

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 18, 2017 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Kurdyla:

Notice of Meeting

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 9, 2017 by sending written and electronic notice to the Courier News and the Star Ledger, posting on the Township website and on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and filing with the Township Clerk.

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Matthew C. Moench
Howard Norgalis
Filipe Pedroso
Council Vice President Christine Henderson Rose
Council President Allen Kurdyla

Also Present: James T. Naples, Township Administrator
 William B. Savo, Township Attorney
 Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

Council President Kurdyla led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

**NOVEMBER 30, 2017 - AGENDA SESSION
DECEMBER 4, 2017 - REGULAR SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the November 30th agenda session minutes and December 4th regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. Councilman Moench abstained on the November 30th minutes.

Council Reports

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended the Somerset County Republican Holiday Party at the Char Restaurant in Raritan.
- Attended, along with Attorney Alex Fisher and Township Planner Scarlett Doyle, the final Court approval by Judge Miller of the Bridgewater COAH plan. Judge Miller was very complimentary of Bridgewater's efforts over

many years to provide affordable housing.

- Attended, with great sadness, the viewing for Bridgewater Health and Human Services Director Chris Poulsen who passed away at the 54 years of age. Chris had 32 years of faithful service to the Township and he will be solely missed.
- Attended the Somerset County Business Partnership Annual Meeting where several businesses and organizations were honored for their positive impact on the county.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays

Councilman Moench

- Remarked the passing of Chris Poulsen, Director of Human Services is a great loss to the Township and to his family
- Announced that Bridgewater Cares initiative that he and his wife created to encourage volunteerism and community service is in its third week. The goal of this initiative is to encourage non profits and community service organizations to talk about what they do to in order to inspire people to volunteer
- Spent time volunteering at different organizations including the Raritan Pregnancy Aid and Information center and Somerset County Food Bank
- Advised that the Rutgers division of Addiction & Psychiatry conducts events where they visit a community to train about the use of Narcan which is a drug that reverses the effects of a drug overdose. They also give out free kits. Councilman Moench has partnered with them and has set up a meeting for Tuesday, January 23rd at Centerbridge II at 7PM. Only 25-spots are available. More information will be shared soon.

Councilman Pedroso

- Shared in the sentiments regarding the loss of Chris Poulsen
- Attended the County GOP Holiday party.
- Attended Centerbridge's Holiday event
- Attended Assemblyman Peterson's annual breakfast where Santa made a special visit
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays

Council Vice President Rose

- Stated the loss of Chris Poulsen, Director of Human Services is significant to the Township and community and hoped that his contributions will be remembered and perhaps memorialized
- Attended the Friends at Bridgewater History meeting where a presentation was conducted by the Hobbs family as they are getting ready for the 200th anniversary of the founding of Hobbs Town. A big family reunion has been planned for 2020

- Attended the Creative Arts Committee reception which continues to demonstrate the great level of talent we have in the community
- Attended the County Alliance Steering community meeting of which she is a member. There was a presentation by Robert Wood Johnson about a program which essentially puts a recovery specialist in the emergency room for patients who have been administered the Narcan drug. That specialist keeps in touch with these individuals in hopes they can get them into a rehabilitation and beyond for approximately 6-9 months.

Council President Kurdyla

- Had an Open Space meeting scheduled this past Saturday. They will soon be proposing 4-properties for consideration by the governing body
- Remembered Chris Poulsen, Director of Human Services with fondness noting he was a great person and will be dearly missed
- Read a document last week from resident Charles Isely with concerns over regulations by the State of NJ regarding bee keeping. He stated that at this time, Council does not have any information on that from the State. However, to address the concerns of our residents, we will give every resident the opportunity to present their opinions.

Mayor's Reports

Thanked the governing body for their comments regarding Chris Poulsen. He stated Chris was a colleague and friend for 14-years and in those years, he never had a bad day and if he did, he never made it anyone else's bad day. As an administrator and friend, he appreciated him. On behalf of the Mayor, Township Administrator Naples stated they are working on something that will commemorate his service to the Township.

Discussion

LANE BROKAW HOUSE

Councilwoman Rose stated she appreciates administration's assistance in gathering some of the data required for this meeting. She added there are more questions that remain unanswered and therefore will not be in a position to continue discussions tonight pending the receipt of those additional pieces of information that we need. As such, she requested that items 12a and 12b that are currently listed on the agenda be tabled.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, 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.

Charles Isley, 704 Kline Place was present. He stated he was present to make Council aware of the NJ Department of Agriculture's proposed beekeeping

regulations that he felt will severely restrict beekeeping in the State and consequently in Bridgewater Township. He opined the department of Agriculture has ignored the intent of the law that directed it to produce these regulations noting that said rules will severely restrict beekeeping in both urban and rural areas of the state and impose onerous requirements on beekeepers that are not supported by sound science and facts. He added that these rules were drafted without consulting adequately with the NJBA or utilizing the beekeeping expertise that exists in NJ Department of Agriculture. Mr. Isley asked that the Council review those changes in the hopes they can oppose same.

Bonnie Pylar, President of the Morris/Somerset chapter of NJ beekeepers was present. She stated that beekeeping is integral to farming, agriculture, livestock etc and added that limiting the opportunity to keep bees is unfair. She asked that after Council reviews those regulations, they consider the immediate and long term effects of limiting or eliminating beekeeping then pass a resolution that Bridgewater Township will not support the proposed regulations.

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

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH CENTERBRIDGE II SENIOR HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL ASSOCIATES, L.P. ORIGINALLY EXECUTED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 1, 1992 PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT 491 SHASTA DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

Councilman Norgalis asked that the title be amended as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT EXTENDED TO 2022 WITH CENTERBRIDGE II SENIOR HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL ASSOCIATES, L.P. ORIGINALLY EXECUTED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 1, 1992 PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT 491 SHASTA DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY

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

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

ORDINANCE # [17-24](#) WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-04-327](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO ACCEPT THE 2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,660 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LANE-BROKAW HOUSE ON MILLTOWN RD

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2017 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT -\$75,000.00 - Necessary if 12a is approved.

Councilwoman Rose made motion to table the above resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moench and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$311,413.62 IN THE CURRENT FUND

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-328](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/ FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE PRICE FROM \$64,703.32 TO \$76,993.32, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 18.99% OR (\$12,290.00) FROM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO A&A CURBING, INC., AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE WOODLAWN AVENUE SIDEWALK & RAMBLER DRIVE CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED THROUGH THE SIDEWALK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-329](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/ FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE PRICE FROM \$1,427,494.30 TO \$1,325,746.33, WHICH IS A DECREASE OF 7.13% OR (\$101,747.97) FROM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO INTERSTATE CONTRACTING & EXCAVATING, LLC, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, FOR THE WOODSIDE LANE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION & RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE 2014 AND 2015 CAPITAL SEWER FUND

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-330](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES, FOR JOHN CLEARY AND DIANE CLEARY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,350.00, PERFORMANCE

SURETY BOND, AND CASH BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150.00, FOR BLOCK 907, LOT 68.01 AND RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,148.00 PERFORMANCE SURETY BOND, AND \$1,572.00 CASH BOND FOR BLOCK 907, LOT 68.02, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY THE NEW OWNERS, WASHINGTON VALLEY ESTATES, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,350.00 FOR BLOCK 907, LOT 68.01 AND \$14,148.00 PERFORMANCE SURETY BOND FOR BLOCK 907, LOT 68.02, 1241 WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-331](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF OVERTIME TO THE PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, BUILDING, ELECTRICAL AND FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIALS TO BE PAID FROM FEES PAID BY APPLICANTS TO THE CODE OFFICIAL THROUGH MARCH 17, 2018

Township Administrator Naples explained the Construction Code Official, Stephen Rodzinak, has indicated there are a number of large commercial projects in the Township that require a substantial number of inspections reducing the availability of subcode officials to review plans. The inability to review plans on a timely basis is delaying construction of commercial projects. Mr. Rodzinak is requesting that he be authorized to pay overtime to the subcode officials for a limited period of time until March 17, 2018 in order to timely review plans which have been filed for construction. This overtime will have no impact on Township budget.

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

**Closed
Session**

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-332](#) is appended to the official minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss litigation.

When and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time.

The public is excluded from said meeting and further notice thereof is dispensed with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:07 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#17-12-18-333](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:55 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk