

## BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD  
BRISTOL, PA 19007

JULY 18, 2013

### TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll Call:	Mr. Bowen	Present
	Mr. Glasson	Present
	Ms. Longhitano	Present
	Mr. Pluta	Absent
	Mr. Tucker	Absent
	Vice President Brennan	Present
	President Lewis	Present

Council President Lewis stated that monthly reports are available for review in the Township Manager's Office and public comment on Land Development items will be taken during the meeting. In addition, residents may offer general comments at the end of the meeting under public comments. Further, items of personnel issues were discussed prior to the meeting in Executive Session.

#### VOUCHER LIST & MINUTES

- A. Call for a motion to approve the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions for July 18, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Glasson to approve the Outstanding Voucher List & Requisitions for July 18, 2013.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

- B. Call for a motion to Approve the Minutes from the regular Council Meeting of June 6, 2013.

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Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Vice President Brennan to Approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of June 6, 2013.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4-0, with Ms. Longhitano abstaining due to absence.*

- C. Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the regular Council Meeting of June 20, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to Approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting of June 20, 2013.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

#### PRESENTATION

- A. Presentation from Robert White, Executive Director, Bucks County Redevelopment Authority, re: Creation of a Certified Redevelopment Area on a Portion of Route 13.

Mr. Robert White, Executive Director of the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority, gave a presentation on the Creation of a Certified Redevelopment Area Program for a Portion of Route 13 from Tullytown to Route 413 and from Beaver Street to Edgely Avenue. Bucks County Redevelopment Authority's purpose is the removal of blight. Mr. White and the Redevelopment Authority want to update unsafe, underutilized and/or vacant properties, by standardizing these properties. This would in turn generate more taxes for the Township. Mr. White stated the Redevelopment Authority is just another tool in the Township's "tool box" to improve the Township and the blighted lots within. The Redevelopment Authority, and its partners, need to identify areas and creative incentives to bring businesses to the Township. They will work along with the Zoning Hearing Board, Inspectors, and the Township Manager as a one stop shop to encourage businesses to move into the Township. Small grants and business loans available from multiple government sources will be made available.

Councilman Bowen spoke about the necessity of bringing more jobs to Bristol Township. He also indicated that the Certified Redevelopment Program should be considered as a way to move things forward during the rebuilding of Route 13. Mr. White stated that while Federal and State Grants are the majority of the funds to be used, there would be some cost to the Township. However, the Township would be able to recoup these funds. Mr. White stated that it is the job of

the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to assemble land for developers who want to move into Bristol Township, which would ultimately provide the Township with jobs and revenue.

President Lewis stated that the entire Council will be supportive and work with the BCRA to move forward with the creation of a Certified Redevelopment Area Program.

## RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager on behalf of Bristol Township to Submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Edgely Road (SR 2033) and Mill Creek Road and to Sign this Application: Consideration to Adopt.

Mr. Larry Young of Gilmore & Associates stated this light was the Bottom Dollar light that requires upgrades. The light is owned by the Township, and PennDOT needs the Resolution before upgrades can be approved.

Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager on behalf of Bristol Township to Submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Edgely Road (SR 2033) and Mill Creek Road and to Sign this Application.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

## REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Township Manager McCauley announced that after reviewing reports prepared by the Interim Finance Officer, Mr. Phillips, CPA; the Township has been carrying Sewer Delinquencies in the amount of \$2,447,000.00 of which \$1,981,268.00 are over 120 days and \$1.8 million are residential customers. Mr. McCauley stated the records show that quite a few people have not paid a sewer bill in more than 10 years. He also stated that the Township had only placed liens on delinquent properties in the past. Township Manager McCauley stated that they need to be sensitive to the economy and the financial difficulties of residents, however collection efforts are too passive. Furthermore, an action plan needs to be put into place to recoup these receivables. Township records show that collection notices may not have been sent out since 2007. Mr. McCauley identified that collection letters need to be mailed on a regular basis as a first step in enforcement. The next step would be to require sewer customers to either to pay their delinquencies or enter into an agreement to pay all current charges. In addition, customers must pay off the delinquencies in a reasonable amount of time. As long as customers meet and

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maintain the terms of the agreement, the Township would not take collection or enforcement action, such as service or enforcement of said lien. Additional options still need to be discussed with legal counsel however.

In addition to the sewer reports, Mr. Phillips was also asked to prepare an aging report for accounts receivables. Mr. McCauley announced that there are \$878,000.00 in outstanding receivables. Of this amount, \$804,000.00 are in the General Fund, of which \$180,000 are from Fire Inspection, \$246,000 from Rental Inspections, \$94,000 for Signs and \$48,000 for Alarm Inspections. Mr. McCauley informed that we need to do a better job in terms of collection. Mr. McCauley stated that though the Township wants to be compassionate and business friendly, we still need to collect "what is owed to us."

Mr. McCauley stated that delinquencies are frequently from tenants who occupied the structure, and, once the tenant left, the property owner, who was not aware of the fees, ultimately became responsible for the monies due.

Township Manager McCauley also announced the data on the Traffic Study for Queen Anne Drive had finally been collected. The delay was the result of a piece of equipment that had malfunctioned, and a new one had to be purchased to help prepare the four reports given to Council. Mr. McCauley stated the problem was not as serious as originally thought. The average speed of 85% of the cars traveling in the area was 33 mph. The fastest car was traveling at 51-55mph. The report also recommends the best times for enforcement.

The 2013 Milling and Paving Program is proceeding well. Morrissey has taken advantage of the weather while laying asphalt. Morrissey has completed the neighborhoods of Magnolia, Holly Hill, and Dogwood, and are now heading to Junewood and Stoneybrook.

The Township has met with Lake County Sewer, and they installed the flow meters last Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The actual work on the 2013 I & I Program was pushed back a week to allow for another week of data to be collected. Work will now begin on July 29<sup>th</sup> and be completed by Mid-October.

#### REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Mr. Randall Flager of Flager & Assoc. announced that they will be meeting with Sewer Solicitor, Russ Sacco and together they will be working under the Manager's direction to implement a legal plan in order to collect the delinquencies and assist with "spurring" this along.

Mr. Flager also stated they are still working on the brake retarder ordinance and will hopefully be in a position to advertise the Jake Brake Retarder Ordinance next month.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request from DHD Ventures dated June 28, 2013 for a Reduction in Letter of Credit for Bottom Dollar Food Northeast, LLC: Consideration to take Appropriate Action.

Mr. Larry Young of Gilmore and Assoc. stated that they have inspected the property and would recommend reducing the letter of credit by \$179,360.17 which would leave \$489,894.83, and that they are within three months of opening their business.

Motion by President Lewis and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to Approve a Request from DHD Ventures dated June 28, 2013 for a Reduction in Letter of Credit for Bottom Dollar Food Northeast, LLC. of \$179,360.17.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

- B. Bids for Croydon Streetscape Improvements Newportville Road to Dorset Avenue: Consideration to take Appropriate Action

Township Manager McCauley presented a plan showing a section of the Croydon Streetscape HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) section from Newportville to Dorset Ave. Mr. McCauley announced that PennDOT has authorized another section of the Croydon Streetscape Project to go out to bid next month.

Mr. McCauley recommended that Council accept the low bid of \$554,706.15 to James D. Morrissey, Inc.

Motion by President Lewis and seconded by Mr. Glasson to Accept the Low Bid of \$554,706.15 to James D. Morrissey for Croydon Streetscape H.O.P. Section for improvements from Newportville Road to Dorset Avenue.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

#### OTHER BUSINESS

President Lewis wanted to publicly thank Kanga Roof and all the companies and individuals involved in the "Donate a roof to a Veteran" contest. He also commended Councilman Bowen for his strong support of the project.

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Township Manager Mr. McCauley noted that Council waived the permit fee for the aforementioned Kanga Roof, and he wanted to publicly thank Council for their good deed.

Township Manager McCauley introduced a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Bristol Township Police Department and the Bristol Township School District dated June 17, 2013. The Document was submitted by the School District and reviewed by the Solicitor.

Mr. McCauley stated that that this was a renewal of a previous MOE and recommended that the Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Council President to sign the document.

Motion by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Bristol Township Police Department and the Bristol Township School District and Authorize Council President to sign.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

Councilwoman Longhitano asked the Township to patronize the businesses along Route 13 during the construction to help keep the Township prosperous.

Councilman Bowen acknowledged the Township Public Works crew who had been working in the heat.

Councilman Brennan spoke about the Bristol Township School Taxes and how they continue to increase. He also mentioned how the Township residents, specifically senior citizens, cannot afford to continue living in their homes. Mr. Brennan stated that Township residents need to "wake up and see what's going on, as well as step up and take action to make our vote count in November on Election Day." Mr. Brennan stated, "At the end of the day, we can only have ourselves to blame, because we vote the same people in year after year, and year after year they continue to raise our taxes." Councilman Brennan stated, "I am frustrated and pissed off. I, along with most of the Council have been volunteering our time for almost two years. In addition, along with Mr. McCauley and Mr. Flager, we have been working diligently to pinch pennies, by reducing employees to part-time status and doing what we need to do only to watch the School Board just take it away and kill us financially." "At some point this community needs to wake up and really see what's going on. You all have an opportunity in November to make a change in this community!" finished Mr. Brennan, "It's up to you to vote out the same old same old."

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ms. Bridgette Guddatt of Magnolia Drive expressed her satisfaction over the newly paved streets in her section, "It's beautiful and you did a great job and I love seeing Councilman Bowen ride around checking the work," she stated.

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Mr. Gerard Lykon of Bristol stated he wanted to thank Township Manager Bill McCauley for saving \$256,000 on the new electric contract for street lighting, balancing the budget and looking out for the Township. He thanked the Manager for doing a great job.

Mr. David Fialko of Newportville Road representing Council of Southeast Pennsylvania Inc. a non-profit family organization spoke about 'Young Lungs at Play', an anti-smoking initiative. The initiative entails posting "no smoking" signs in parks, or in the vicinity of play areas. Mr. Fialko stated his organization was interested in getting the Township Council to pass the anti-smoking ordinance. Mr. Fialko also stated that his organization can supply a "cookie cutter" ordinance in order to reduce unnecessary expenses for the Township.

Mr. Murray Bailey of Belardly spoke about rumors of a police officer reporting back to work from a layoff and being turned away. He stated that if the rumors where true, than he would like to see something put into place where the officer was given the chance to stay, either working part-time or on night shift.

Ms. Longhitano responded by informing Mr. Bailey of the contract dispute that went to arbitration. Ms. Longhitano wanted to read the dissent opinion of Bristol Township Arbitrator.

Township Manager McCauley stated it was originally announced that the two most senior officers were to be called back on July 1 from furlough. However, the Township received notice that the Act 111 arbitration award was going to be issued in July. The Township delayed the recalls for a couple of weeks to examine the award and to determine whether it could still afford to call the officers back from furlough. Mr. McCauley explained that the Township simply did its due diligence in its attempt to protect the taxpayer.

Councilwoman Longhitano, Mr. Flager and Mr. McCauley then spoke on the 15% wage increase and Drop Program that the Arbitrator awarded, as well as the significant cost to the Township. She also mentioned how extreme the decision was in light of the economy and the impact on the Township. She stated, "when Council was asked how do we pay for these increases, point blank, raise taxes. "You all have a right to know what these contracts state and the decisions we have to make as a Council in light of our finances." She also stated that we are holding the line tight with taxes in order to not increase them. Mr. McCauley announced, "Even though the Township borrowed \$11.4 million in a taxable bond in 2008, the Police Pension Plan still has \$5.5 million in unfunded liability. Testimony at the arbitration hearing showed that a Drop Program would add an additional \$1 million in unfunded liability, and the arbitrator did not consider these facts. Furthermore, the arbitrator even granted a Drop Program. This means an officer can give notice of retirement up to four years in advance, and be able to put his monthly pension payment into a fund on his behalf. At retirement they would receive their pension, deferred compensation plan, unused sick pay, plus lifetime health insurance benefits, and \$200,000 from this Drop Plan."

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Mr. John Riotto of Maple Ave, a 42 year resident of the Township spoke about his disdain for School Board spending and how he is challenging all Township residents including seniors to come out and support his effort to change the school board. He stated that every day he stands in front of the school administration building with a four foot sign reading, "Taxes Up, VOTE School Board Out on November 5<sup>th</sup>!"

Mr. Ken Smith of Edgely questioned what Good Energy was being paid for finding cheaper electricity. He also asked about the guardrail on Randal Avenue.

Mr. Joe Hogan of Magnolia Hill commented on the Street repaving project, stating it has been completed in the section with professionalism and quality workmanship.

Mr. Hogan, Coordinator for Washington's Crossing Cemetery, discussed the Reach Across America Program, inquired about whether Council would allow a DVD to be placed on the cable television channel, and explained that donation sheets were placed in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Mr. Hogan also announced that a fundraiser benefitting Fox Chase Cancer Center at the Fallsington American Legion is scheduled for August 17, 2013.

Mr. Wes Rexler inquired about what steps half way houses need to take to establish themselves in the Township; He questioned whether they have to go through the Zoning Board and/or Council.

Ms. Ellen Miller, of Margo Gardens, announced that the EAC will conduct a presentation on the "Trail Systems of the Greenbelt" on July 24th at 6:30, and that the EAC meeting will occur after the educational program. The EAC along with Mr. McCauley and Mr. Scott Swichar are promoting public awareness of our recycling program. She also noted that volunteers from the EAC will be checking recycling bins and will be placing flyers on resident's doors to inform them about recycling requirements. Incentives will be provided to promote the recycling program.

Motion by President Lewis and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to adjourn.

*Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 18, 2013

1. Approved the outstanding Voucher List and Requisitions for July 18, 2013.
2. Approved the Minutes from the Council Meeting on June 6, 2013.
3. Approved the Minutes from the Council Meeting on June 20, 2013.
4. Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager on behalf of Bristol Township to Submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Edgely Road (SR 2033) and Mill Creek Road and to Sign this Application.
5. Approved a Request from DHD Ventures dated June 28, 2013 for a Reduction in Letter of Credit for Bottom Dollar Food Northeast, LLC.
6. Accepted the Low Bid of \$ 554,764.15 by James D. Morrissey for Croydon Streetscape Improvements Newportville to Dorset Ave.
7. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Bristol Township Police Department and the Bristol Township School District and Authorize Council President to sign.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy L. Hardy, Township Secretary

