

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

2501 BATH ROAD
BRISTOL, PA 19007

December 4, 2014

COUNCIL MEETING

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

Roll Call:	Mr. Bowen	Present
	Mr. Glasson	Present
	Ms. Longhitano	Present
	Mr. Monahan	Present
	Ms. Murphy	Absent
	Vice President Brennan	Present
	President Lewis	Present

Council President Lewis 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 Lewis stated matters of personnel and litigation items were discussed in the executive session.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. A Resolution of Commendation for Philomene Johnson for her participation in PA Free Enterprise Week at Lycoming College: Consideration to Adopt.

President Lewis read into record a Commendation for Philomene Johnson for her outstanding performance at the PA Free Enterprise Week at Lycoming College. Johnson is a junior at Harry S. Truman High School. Johnson was awarded one share of stock and is eligible to receive a scholarship to Lycoming College.

Council commended Ms. Johnson for her achievement and wished her continued success.

Motion by Mr. Glasson and seconded by all Council to adopt a Resolution Approving a Commendation for Johnson for her participation in PA Free Enterprise Week at Lycoming College.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

COMMENDATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS

A. Presentation of the Proposed 2015 Township Budget

Township Manager McCauley announced the proposed 2015 Budget has been advertised and Council will vote on the budget at the December 18 Council meeting. Mr. McCauley is pleased to report that for the third straight year the Township will end 2014 with a General Fund surplus. The proposed budget also recommends a small millage rate decrease to the Township Real Estate Tax for 2015 while maintaining the same high quality and quantity of service levels. This is the second time since 2012 that the millage rate has been decreased.

The proposed Budget reflects a 41.2 % increase in total spending; however in actuality this is a decrease because there are seven million in Interfund transfers to the Capital and Debt Fund. The Township continues to invest in its infrastructure. The coming year will see an additional 28 miles of highways paved bringing the total to 96 miles. McCauley stated that the Township also has \$83 million in unfunded liabilities despite going to Act 111 Arbitration.

The available Undesignated Fund Balance is \$8.1 million in which none of that will be used to balance the General Fund. \$1.75 million will be transferred to the Capital Fund and \$5.25 million will be transferred to the Debt Fund. \$1.1 million will be left in the "Rainy Day" Fund balance. Operating revenues are largely unchanged from 2014 levels. We are leaving 5.63% net General Fund Revenue which McCauley stated is a healthy fund balance as recommended by financial analysts.

The Township's operating expenses are lean and the Township administration will continue to take an active approach to reduce operating expenditures. Negotiations have been made to reduce the copier and printer lease. The difficult decision to reduce several full-time positions to part-time was made necessary in 2014 however this action was done without any reduction in service levels. Health Insurance premiums for the police were reduced when the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust was chosen over Blue Cross. The issuing of the Bond in June decreased debt service payments saving \$1.1 million in tax dollars. The Township's net General Fund expenditures are less than what the Township spent in 2011 when the Interfund Transfers are deducted.

The Capital Fund will allow for much needed improvements of the Municipal Building, including construction of a Police sally port, building rehabilitation, new roof and HVAC System. The \$3 million from the D.V.R.F.A is proposed to be carried over to the 2015 Budget to fund this project.

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Police surveillance systems, four marked police vehicles, cameras for police cruisers, replacement of a fire truck, improvements to the Public Works facility, including a new garage to house equipment and vehicles, and drainage and paving of the yard will be made possible through the Capital Fund.

2015 is the second year of a five-year trash contract with Waste Management to expire in December of 2018. There is no rate increase proposed for residential trash in 2015.

The Sewer Fund shows an expenditure increase of \$5,612,089 which reflects \$6 million in capital upgrades. There is no rate increase proposed for the Sewer Fund. The increase in the budget is attributed to the Township investing in a secondary clarifier (\$6 million) to increase capacity at sewage treatment plant. Expenditures include continuing repairs (\$350,000) for I & I work in accordance with the PA DEP Consent Decree, as well as for capital upgrades to the sewer pumping stations (\$495,000).

While 2015 Blue Cross health insurance premiums are budgeted at a 20% increase from the 2014 figures, and DVHIT is projected to increase 8.5%, they also account for 52.3% of total cost for all employee benefits, and 12.90% of the total General Fund expenditures for 2015. Health insurance costs for police officers and retired police officers account for \$2,704, 449 or 77% of the total cost attributed to health insurance. The proposed 2015 budget for non-uniform health insurance is \$821,850 or 23% of total, all employees, health insurance premium cost. McCauley stated that these numbers are not sustainable and will bankrupt the Township in the future. He stated that the Township will incur savings on health insurance either by negotiations for new and affordable Union contracts or by the creation of more part-time employees.

Township Manager McCauley stated the 80% of every tax dollar goes directly to the school district, 10% goes to the local Township (actually 9.6 cents) and 10% (9.3 cents) goes to Bucks County. Mr. McCauley noted that overall the Township is doing very well in certain areas and moving forward by investing in infrastructure and attracting businesses in order to expand the tax base.

The proposed 2015 budget will continue to invest in the infrastructure of Bristol Township. A minimum of 28 miles of Township Highways will be paved in 2015 bringing the total number of highways resurfaced in four years to an incredible 96 miles! The Township's LED Street Light Project is nearly completed decreasing the future cost of lighting Township Roads.

Mr. McCauley commended Council on their hard work, courage to make the tough decisions when necessary and willingness to take their medicine. He explained that there are a lot of municipalities in financial crisis, but few politicians will do what has to be done to solve the problems.

President Lewis asked if there was any public comment regarding the Proposed 2015 Budget.

President Lewis on behalf of Council thanked Mr. McCauley and the employees for their hard work throughout 2014.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Township Manager McCauley stated that the newspaper report published in November concerning the removal of homeless people from their camps took place in Bristol Borough not in the Township as erroneously reported in the Courier. The Township did notify a commercial property owner recently that they had to remove squatters on the property as this was in violation of the Township Code. The Township received complaints from neighbors and responded accordingly. McCauley stated that everyone agrees that the homeless issue is indeed unfortunate, but this is not the responsibility of local government. It is the State and County's responsibility for appropriate and affordable housing and the Commissioners and State Representative should take action on this very important issue.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request from New Falls Development, L. P., dated November 3, 2014, for a Financial Security Reduction in the Amount of \$245,807.00 for Wawa, Inc., New Falls & Wistar Road: Consideration to take the Appropriate Action.

Township Engineer, Kurt Schroeder from Gilmore & Associates, stated that the request for reduction is in the amount of \$245,807.00; however after review of the completed work he is recommending the reduction in the amount of \$173,889.00 as that is the amount of the improvements completed to date. This will reduce the Letter of Credit held by the Township to \$73,918.48

Motion by Mr. Monahan and seconded by Ms. Longhitano to approve a Financial Security Reduction in the amount of \$173,889.00 for Wawa, Inc., New Falls & Wistar Road.

Motion carried unanimously by a vote 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Lewis announced that the annual Bristol Township Tree Lighting will be on Sunday December 7th at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

On December 18th prior to the Council Meeting the Bristol Township Police Department will hold their annual Blue Lighting for fallen officers as well the Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans will participate in the laying of the Wreaths for their fallen soldiers.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Vinny Coloranza, Emilie Road, is the owner of 5 Points Pizza & Pasta and wanted to thank Council and the residents of Bristol Township for their continued support and patronage.

Ken Smith, 1005 Grieb Ave, thanked the Council, Mr. McCauley, and Public Works for resolving the drainage issue that he has been dealing with for so long.

Rod Bird and Christina Taylor, spoke about Noise and Parking Ordinance violations on Hartford Place.

John Riotto, 2160 Maple Ave, asked if the yard waste bags will be picked up by Waste Management.

Gerard Lykon, Bath Road, spoke about the Business to Business Association that has expanded to Bucks County is looking for members and to contact him for more information at 215-788-6018. Further Lykon Automotive in cooperation with Business to Business Association will be donating a car to a needy family. Applications can be picked up at the Township Building as well as on the website. The car will be given away on Christmas Eve.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.

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RECAP FOR DECEMBER 4, 2014 MEETING

1. Approved a Resolution of Commendation for Philomene Johnson for her achievement at the PA Free Enterprise Week at Lycoming College.
2. Presentation of Proposed 2015 Budget
3. Approved a Financial Security Reduction in the amount of \$245,807.00 for Wawa, Inc., New Falls & Wistar Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Murphy, Assistant Township Secretary