



BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A \$ 55.2 MILLION BUDGET ON DECEMBER 15 THAT BOOSTS PUBLIC SAFETY AND FOCUSES ON IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS

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Bristol Township Council unanimously adopted a \$55.2 million budget at their December 15 Council Meeting. "The Council has again acted responsibly by approving a township budget that holds property taxes steady, does not raise any fees, and keeps a tight lid on spending, but also directs resources to boost public safety and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Council President Craig Bowen. This is the fourth adopted budget with no tax increase and Council has lowered real estate millage twice since 2012.

The adopted operating budget is also balanced and includes funding for five new police officers hired this year as well as a full-time parks and recreation director while delivering high quality services to township residents. "Local government has an important role to play in making the lives of all people better, and residents will see even more investments to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood," said Bowen.

Investments that improve the quality of life in Bristol's neighborhoods includes \$165,000 for new police patrol vehicles as well as \$100,000 capital grants for Bristol's five volunteer fire companies. Bristol Township will also invest \$1 million for a blight elimination program to eliminate uninhabitable and vacant houses in the community. "Since the program began in late 2015, we've already demolished or rehabilitated 62 blighted homes and we are taking giant leaps forward to improve property values and stabilize our neighborhoods," said Bowen.

The adopted budget also invests more than \$2 million to beautify and enhance gateways, medians, and neighborhoods throughout Bristol Township as a way to attract businesses and create a more welcoming environment. Next year, an additional \$500,000 will also be invested in the community by paving another five miles of roads bringing the total miles of township roads paved since 2012 to 125.

"Since coming into office five years ago, we've made the tough decisions necessary to get Bristol Township headed in the right direction and we've become the greatest comeback story in Bucks County," Bowen said. "I want to thank my fellow Council colleagues and staff for their hard work and dedication in adopted a budget that keeps Bristol Township moving forward," concluded Bowen.