

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MAY 3, 2017 - EMERGENCY SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in an emergency session on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Kurdyla read the following announcement:

Notice of Meeting

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MEETING

The normal requirements of the law regarding 48 hours notice have not been met due to lack of time and subject matter; however notices of this Emergency Meeting were sent electronically to the Courier News and the Newark Star Ledger on May 1, 2017, at 9 p.m. The need for such adequate notice could not reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice could have been provided.

Council President Kurdyla initiated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak, unless there are unusual circumstances.

Lori Colelli, 24 Gates Head Drive addressed the Council stating she was in support of the budget amendments as proposed and does not want the residents to bear any tax increase. Ms. Colelli encouraged Administration to find creative ways to meet fiscal goals, doing more with less is the new way and the township should do the same.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the public comment portion was closed.

Resolutions

Council President read the resolution by title:

EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO DISCUSS AND VOTE UPON THE 2017 AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 et seq), and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b), the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater seeks to convene an emergency meeting for the following purpose:

To discuss and vote upon the following resolution:

2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 et seq concerning notice have not been met for this emergency meeting due to lack of time and subject matter; however notices of this emergency meeting were sent via email to the Courier News and the Newark Star Ledger on May 1, 2017, at 9 p.m., posted on Bridgewater Township’s website, and posted on the section designated for public notices in the Bridgewater Township Municipal Building located at 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 08807, such notices being in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, this emergency meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater is of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purposes of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; specifically, this meeting is urgent and important in consideration of statutory publication deadlines and review of the proposed budgetary amendments by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services. Failure to submit this amendment timely would result in delay of the public hearing and final adoption of the 2017 Municipal Budget, and said timely approval is essential to the continued orderly and efficient Township operations; and

WHEREAS, the need for such adequate notice could not reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice could have been provided and the meeting will be strictly limited to the discussion of and acting with respect to the aforementioned matters of urgency and importance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater authorizes an emergency meeting to convene at 7:00 PM on May 3, 2017 in accordance with the above recitations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b), a vote of three-quarters of the members of the Township Council present at meeting is required for the conduct of said meeting, with said requirement having been met and recorded as required by law.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Absent
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council Vice-President Rose	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-05-03-133](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Mayor Hayes
Comments**

Mayor Dan Hayes stated he received the Council's May 3, 2017 report from the budget sub-committee, Councilman Pedroso and Councilman Norgalis. He thanked Councilman Pedroso for taking time to meet with him and staff to review his concerns and share information on why he feels the proposed reductions may cause an unnecessary level of risk to township operations. He stated his position that all of the funds identified in the budget for reduction that do not impact operations, should be directed to road improvement.

Mayor Hayes presented a letter to the Council members summarizing the actions that could be taken to address these concerns.

**Councilman
Pedroso
Comments**

Councilman Pedroso thanked Mayor Hayes for meeting on the budget matters and praised Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance for her competence, knowledge and detailed information with regard to the budget.

He added he and Councilman Howard Norgalis made up the Council's 2017 Financial Budget subcommittee and spent many months and hours going over each line and appropriation to eliminate an originally proposed tax increase estimated to be \$17.16 per average house assessed at \$425,000. Councilman Pedroso added the amendment also increases investments in roads, sewers and infrastructure.

**Councilwoman
Rose
Comments**

Councilwoman Rose commented she would support the budget amendment on introduction but would be taking more time to contemplate the amendments prior to the public hearing and final action on May 18th. She noted she held concerns with the idea of no tax increase as it may be short sided and we need as a township to plan for the future.

**Councilman
Moench
Comments**

Councilman Moench thanked the budget sub-committee Councilman Pedroso and Councilman Norgalis for their review of the 2017 Municipal Budget as proposed by Administration and dedication in reviewing the budget in its entirety to cut certain appropriations affording these amendments. He noted Councilman Norgalis had a personal conflict and was not available to meet this evening. He thanked Mayor Hayes and staff for their responses to Council's questions on the budget and will vote in favor of the budget amendment this evening because it meets both goals to eliminate any tax increase while increasing the monies applied to road improvements and infrastructure.

**Council
President
Kurdyla
Comments**

Council President echoed some of the same concerns voiced by Councilwoman Rose and stated although he would support the amendments on introduction he will continue to reflect on the amendments as proposed prior to adoption on May 18, 2017.

Council President Kurdyla read the resolution by title:

AMENDMENT TO THE 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending amendment be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 18th day of May, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time on said day as the time and the Bridgewater Township Municipal Court Chambers at 100 Commons Way in said Township as the place for hearing and final action.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forthwith post on the bulletin board in the Township Municipal Building at 100 Commons Way, a true copy of said ordinance and make copies available to members of the general public and spread the same upon the minutes of the meeting.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Absent
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council Vice-President Rose	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-05-03-134](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the session adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen Kurdyla
Council President