

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

The session was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the President of Council, Ralph DiGuiseppe.

Council offered a moment of silent prayer.

The Council then proceeded to salute the flag.

Present were:

Mr. James Lutz	Mr. Anthony Muccie
Mr. Michael Harris	Mr. Leo Plenski, Jr.
Ms. Robyn Trunell	Mr. Ralph DiGuiseppe
Ms. Betty Rodriguez	

Absent—Patrick Sabatini (sick)

Also present were:

Mayor Joseph Saxton
Mr. James Dillon, Borough Manager
Mr. William Salerno, Borough Solicitor
Chief Arnold Porter, Police Chief
Mrs. Maria Fields, Administrator

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

James Lake, 2010 Trenton Avenue, commended Police Chief Porter and his Department for their outstanding work and dedication to duty.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

Mayor Saxton mentioned the upcoming activities in the Borough; such as Little League, Softball, and the Lions Club Concerts.

The Mayor thanked Station 53 (America Hose, Hook & Ladder Company #2) for canvassing the Harriman area from Jefferson Avenue to Green Lane this past weekend and giving out smoke detectors.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION CONT'D.

Mayor Saxton stated Fire Chief Slack has made application for a grant to purchase Carbon Monoxide Detectors for the entire Borough.

The Mayor said he talked to Chief Porter about what the Department will be doing in the upcoming months for the Squad 5 detail.

Mayor Saxton mentioned if anyone gets a chance, they should go and see the Bidy Ball Program at Warren Snyder; the program finishes next Wednesday.

The Mayor thanked Merle Winslow, the Emergency Management Coordinator, for setting up the new Roam Secure Alert Network Program in the Borough. The Mayor stated eight or nine individuals will be trained for the Program in the next two weeks.

Mayor Saxton encouraged Council to vote in favor of the Ordinance regarding the compensation for the Tax Collector. It will take effect for the elected Tax Collector in 2010. He said the current Tax Collector provides a lot more services than collecting taxes; as an example, she helps Senior Citizens with rebate forms and takes time to explain items when they are confused.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. DiGuseppe informed Council that he, the Police Chief, the Detective, Angelo Rago, and a representative from Twining Construction did a walk through of the Police Department today and it is 99.9% complete; a punch list of items will need to be completed. He stated the furniture will be delivered and installed on Tuesday and once that is complete, the police will begin to move back. After they move back, there will be two to four more weeks of work in the Fire Department including the Ahrens Fox Museum. The tentative date for the dedication is Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 12 Noon; he asked Council to mark their calendars.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL CONT'D.

Mr. DiGuiseppe said Comcast is expected to finish work on the TV lines tomorrow and the meetings which have been recorded will be able to be viewed by the public on Channel 852 as well as a bulletin board with information. He added that anyone with Comcast Cable will be able to get the Channel.

Mr. DiGuiseppe stated the Trash Contract will expire in 2009 and will be going to bid this year. He mentioned the Borough saved over one million dollars for taxpayers with the five year contract; if it was a three year contract, it would have expired when diesel and fuel were extremely high and we can only imagine what the bids would have been. Mr. DiGuiseppe explained that the bid amount is divided by the number of dwelling units and that pays the trash company; those funds do not go into the General Fund. He is thinking of forming a committee with a couple members of Council, the Mayor, and residents. Mr. DiGuiseppe said if any taxpayer is interested in being on the committee, to contact the Borough Manager. He believed one mistake was collecting trash every day of the week; that is one issue to be addressed along with other alternatives for collecting trash and bulk pickup. Mr. DiGuiseppe stated the Borough will be working on the specifications sometime in July and August and go out to bid in September and October; the new Contract will take effect January 1, 2010.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 20, 2009, the Special Public Meeting of January 29, 2009, and the Council Work Session of February 2, 2009 as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept the Police & D.J.'s Report as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept the Fire Chief's Report as printed. Unanimous

REGULAR BUSINESS CONT'D.

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept the Borough Inspector's Report as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept H.A.R.B. Report and Decision of January 26, 2009 as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Lutz asked when he will receive a response to a memorandum that he sent to Mr. Dillon on January 28, 2009 regarding the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Dillon said the memorandum did not deal with the Treasurer's Report; it dealt with general questions. He hoped to have a response in writing by the end of the week.

NEW BUSINESS

**4. ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE BRISTOL
BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR STARTING JANUARY 1,
2010.**

Mr. Harris (Mr. Muccie) moved to adopt the Ordinance establishing the salary in the amount of \$15,000 for the Bristol Borough Tax Collector starting January 1, 2010.

Mr. Lutz referred to two newspaper articles which appeared in the Bucks County Courier Times regarding salaries of tax collectors. He spoke against the salary increase for the Borough Tax Collector and the cost to renovate the tax office in which she does not pay rent. Mr. Lutz requested a roll call vote on the Ordinance.

A question and answer period followed on the newspaper articles.

Mr. DiGuseppe said it has been at least eight years if not more since the Tax Collector had a raise; it is for the Tax Collector who starts in 2010. He stated we pay the current Tax Collector \$10,000 per year; it is an embarrassment for what she does and what she makes. Mr. DiGuseppe noted that the tax office is part of the Municipal Building and it would have been ridiculous not to renovate the tax office as proposed by Mr. Lutz.

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

ITEM #4 CONT'D.

A roll call vote was taken.

FAVOR

AGAINST

Mr. Harris
Ms. Trunell
Ms. Rodriguez
Mr. Muccie
Mr. Plenski
Mr. DiGuisseppe

Mr. Lutz

The motion to adopt the Ordinance was carried 6-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Muccie (Ms. Rodriguez) moved to suspend the rules of Council to add an item to the Agenda. Unanimous

Mr. Muccie (Ms. Rodriguez) moved to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance to amend Section 307. of the Zoning Ordinance to delete Section 307.2.D (low-rise apartments).

Mr. Salerno explained Section 307.2.D allows for low-rise apartments in an R-2 District and this would delete that section so it would not be permitted in an R-2 District.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Saxton wanted to thank all the residents for contributing to the food drive which was collected by 40 volunteers on Super Bowl Sunday. He said 1400 food items were distributed to the three pantries in town which is the Bristol Borough Community Action Group on Wood Street, the Second Baptist Church on Race Street, and the First United Methodist Church on Mulberry Street. The Mayor stated they were all happy because the pantries were pretty much empty.

Ms. Trunell (Mr. Muccie) moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Unanimous