

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

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COUNCIL MEETING

December 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Davis at 7:03 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: personnel and litigation were discussed.

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

ROLL CALL: Council Members Davis, Tarlini, Mobley and Monahan were present. Councilman Pluta was not present at the meeting.

Public comments will be taken as each item is addressed. General comments will be taken during Opportunity for Residents to Address Council. Public comment on general and agenda items will be taken at this time. An Audience Participation form must be completed and given to the Township Secretary prior to the roll call of the meeting as provided in the Bristol Township Administrative Code, Section 306. Residents should adhere to the three minute public participation guideline. Total public comments are limited to one hour.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Christmas Tree Lighting; Vice President Tarlini called for the motion to suspend the meeting at 7:05 P.M. Second by Councilman Mobley. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved. The tree lighting ceremony took place. President Davis called for the motion to resume the meeting. Second by Councilman Monahan. Poll all ayes. Motion approved. The meeting resumed at 7:45 P.M.

GOVERNMENT STUDY ELECTED RESIDENTS: President Davis introduced some of the members of the elected Government Study Commission who were at the meeting Cindy Peto, Janet Keyser, Councilman Don Mobley, Helen Cini and Jack Baradziej. , President Davis thanked all of them for running. The Government Study will be meeting on December 10, 2008 at the Township building at 7:00 it is open to the public. The first meeting will be the organizational meeting. Mrs. Cini said the first night we will come up with a budget to present to Council, pick officers and go over some minor things. Mrs. Keyser stated we will also need to appoint a solicitor and a secretary. President Davis stated this will take six months to a year and go on the next ballot.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING; SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

SUBDIVISION:

1. Rohm & Haas Company, 100 Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA requesting Final Subdivision approval for property located on the West Side of Route 413 and the Delaware River (P/O Tax Parcel #5-56-01, 5-57-15 7 5-57-16) in an M-2 Heavy manufacturing and R-1 Residential zoned district of Bristol Township. William Major Jr. represented Rohm and Haas and said the property consists of three hundred seventy acres, three parcels all on one deed. The piece we are concerned about lies on the West side of Route 413 as you approach the Burlington Bristol Bridge. The property has no development on it. No development is intended. It is strictly a subdivision. There is public water by Beachway Avenue and there is public sewer by the sewer plant. We have complied with all the comments in the Township Engineer's letter. We meet all the requirements of the Bristol Township Planning Commission they were concerned with River access but this is just a simple subdivision at this time. Mr. Kucher stated the Bucks County Planning Commission included in their approval consideration of the Bucks County River Revitalization Study for the Bucks County Water Front. In the near future, we will discuss proposals for the property with Rohm and Haas. Gary Smith stated I requested a map from them in my letter; it was received. It is an overall map which shows what is owned, leased, and subdivided by Rohm & Haas and what is still left. They are not violating any zoning ordinance. I just wanted to make sure I knew where this was and what was still remaining so we know what is what. Councilman Monahan called for the motion to approve Rohm & Haas Company, 100 Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA request for Final Subdivision approval for property located on the West Side of Route 413 and the Delaware River (P/O Tax Parcel #5-56-01, 5-57-15 7 5-57-16) in an M-2 Heavy manufacturing and R-1 Residential zoned district of Bristol Township. Second by Vice President Tarlini. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.
2. Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks, 1 North Wilson Ave., Bristol requesting Preliminary & Final Subdivision approval for the property located on Pitt Avenue, Edgely (Tax Parcel #5-74-159, 5-74-160 & 5-74-161) in an R -2 Residential, M-1 Light Manufacturing, and M-2 Heavy Manufacturing zoned District of Bristol Township. Michael Fitzpatrick (of Begley Carlin and Mandio) represented the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority and said there is a long standing agreement between the Township and the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority regarding the redevelopment and reuse of the old Coates Avenue steel facility. We are here for an application for a minor subdivision. What is left is three acres on the corner of Coates and Pitt Avenues. The proposal is to draw a lot line to divide about two and a half acres on the south side of the line and about point six acres on the north side. Two point five acres on the south side of the lot line would be preserved for permanent open space with funding from the Bucks County Open Space program. The point six acres on the north side would be purchased by the neighboring land owner at full market value. It will remain on the tax rolls of Bristol Township going forward. There are two appraisals. The Bucks County Redevelopment Authority is asking for approval of this subdivision. Mr. Sacco stated we went to the Bucks County Open Space Committee to use their money for open space. The approval today is for the five acres to square

off his property. It will only enlarge his current parcel. When we were going to closing the neighboring property owner asked for this to square off his property. You are not creating another parcel to build on. This would just to enlarge his parcel. The remaining two point four acres would be transferred to the Township using open space monies. We entered into an agreement with the Redevelopment Authority so a significant source of the funds will be going to the School District. Any approval would be conditioned on us going to closing with the open space funds and then ultimately going to closing on the transaction. President Davis asked Mr. Mazacki what his plans are. Mr. Mazacki stated my property goes right to the railroad tracks. For years that area was overgrown we want to clean it up and increase my property, eventually possibly create a garage (a private car garage). Mr. Sacco stated I received a call from the Mayor. He spoke to Mr. White there are some concerns with this portion being transferred. Mr. White told Mayor Fenton he thinks you should table this so he can clarify everything. Councilman Mobley said I think this gentleman is willing to compensate for the property. If the Mayor wanted to stop this or had input he should have contacted us some time ago. Councilman Mobley called for the motion to approve the request from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks, 1 North Wilson Ave., Bristol requesting Preliminary & Final Subdivision approval for the property located on Pitt Avenue, Edgely (Tax Parcel #5-74-159, 5-74-160 & 5-74-161) in an R -2 Residential, M-1 Light Manufacturing and M-2 Heavy Manufacturing zoned district of Bristol Township. Vice President Tarlini asked Mr. Fitzpatrick are you the lawyer for the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County? Mr. Fitzpatrick responded yes. Vice President Tarlini asked what do you want to do? Did you not say you are the lawyer for the Redevelopment Authority and yet a call just came saying the Redevelopment Authority has an issue with this. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated we are here to ask to be approved. The motion was second by Vice President Tarlini. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

COUNCIL ITEMS:

- A. Councilman Monahan called for the motion to approve waiving the indirect alarm fee in the amount of \$60.00 as requested by Conwell-Egan Catholic High School. Second by Councilman Mobley. Councilman Mobley stated we do signs not alarms; it takes time and money to process this. Mr. Bartlett stated this is the first request for this kind of waiver. Councilman Mobley withdrew the second. President Davis called for the motion to *deny* waiving the indirect alarm fee in the amount of \$60.00 as requested by Conwell-Egan Catholic High School. Second by Vice President Tarlini.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	no
	Vice President Tarlini	yes
	President Davis	yes

Motion Approved 3-1

- B. Councilman Mobley called for the motion to approve waiving the sign fee in the amount of \$180.00 as requested by Temple Shalom. Second by Councilman Monahan. Vice President Tarlini said there is a large balance pending. I don't know if we should waive the fee. We have the bill in our packet. If we waive it, would the balance be collectable (\$1,187.00)? Councilman Mobley stated Mr. Bartlett should speak to them first and then we would bring it back at the next meeting. Mr. Bartlett said I will check. If it is tabled now and have an explanation at the next meeting. Those additional monies may have already been submitted, that was probably for fire inspections and things of that nature. President Davis called for the motion to *table* the request from Temple Shalom to waive the sign fee in the amount of \$180.00. Second by Vice President Tarlini.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Mobley	yes
	Councilman Monahan	no
	Vice President Tarlini	yes
	President Davis	yes

Motion Approved 3-1

- C. Vice President Tarlini called for the motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2008. Second by President Davis.

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

Motion approved 4-0

- D. Vice President Tarlini called for the motion to approve the 2009 Budget. Second by President Davis. Mr. Obert asked how much was removed from the budget since the talks started? Mrs. Gordon responded one million-four, after taking out the new officers and Council removed \$450,000. Mr. Obert said there should be two hearings prior to the vote. Mrs. Gordon stated this is the third public meeting. President Davis stated we each met with the department heads. Mr. Obert inquired is that to avoid a tax increase? Mrs. Gordon stated if you didn't make the tax increase and didn't make the cuts you would have used more reserves. Initially when the budget was submitted by department heads (before presentation) this budget was two point five million dollars short, the (ten new) police officers and other cuts were made to bring it down. The reserves were used to balance the budget. Mr. Obert stated not having the budget on the screen or available for Verizon customers, not having enough hearings, and not going all the way to the end of the year to see where the money is going, is not right to do. In the past numbers were hidden. Mrs. Gordon stated this is the third meeting. President Davis stated it has been two weeks no requests were received by myself or anyone in the building. People are happy there is no tax increase. Every department head offered to meet with the residents. Nobody has asked to meet with them. If you want to do it in a public forum, ask the questions now. Mr. Obert stated I think we could have done better to cut more fat out of the budget. Councilman Mobley stated the Human Resource Director (\$60,000) could be cut. President Davis stated those items are frozen.

They would have to come before Council. President Davis stated we froze hiring and voted for that. That position would have to come before Council. That money would appear out of the contingency fund. Councilman Mobley stated the funds are there if someone wanted to move forward later in the year the money would be there. Vice President Tarlini stated the money is in the contingency fund, it will not come out of nowhere. Councilman Mobley stated we can't keep spending the reserve money. Vice President Tarlini stated if we do better we could use that line item; and then again maybe not and then that money sits in the contingency fund. Councilman Mobley stated the budget should be cut like never before. We need to keep the budget in line and cut it like never before, no one wants to lay off and if we don't do it this year we will do it next year and we will be increasing taxes in the years to come. President Davis asked do you want to layoff employees? Councilman Mobley responded no, we don't have to but you don't have to put new hires in there because it will increase costs. Mr. Obert asked are any windfalls expected (return of legal and broker fees)? President Davis stated in January Mrs. Gordon is going after the uncollected debt. Mr. Sacco stated the one fee case was resolved. The Township will receive \$70,000 before the end of the year. Mrs. Gordon stated that will go to reserves, extra revenue goes to reserves. Vice President Tarlini stated they can't spend money before coming to Council. It is not hidden funding.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mobley	no
Councilman Monahan	yes
Vice President Tarlini	yes
President Davis	yes

Motion approved: 3-1

REPORT FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR:

Mr. Bartlett stated \$634,050 in total grants was received from the Redevelopment Authority for Casino grants for 2009. \$634,050 received includes three fire companies; the Township received four ranging from \$20,000 to \$140,000. None of this money is used to balance holes in the budget. This was not definite so it is not budgeted. These will be additional projects.

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE:

Chief McAndrew reported a \$20,000 grant for a gun buyback program was approved. In the near future we will be formulating plans on how to get that program implemented and possibly start in the spring.

REPORT FROM SOLICITOR:

Mr. Sacco reported we prepared the ordinance to revise the pension code. It will be on the agenda in two weeks. The new collective bargaining agreement needs code revision. Vice President Tarlini called for the motion to advertise the revision to the code needed because of the collective bargaining agreement. Second by Councilman Monahan. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved. Mr. Sacco stated the civil service and no parking on Queen Anne Drive will also be on the agenda.

OTHER:

President Davis stated different groups have formed an adopt a park; they are going to do park cleanups. We requested money from the County to contribute (a few thousand dollars) for supplies needed by the group (signs, etc.). President Davis called for the motion to make a resolution to support the venture for park clean ups. Second by Vice President Tarlini. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Gallus Obert-requested the missing page of defunct businesses and asked if the Redevelopment Authority uses that list. Mr. Bartlett responded I don't think they look at that list. Some renters come and request information looking for vacant commercial properties. President Davis stated most developers go to the Redevelopment Authority first and then they to Mr. Kucher. Mr. Obert stated the Radcliffe Street turn back money was to be investigated. In 2009 Verizon was to have Township meetings. Mr. Sacco stated we outlined a portion of the contract which requires them to negotiate with Comcast. I did reach out to their attorneys on that. They are required to negotiate. The Township could arbitrate. It is required, it is in the contract. I will follow up. Mr. Obert stated the Mayor should get names for necessary committees in earlier this year.
2. Bob Lewis- did not speak.
3. Russ Trojan- did not speak.
4. Carol Esterline-did not speak.
5. West Retzler-said the police department is slowing down traffic on Route 13, which is good. The cycling of the light at Route 413 and Western Avenue is incorrect. Also, there is big percent of the budget people don't know because they switched to Verizon and now don't get the meetings.
6. Joan Mormando-did not speak.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Davis called for the motion to adjourn. Second by Councilman Mobley. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Gorry

Secretary

/dg

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 2008

MOTIONS APPROVED:

1. Suspend the meeting at 7:05 P.M.
2. Resume the meeting at 7:45 P.M.
3. Approve Rohm & Haas Company, 100 Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA request for Final Subdivision approval for property located on the West Side of Route 413 and the Delaware River (P/O Tax Parcel #5-56-01, 5-57-15 7 5-57-16) in an M-2 Heavy manufacturing and R-1 Residential zoned district of Bristol Township.
4. Approve the request from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks, 1 North Wilson Ave., Bristol requesting Preliminary & Final Subdivision approval for the property located on Pitt Ave., Edgely (Tax Parcel #5-74-159, 5-74-160 & 5-74-161) in an R -2 Residential, M-1 Light Manufacturing, and M-2 Heavy Manufacturing zoned District of Bristol Township.
5. *Deny* waiving the indirect alarm fee in the amount of \$60.00 as requested by Conwell-Egan Catholic High School.
6. Approve the minutes of October 16, 2008.
7. Approve the 2009 Budget.
8. Advertise the revision to the code; needed because of the collective bargaining agreement.
9. Support the venture for park clean ups.

TABLED ITEMS:

1. The request from Temple Shalom to waive the sign fee in the amount of \$180.00.

12/4/08

	NAME	STREET ADDRESS	AGENDA (X)	OTHER (X)
1	GALLUS OBERT	FREEDOM Ln	X	X
2	BOB LEWIS	CROYDEN	X	X
3	RUSS TIGER	HOLLINOCK Ln	✓	✓
4	CAROL ESTERLINE	BRISTOL TWP		✓
5	WEST KETZLE	WEST BRISTOL		X
6	JOAN MORMAND	CROYDEN		✓
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