend of his and mentioned that Mr. Lewis was extremely dedicated to his community.

President Bowen presented the Resolution of Dedication to the Lewis Family and unveiled the artist rendition of the commemorative plaque .

Township Manager McCauley stated that at the suggestion of President Bowen, the plaque will be installed on the wall next to the Council Conference Room so that Council members will always pass by the plaque on their way into the conference room.

VOUCHER LIST & MINUTES

- A. Call for a motion to approve the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions for October 28, 2015

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the outstanding voucher list and requisitions for October 28, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- B. Call for a motion to approve minutes from the Council Meeting on September 17, 2015

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Glasson to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on September 17, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

COMMENDATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS

- A. President Bowen presented a Certificate of Commendation and a \$50 gift card 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 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 Lault Family of Croydon with a \$50 gift card from TD Bank.

- B. Presentation of Commendation from Special Agent-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Fort Washington office to Detective Gregory Beidler.

Commendation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent-in Charge James B. Comey to Detective Gregory Beidler for his excellent work in a violent robbery case that led to the capture and conviction of four individuals. .

- C. Progress Report from Director of Public Safety Robert Coulton on the future of the Bristol Township Police Department.

Public Safety Director, Robert Coulton, presented a progress report and an overview of the future plans of the Police Department. Mr. Coulton stated that he is seeking change in order to increase accountability and the effectiveness of the police department. Director Coulton outlined four areas necessary for operating an effective and accountable police department:

- Administration-departmental policies need to be updated and revised. PLEAC Accreditation will be pursued to ensure the department is in compliance with national best practices in policing and covers all aspects of law enforcement policies, procedures and operations.
- Personnel-Field, in-Service, specialty and records management training will be implemented to ensure compliance with policies and to promote accurate evaluations.
- Equipment-In-car digital video recorders, body –worn camera system, interview room video system and a reporting system will be installed.
- Operations-Data driven approaches to crime and traffic Safety (DDACTS) will be implemented in order to reduce the crime rate.

Bowen questioned the difference between a public safety director and police chief. Coulton stated that in New Jersey a police chief must be promoted from within and that a public safety director is an administrative position that lacks law enforcement powers. Bowen also questioned if there is a cost savings to hire a public safety director. Coulton stated that he already has a pension.

Bowen stated that the sally port is being built for safety reasons, but questioned the other reasons why the Township is building a sally port. Coulton stated that Bristol serves as a regional booking area and that a sally port is required to comply with standards.

President Bowen welcomed Robert Coulton to Bristol Township.

Township Manager McCauley stated that it is now obvious to everyone that Director Coulton is well qualified for his position.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. An Ordinance Amending the Bristol Township Pension Plan disability Retirement Provision to Comply with the Act 111 Arbitration Award of 2013: Consideration to Adopt.

Township Manager McCauley stated that a police pension audit revealed that the township failed to amend a police pension Ordinance from a 2013 arbitration award and adopting the proposed Ordinance would bring the Township into compliance with the award.

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to amend the Bristol Township police disability retirement provision to comply with the Act 111 arbitration award of 2013.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- B. A Resolution Authorizing an Inter-Governmental Cooperation Agreement between Bristol Township and the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to Provide for the Bristol Pike Revitalization Area Façade Improvement Grant: Consideration to Adopt.

Mr. McCauley stated that as a result of the inter-governmental agreement facade improvement grants would be available to businesses along portions of Route 13 in order to increase business in the area.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Bailey approving an inter-governmental cooperation agreement between Bristol Township and the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to provide for the Bristol Pike revitalization area façade improvement grant.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- C. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System at James Buchanan Elementary School) to PENNDOT: Consideration to Adopt.

McCauley stated there are two (2) upgrades requested for School Warning systems and one (1) upgrade requested for an intersection to comply with the ADA.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Mr. Brennan Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System @ James Buchanan Elementary School) to PENNDOT.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

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- D. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System @ Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School) to PENNDOT: Consideration to Adopt.

Motion by Ms. Longhitano and seconded by Mrs. Murphy Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System @ Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School) to PENNDOT.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- E. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (Haines Road and Kenwood Drive) to PENNDOT: Consideration to Adopt.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Monahan Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (Haines Road and Kenwood Drive) to PENNDOT.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- G. A Resolution Adopting and Submitting to the PA Department of Environmental Protection for Approval as a Revision to its “Official Sewage Facilities Plan”, the J&J Property Development Sewage Facilities Planning Module: Consideration to Adopt.

Motion by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Adopt and Submit to the PA Department of Environmental Protection a Revision to its “Official Sewage Facilities Plan”, the J&J Property Development Sewage Facilities Planning Module, for approval.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. McCauley thanked Kate Murphy and Scott Swichar for their efforts in getting Council Chambers and the Council Conference Room prepared for the evenings meeting. Further improvements will be seen in the near future.

President Bowen also thanked them on behalf of Council as well.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

No Formal Report at this Time.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bristol Township Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2014:
Consideration to take Appropriate Action.

McCauley stated that Council is in receipt of the Financial Report ending in December 2014. The General Fund finished the year with a \$3,390,098.00 surplus. He commented on the Bristol Township gadflies that stated the Council is mortgaging the future of the taxpayers and to that he responded that the 2014 Audit disputes that claim and shows that Council is being very conservative in reserving money to pay for all the improvements that have been made in the Township. Not only has Council paved 102 miles of roads, replaced all the streetlights in the Township and improved the Municipal buildings but they have done so without raising taxes and in a cost effective manner that will not bankrupt the Township in the future. Council has borrowed money with the lowest interest rates in years and has reserved money in the debt fund to pay those loans responsibly.

Motion by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Accept the 2014 Audit and make it available for the Public.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- B. Bids for Delaware Avenue Pump Station Replacement: Consideration to Accept.

Mr. McCauley recommended Council that they accept the lowest responsible bid of \$C from Lenni Electric for the Delaware Avenue Pump Station Generator Replacement.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by Mr. Monahan to accept the lowest responsible bid of \$79,530.00 from Lenni Electric for the Delaware Avenue Pump Station Generator Replacement.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

- C. Request from Diamond Auto for Final Escrow Release for property located at 3100 Bath Road: Consideration to take Appropriate Action.

Township Engineer, Kurt Schroeder requested Council release the second and final escrow in the amount of \$4,591.60 to Diamond Auto 3100 Bath Road. The Township will retain the 18-month maintenance fee in the amount of \$1,202.69.

Motion By Mr. Glasson and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to approve the request Request from Diamond Auto for Final Escrow Release for property located at 3100 Bath Road

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Longhitano stated that they received a letter from Elcon Waste Management

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Company outlining their plans for their plant in Falls Township, however their route to get to the plant would go through Bristol Township.

Motion by Ms. Longhitano and seconded by John Monahan instructing the Manager to send a letter to the DEP and State Representatives to request that Elcon keep their hazardous waste trucks off of Route 13.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

Vice President Longhitano addressed Council and the public with an update to the progress of trying to get control of the amount of Recovery Homes in the Township.

Ms. Longhitano met with the Southeastern Recovery Organization and asked if they felt that Recovery Homes needed by-laws and guidelines to not only protect their interest but those of the community as well? Further she asked if they felt that there should be distance requirements pertaining to the location of the homes.

Ms. Longhitano stated that Bristol Township 89 documented Recovery Homes and is requesting an Impact Study be conducted and a moratorium be put in place.

Mr. Brennan stated he does not believe that spending money on Impact Study would be the right way to go when we know we have a problem with the amount of recovery homes. He also fears making a motion for a moratorium to cease on a federally protected right would lead the Township down a horrible financial and legal path.

Township Solicitor Randall Flager cautioned against approving a moratorium. He stated that our State officials are aware of this problem and that this is not a new problem and that a Resolution be drafted to our State and Federal Legislators to submit bills authorizing municipalities, like Bristol Township to exercise control over Group Homes, Recovery and Half Way Houses and further limit the number of institutions within the municipality to have its fair share of such institutions located within their borders.

President Bowen stated he is not happy with the overwhelming number and problem facing the Township. He wants to know how to handle this problem legally and financially responsibly.

President Bowen read into the record a letter from Code Inspector, Debra Juno, concerning a undocumented recovery home.

Motion by Ms. Longhitano and seconded by Mr. Bailey to Approve a Moratorium be placed to not allow one more Recovery Home in the Township until an Impact Study has been conducted.

Motion was denied 4-3. Mr. Brennan, Mr. Glasson, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Bowen dissented.

Mr. Flager suggested that the Resolution asking our State Legislators to prepare bills that will give us the right to exercise control be drafted for the November Meeting.

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Mr. Brennan requested that Council invite the State Legislators to the meeting to address the problem and create solutions for our community

Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Brennan to instruct the Township Solicitor to draft a Resolution to Federal and State Delegations to submit bills on behalf of municipalities to enable the exercise of control over Group Homes, Recovery and Half-Way Houses and further limit the number of such institutions within the municipality to have its fair share of such institutions located within their borders.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 – 0.

Mr. Brennan requested that the invitation be extended to the State Legislators for the approval of the Resolution.

Mr. Bowen asked that a petition be signed and accompany the Resolution.

Bill 1488 was given to Council by a resident and will be placed on the Township website.

Mr. Monahan, stated that he has received several phone calls regarding the Earned Income Tax from Keystone. The residents resent the penalties that are involved.

Mr. Bowen read into the record a letter from the Winder Village Community thanking Mr. Bailey for repairing the basketball ball court lights and Mr. Bowen for his donations.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Cindy Dingley, 14 Keystone Lane, asked why the Township has an Ordinance prohibiting the allowance of portable basketball nets in the right of way.

Mr. Bowen stated this Ordinance is necessary by our insurance carrier.

Debbie Fleming, 17 Gooseneck Drive, read quotes from the Township Newsletter regarding attracting new businesses to the community and taking pride in the community. She voiced her concern over the amount of recovery homes and feels that businesses would stay away once they knew of that amount. She came to the meeting to show pride and ownership of her community and feels that the residents are not getting the respect they deserve. She has five (5) Recovery Homes within a quarter mile of her home. What about the rights of the homeowners.

Joe Fleming, 17 Gooseneck Drive, Resident for 35 years and he has seen a big change in the last eight (8) years and that change is the Recovery Homes.

George Kerner, 25 Gooseneck Drive, suggested that the Township hit the Recovery Homeowners in the pocket and treat them like a business. Beat them at their own game.

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Mr. Bowen offered his time to go to the State Official's offices with the residents.

Chris Harkins, 250 Goldenridge Drive, asked if the Recovery Homes require individual leases. Would an official lease be subjected to the FHAA? Can the Township regulate that as a business since it is LLC's that are buying these homes?

Ms. Longhitano stated again she believes the Moratorium would work and the Township should fight in court to save the community.

Township McCauley stated that these are Federal Lawsuits that would be filed against the Township and not only would the Township be required to pay damages but also attorney fees. Mr. McCauley also cautioned that it was clearly illegal to have an indefinite moratorium.

Joe Kirkland, 19 Gentle Road, stated that he is concerned about the amount of recovery homes in the Township and, in particular, his neighborhood, and questioned what could be done to address the problem. He fears for the safety of his step-daughter and wants someone to be held accountable.

Sean Keenoy, 264 Goldenridge, stated that in Middletown they went about removing the Recovery Home by insulting the people inside the Recovery Homes.

West Rexler, of Western Drive, stated that Council is taking the long road approach to Recovery Homes. He was right about the Public Safety Director so Council should listen to the advice in using Fire Code violations for the homes.

Mr. Rexler asked about an abandoned vehicle at the library and went to L&I to complain.

John Riotto, 2116 Maple Drive, believes that Council pushed the ball down the road on the Recovery Home issue and State Legislators are not going to do anything for the Township. Mr. Riotto gave his time to Mr. Hogan who stated that the Group Home for disabled people at 19 Mountain Lane are good people.

Barb Williamson, 42 Iroquois Road, she is the owner of Way of Life Recovery Home and thanked the community for allowing her in the community. She runs her homes legally and by Township code. She too is disgusted with the "Rogue" houses.

Tony Bolger, 5 Patrician Street, thanked Council for their hard work and all of the improvements throughout the Township.

Joe Senzick, 34 Gamewood, stated he was disgusted with the amount of the Recovery Homes and what is going on in the Township.

RECAP OF OCTOBER 28, 2015 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

1. Approved the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions from October 28, 2015.
2. Approved the September 17, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Dedicated newly renovated Council Chambers in memory of Bob Lewis.
4. Approved an Ordinance Amending the Bristol Township Pension Plan disability Retirement Provision to Comply with the Act 111 Arbitration Award of 2013.
5. Approved a Resolution Authorizing an Inter-Governmental Cooperation Agreement between Bristol Township and the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to Provide for the Bristol Pike Revitalization Area Façade Improvement Grant.
6. Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System @ James Buchanan Elementary School) to PENNDOT.
7. Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (School Warning System @ Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School) to PENNDOT.
8. Approved a Resolution A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute and Submit an Application for a Traffic Signal Permit (Haines Road and Kenwood Drive) to PENNDOT.
9. Approved a Resolution Adopting and Submitting to the PA Department of Environmental Protection for Approval as a Revision to its "Official Sewage Facilities Plan", the J&J Property Development Sewage Facilities Planning Module.
10. Accepted the Bristol Township Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2014.
11. Accepted a bid for Delaware Avenue Pump Station Replacement from Lenni Electric in the amount of \$79,530.00.
12. Approved Request from Diamond Auto for Final Escrow Release for property located at 3100 Bath Road.
13. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.