

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2018      COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Rose read the following announcement:

**Notice of Meeting**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 9, 2018 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:

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

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

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

**Minutes**

**JANUARY 18, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION**  
**JANUARY 18, 2018 - CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the January 18, 2018 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. The January 18, 2018 closed session minutes were passed around for approval. Councilman Pedroso abstained.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended the Finderne Fire Department and Martinsville Rescue Squad installation dinners. In his opinion, the awards presented to the first responders and based on performance were a true reflection of the individuals and their dedication to Bridgewater Township. He added the

“bedpan” award presented to former Councilman Albano is a prestigious one and well deserved; his service to Bridgewater exceeds 33-years!

- Congratulated the pop-warner cheerleaders and also thanked their parents for their efforts.

#### Council Vice President Moench

- Congratulated the cheer leaders that were present in the audience for their success and wished them continued success in future years.
- Councilman Moench, in January, arranged for the Rutgers division of Addiction & Psychiatry to come to Bridgewater and conduct a 2-hour Narcan training/presentation. They provide information about drug overdoses and the initial rescue process. That program also distributed two (2) free doses of narcan. It was an extremely informative event with an over capacity crowd at the Centerbridge. This program will be returning on May 8<sup>th</sup>, more information will be provided.
- As there is continued talk with Governor Murphy about legalizing marijuana, Councilman Moench requested that our Township attorney look into what options we have as a Township in order that we may join other towns that are starting to put Ordinances in place to protect the residents from the effects of legalized marijuana.
- FEMA has put out a program called “until help arrives” which educates people on how to take action in emergency situations until professional help arrives. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, this training will be conducted at the Green Knoll Rescue Squad. More information will be provided.
- Councilman Moench noted February is Women’s Heart Health Month. As such, he has prepared some heart health information and a red dress lapel pin for everyone to take.
- Councilman Moench and his wife have started a Bridgewater Cares movement. On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Cupid’s Chase 5K run at the Duke Island Park which raises money for special needs individuals. He asked all to join the Bridgewater Cares team page to run/walk as a group.
- Next Monday is Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. Bridgewater Cares will be going to the VA hospital and will offer coffee and donuts to these veterans and spend time with them. He invited everyone to join; they will be there between 10am to 12pm.
- Attended the Green Knoll Rescue Squad and Martinsville Rescue Squad installation dinners.
- Met with Debra Albanese, the chair of the Library Advisory Board. He will provide more information on this Board moving forward.
- Spoke at the Dedication of Papawick Park in Manville.
- Looks forward to tonight’s presentation on debt service.

### Councilman Norgalis

- Congratulated the cheerleaders on the positive image they bring to Bridgewater Township.
- Attended the presentation of "the Chorus Line" at Raritan Valley Community College. It was a sellout crowd.
- Attended the monthly ELC meeting where Assemblyman Zwicker and Senator Bateman were the speakers. Zwicker represents the 16th District which is comprised of Branchburg, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill and Somerville.
- Attended, along with all Council members, the Martinsville Squad Reorganization meeting held at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster. Former Councilman Robert Albano was the recipient of their annual "bedpan award" in recognition of his support to the organization.
- Attended the Narcan training facilitated by Matt Moench working with Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The training was geared toward giving the layman the skills and understanding to help someone suffering from a drug overdose.
- This week, as part of National Heart Month, Councilman Norgalis will attend an RWJ Barnabas Health presentation by Deepak Chopra dealing with the immune system as well as the Bridgewater Baseball Incorporated gathering at the Bridgewater Manor.
- Next Sunday, Councilman Norgalis will attend the Chinese School Cultural exhibition.

### Councilman Pedroso

- Congratulated the cheerleaders and their coaches on their success.
- Attended the Green Knoll Rescue Squad and Martinsville Rescue Squad installation dinners, both of which he noted have phenomenal volunteers.

### Council President Rose

- Had the opportunity to attend the Martinsville Fire Department, Green Knoll Rescue and Martinsville Rescue installation dinners and expressed gratitude for the time and effort these volunteers put in to make Bridgewater the community that it is.
- Attended a Camp Cromwell meeting. Plans are underway for the committee to provide the Mayor a report in the next several weeks.
- Took the newest member of Bridgewater History Committee to the Lane Brokaw house in order to give her a feel of our current challenges.
- Conducted a tour on the outside of the Hancock house. There are foxes and ground hogs that have made the dirt in this house's foundation their home.
- Congratulated the cheerleaders, coaches and parents for their success.

## Mayor's Reports

- Mayor Hayes stated he attended the Martinsville, Bradley Gardens, Finderne, Green Knoll and North Branch installation dinners.
- Attended the Martinsville and Green Knoll Rescue Squad installation ceremonies.
- Attended the Bio-NJ event. Mayor Hayes stated that one of Administration's key objectives is to continue to advance Bridgewater's standing in the life science/pharmaceutical area. At that meeting, he had the opportunity to sit one-on-one with the new Governor and impressed upon him that Bridgewater has already made great achievements in this area for we have more life science/pharmaceuticals companies than any other townships in the State and encouraged him to look at the performance that we have had in the last several years as he considers the suggestions that have been made by Bio-NJ. Mayor Hayes also met with several of the pharmaceutical CEOs thereby advancing our agenda.
- In continuing to advocate for our community and being he is a member on the Mayor's Committee for one-seat rides to New York, Mayor Hayes reported they had a meeting where they worked out a strategy to promote one-seat rides to NY during business hours.
- Mayor Hayes had the opportunity to participate in signing day at The Zone which is one of our recreation partners. Every year, there is an opportunity for signing day where scholar athletes sign for colleges that give out full scholarships.
- Congratulated the Cheerleaders for a job well done and wished them continued success.

## Recognition

### **BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN POP WARNER CHEERLEADERS**

#### **The Varsity Team - National Champions and Overall Grand Champions**

The Bridgewater-Raritan Pop Warner Varsity Team, its demonstrators and coaches were present in the audience. Council President Rose recognized their accomplishments noting the Varsity team consisting of 32 seventh and eighth grade athletes have won the National Championship title and were the Overall Grand Champions at the Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Competition on December 7, 2017 at Disney World in Florida. A signed proclamation was presented.

#### **The Junior Pee Wee Team – National Champions**

The Bridgewater-Raritan Pop Warner Junior Pee Wee Cheer Team, its demonstrators and coaches were also present in the audience. Council President Rose recognized their accomplishments noting the Junior Pee Wee team has 24 athletes comprised of third through six graders who earned another first for Bridgewater-Raritan. They were the only team in the organization's history to finish the season undefeated, with a first place at Local, State, Eastern Region and National levels. They won the National Championship at the Pop Warner

National Cheerleading Competition on December 7, 2017 at Disney World in Florida. A signed proclamation was presented.

## Presentation

### DEBT SERVICE

Mayor Daniel J. Hayes was present to provide a presentation on Municipal Budget & Debt noting this presentation was prepared in response to Council inquiry as follows:

- What is the township debt?
- What is the cost of township debt?
- Shouldn't cash be used instead of borrowing

→ Mayor Hayes stated that township budget represents Council choices and priorities. Administration provides budget advice based upon administration's vision, goals and priorities.

- Administration's Vision:
  - Bridgewater as an Exemplar Community
- Administration's Goals:
  - To have the lowest quartile of municipal taxes in the County
  - To be vigilant in land use
  - To deliver exemplary township services
  - To build our infrastructure

→ Mayor Hayes stated there are 3 budget components. Each piece is dependent upon the others so choices made in one component will affect the other components:

- Revenues
  - Taxes
  - Fees & Permits
  - Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)
- Expenditures
  - Operating Budget (Programs & Services)
  - Capital (Roads etc)
  - Debt Service
  - Reductions in debt or increase in cash reserve
- Debt
  - Because the operating budget must be fully funded, debt are funds borrowed to meet the difference between revenues and expenditures

The Administration's approach to budgeting is to plan and fund programs to efficiently achieve its vision for Bridgewater, use debt prudently, and check tax levy to ensure all goals are met.

→ Mayor Hayes explained Administration's approach to using debt prudently as follows:

- Being efficient in spending
- Use debt for long term capital projects that raise our quality of life
- Watch financial benchmarks:
  - Overall Rating of our township's financial status - Currently AA+ which is the highest rating that municipalities can achieve
  - Debt as a percentage of assessed value - Currently, the assessed value of our township is roughly 0.743% and 0.524% without the municipal building debt
  - Percentage of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) guidelines which states that municipalities cannot have debt greater than 3.5%. This means the DCA limit is 500% greater than our current debt.

→ Mayor Hayes discussed the township's historical changes in total debt noting that debt increases have been proportional to asset increases. In addition, excluding the municipal building, debt as a percentage of assets has been reduced by 40%.

→ Mayor Hayes discussed the net debt percentage of Bridgewater Township verses other municipalities noting that Bridgewater compares favorably to municipalities of similar size.

→ Mayor Hayes discussed the choices for 2018 as follows:

- The administration will be recommending funding capital programs that meet the needs of the residents while focusing on road projects
- Adjustments to the current and budgeted debt levels would require decisions by council to raise revenues, cut programs or both

→ Mayor Hayes summarized the presentation as follows:

- The budget going back decades have included debt to purchase long term improvements
- Debt is an effective tool to provide long term improvements paid over time
- Debt allows municipalities to match expenses with the useful life of the improvement while allowing residents to maintain control of their funds
- Out debt level compares favorably with relevant financial measures.

Following this presentation, Mayor Hayes and Natasha Turchan, CFO fielded questions from the governing body.

**Public  
Comment**

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

**Introduction  
of  
Ordinances**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126-248 ENTITLED “IMPROVEMENT GUARANTIES” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SO AS TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW**

Township Attorney Savo explained that the Governor signed legislation amending N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53 of the Municipal Land Use Law with regard to performance, maintenance and other guarantee requirements. This Ordinance will modify the Township’s Municipal Code to conform to said legislation.

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

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

**THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.**

A copy of resolution [#18-02-05-043](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2018, 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.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk forward this ordinance to the Bridgewater Township Planning Board for their meeting to be held February 13, 2018 to review and prepare a recommendation.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING SECTIONS 99-6, 99-7A, 99-7C, 99-7D, 99-7E, 99-9, 99-9A, 99-9.1, 99-10B & 99-11E OF CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SO AS TO MAKE SAME CONSISTENT WITH THE LATEST REVISIONS TO THE NEW JERSEY UNIFORM FIRE CODE AS IT RELATES TO REGISTRATION FEES, PERMIT FEES, CLARIFICATION OF THE PARTICULAR FIRE CODE SECTIONS TO BE UTILIZED AS WELL AS NEEDED CHANGES IN LANGUAGE NECESSARY TO UPDATE THE ORDINANCE**

Township Administrator Naples stated that Karl McAleer, Fire Official is recommending that we increase our fees in order to more accurately reflect the State fees and the cost incurred to provide these services.

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

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

**THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.**

A copy of resolution [#18-02-05-044](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2018, 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.



**Resolutions**

There being no questions concerning the following resolutions, Council President Rose called for a consent vote:

**AUTHORIZATION TO WAIVE INTEREST ASSOCIATED WITH BLOCK-718, LOT - 39 LOCATED AT 1846 MOUNTAIN TOP ROAD, BRIDGEWATER**

**AUTHORIZATION APPROVING FINAL LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGEWATER FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUADS WHO QUALIFY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE TOWNSHIP LOSAP PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR RECYCLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,727.70**

**AMENDING RESOLUTION 15-04-06-108 AND MODIFYING INTEREST RATE CHARGED FOR THE CONDOMINIUM FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT FOR BLOCK 530.01 LOT 205, 81 CAIN COURT, FOR BEVERLY A. SLACK**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$280,352.64 TO \$265,234.53 A DECREASE OF 5.39% OR (\$15,118.11), AND FINAL PAYMENT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE DRUM HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND.**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,070.27, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR 701 ROUTE 206, LLC - BLOCK 476, LOT 23**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$147,561.60, FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND, BOND NO. 09126356, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,805.44 AND CASH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,756.16, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR AAA MID-ATLANTIC INC., 976 ROUTE 22, BLOCK 554, LOTS 3 & 4**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$527,329.44, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR AMERICAN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS MANAGEMENT NEW JERSEY (AREP AT CENTERPOINTE PROPERTIES AT BRIDGEWATER, LLC), BLOCK 206, LOT 3**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,340,600.11, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$233,433.00 SURETY MAINTENANCE BOND FOR WAWA, INC. - BLOCK 257, LOTS 3 & 4**

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PLUMBING, ELECTRIC AND CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,887.00 FOR THE BRANCH POINT CHURCH LOCATED AT 49 CHARLOTTE DRIVE, BLOCK 163.02 LOT 9**

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

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#18-02-05-045 thru #18-02-05-055](#) are appended to the official minutes

**Closed  
Session**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss contract negotiations and 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 Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:40 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#18-02-05-056](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:50 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk