

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 13, 2009

The session was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by the President of Council, Ralph DiGuseppe.

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. Patrick Sabatini
Ms. Robyn Trunell	Mr. Ralph DiGuseppe
Ms. Betty Rodriguez	

Absent—Leo Plenski, Jr. (working)

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

Ms. Sandy Michael, Holy Family University Athletic Director, presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 in appreciation for use of the Softball Field.

Sgt. Joseph Moors, President of the Bristol Borough Police Benevolent Association, presented a plaque recognizing the dedication and commitment of Borough Council, the Police Chief, and the Borough Manager. The PBA expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that was done for the men and women of the Police Department both present and future.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Marucci, 1253 Radcliffe Street, was concerned about the Borough having to contribute to the Pension Plans.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONT'D.

Michael Gerenda, 2210 Wilson Avenue, suggested the purchasing of classrooms in memory of individuals to offset the cost of the school.

James Lake, 2010 Trenton Avenue, believed a large amount of money could be saved if the ball fields are not relocated at Memorial Field.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

Mayor Saxton reminded everyone that the rededication ceremony for the newly renovated Police and Fire Departments on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. He stated everyone is invited to come and see the changes and improvements, meet the police officers and view some of the newest technology in criminal investigation that is available to the police officers.

The Mayor noted the Bristol Borough Little League Opening Day Ceremonies & Parade will also be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, starting at 9:30 a.m. at Memorial Field.

Mayor Saxton said he met with Scott Bahner, Chief of the Bucks County Rescue Squad this past month, who gave him an update on the Squad.

The Mayor informed the residents that the Bristol Borough and Bristol Borough Community Partnership Sixth Annual Town Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. He invited everyone to participate in the event.

Mayor Saxton advised that the D.A.R.E. (Drug Alcohol Resistance Education) graduations in the local elementary schools will be held during the month of April.

The Mayor apprised the residents that Monday, April 20, 2009, is the last day to register to vote in the upcoming primary election which will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION CONT'D.

Mayor Saxton reported the Bristol Borough Police Bike Patrol will start by the end of April and Squad 5 will return which will again focus on quality of life issues in town.

The Mayor stated during the winter months, there has been an increase in graffiti in town. He said the Borough is fortunate to participate in the Towns Against Graffiti Program which removes graffiti as soon as possible. Mayor Saxton said the Borough is making every effort to focus on these criminals who deface public and private property. The Borough Police and our Code Enforcement Departments are working closely together in identifying TAGS (signature of these criminals); so that when they are caught, we can prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 9, 2009 and the Council Work Session of April 2, 2009 as printed. Unanimous

Mr. Lutz referred to the Council Work Session of April 2, 2009, Page 2, under proposed playground improvements. Mr. Lutz wanted it noted that he was in favor of the Project, but not in favor of purchasing trash cans at \$600.00 each.

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

Mr. Harris (Ms. Trunell) moved to accept the Planning Commission Meeting minutes of March 16, 2009 and the Special Planning Commission Meeting minutes of March 30, 2009 as printed. Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

**4. RESOLUTION - ON THE SPENDING OF FEDERAL ECONOMIC
RENEWAL GRANTS TO BRISTOL BOROUGH.**

Ms. Trunell (Ms. Rodriguez) moved to adopt the Resolution on the spending of Federal Economic Renewal Grants to Bristol Borough.

Mr. Lutz asked if the Borough Manager is going to oversee the requirements of the grants. Mr. Dillon believed Council wanted him to oversee it.

Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Salerno how does the Borough Code requirements correspond to the requirements in the Resolution.

Mr. Salerno said this is a general Resolution; but this would not override the Borough Code. The Borough Code requirements are that we have to go out to bid and accept the lowest responsible bidder. He stated the Resolution says we are going to make a commitment where we can to buy American made products; we are not going to break the law to do it.

The motion to adopt the Resolution was carried unanimously.

**5. MOTION - LIMITING THE NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED RECOVERY
HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH.**

Mr. Harris (Ms. Rodriguez) moved to adopt the following motion:

"The Borough Council recognizes the important and invaluable contribution that recovery homes provide to facilitate the treatment and recovery of people afflicted by substance abuse addiction.

Bristol Borough being a small community both in population and property area is able to effectively assimilate a small number of these recovery houses. An excessive number of these recovery homes places an inequitable burden on a small community such as Bristol Borough.

The Bristol Borough Council respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together (Pro-Act) add to its guidelines to cap the number of recognized recovery houses in Bristol Borough at four (4) and not to recognize any further applications."

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

ITEM #5 CONT'D.

Mr. Salerno explained the purpose of the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

6. MOTION - AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE DEFEASANCE OF THE TEMPORARY \$5,500,000 BORROWING.

Ms. Rodriguez (Ms. Trunell) moved to authorize the staff to proceed with the defeasance of the temporary \$5,500,000 borrowing.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that this was a line of credit which the Borough earned more money in interest than what was paid in interest.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Lutz said if the Borough is earning interest on the loan, why is the Borough paying it back.

Mr. DiGuiseppe stated we do not have to pay it back, but Mr. Lutz was against borrowing the money. He asked Mr. Lutz if he wanted to make a motion to table and discuss it at a later date.

Mr. Lutz moved to table the motion.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to table.

FAVOR

AGAINST

Mr. Lutz
Ms. Trunell
Mr. DiGuiseppe

Mr. Harris
Ms. Rodriguez
Mr. Muccie
Mr. Sabatini

The motion to table was defeated 4-3.

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

ITEM #6 CONT'D.

A vote was taken on the original motion to authorize the staff to proceed with the defeasance of the temporary \$5,500,000 borrowing.

Mr. Lutz opposed the motion.

The motion was carried 6-1.

7. **MOTION - AUTHORIZE ANNUAL DONATION OF \$2,500 FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE.**

Mr. Muccie (Ms. Rodriguez) moved to authorize annual donation of \$2,500 for the Annual Christmas Parade. Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. DiGuiseppe informed Council on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. we will begin the question and answer session. He recommended we start with Mr. Lutz and Mr. Harris to be at the first letter opening. Mr. Lutz said he will be out of town. Mr. Harris stated he can attend.

Ms. Rodriguez requested at next month's meeting, the Borough make a contribution to the newly formed Puerto Rican Cultural Association.

Mr. Sabatini (Mr. Muccie) moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Unanimous