

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 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, March 19, 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 (arrived at 7:33pm)
Council Vice President Matthew C. Moench
Council President Christine Henderson Rose

Also Present: Daniel J. Hayes, Mayor
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

MARCH 1, 2018 - AGENDA SESSION

MARCH 5, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the March 1, 2018 agenda session minutes and March 5, 2018 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. The March 5, 2018 closed session minutes were passed around for approval.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended a meeting on March 12th along with Jim Weideli, Chairman of the Open Space committee. They met with individuals of the Foothill Road area who are interested in the Wemple Property. Councilman Kurdyla will report more on this at a later date.

Council Vice President Moench

- Attended the Library Advisory Board meeting last week. They are moving forward with a couple of projects which include improving the entrance of the building and getting a deck area for the children's section. There is also discussion about the possibility of applying for a grant for a new HVAC system.
- Advised that the 'Commission on the Status of Women' dinner where his wife Stephanie Moench is one of the honorees has been rescheduled for Monday, March 19th at 6pm at The Imperia.
- He along with Bridgewater Cares visited the VA hospital. Approximately 10-volunteers joined in this effort to share coffee and donuts with about 40-VA patients. Councilman Moench will keep everyone apprised about the next visit should they desire to attend.
- Attended the robotics competition at the high school. He stated it's a free program and quite impressive
- Councilman Moench stated he would like to start discussions in the near future concerning ordinances for road opening permits. The intent is to take a look at what other towns do in instances where the water or gas companies want to open a road that was paved in the last 5-10 years. If this should happen, Councilman Moench stated it would be best if our ordinances are clear about what the water and gas companies' obligation is.

Councilman Norgalis

- According to the Courier News article on 3-11, the State Dept. of Community Affairs, effective last Monday, has reclassified former big-ticket repairs as minor work and ordinary maintenance which no longer require township work permits. They include roofing and siding on one and two family homes. Others are: installing alarm systems, outdoor irrigation, chimney lining, indoor sheetrock and drywall and replacement of indoor plumbing fixtures. The League of Municipalities, on behalf of towns concerned about the loss of fee revenue, fought against these changes.
- Participated in several JCP&L Elected Official conference calls. Bridgewater has dodged the bullet on widespread outages but some residents in isolated pockets such as Cambridge Ln. were out for almost a week.
- Planning Board updates:
 - The Eden Woods project is continuing with remediation of the Weyerhaeuser building in advance of demolition. Remediation includes asbestos removal and rodent control, both of which are

- important topics to the surrounding residents.
 - The Advance Realty project scheduled to come before the Board on March 26th has been pulled from the agenda at the request of the applicant's attorney. No new date has been set.
 - The Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 13th was cancelled due to lack of applications.
- Attended the grand opening of Nordstrum Off Rack on Chimney Rock Road. It was very well attended.
- Attended the bid opening for road sealing and the results were encouraging with, subject to engineering and legal review, the number coming in about \$20,000 under the original estimate.
- Attended the Fifth Friday Friars which will no longer be on the fifth Friday. Guest speaker was the Chief operating Officer of PSE&G who spoke about company plans and operations. Also looking for support for the \$300million rate increase to support their nuclear operation.

Councilman Pedroso

- Nothing new to report.

Council President Rose

- Attended the March meeting of Friends of Bridgewater History.
- Attended the grand opening of Nordstrum Off Rack on Chimney Rock Road.
- Martinsville Fire Department is being treated to a tour of “Whole Foods” on Wednesday, prior to their opening.
- Council President Rose expressed disappointment at the utility companies’ response during this past storm and wondered how Council can ensure a better response for our residents. Council was in agreement to invite the utility companies including cable and electric to provide their input on same.

Mayor’s Reports

Township Administrator Naples commented on the Library Board’s proposal for a new HVAC system noting PSE&G is scheduled to do the audit tomorrow then advise whether or not the library needs to update the HVAC. He added that Public Service offers a great program where they pay 70% of the installation of the new equipment and the library pays 30%. The 30% is then made part of the ongoing bill for the next two years interest free. More on this at a later time.

Discussion

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE LIST

Councilman Moench stated that at the beginning of this year, Governor Christie

signed into law a legislation that allows municipalities to maintain a Special Needs list. The list contains the names and addresses of municipal residents who identify themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of an emergency. People are allowed to self identify and decide if they want to participate. In the event of an emergency, this list which is maintained in the Clerk's Office is made available to the Police Department and Rescue Squads. Ultimately, the first responders determine how they want to utilize the list.

Councilman Moench added the law exempts this list from OPRA. Further, this legislation provides that the Township should send out an annual notice with the tax bill advising that people can register to be placed on the list.

Councilman Moench stated that although the Township does maintain such a list with the Police Department's Office of Emergency Management, it's an informal list that has not been advertised. This law will formalize the process and advertise it using the tax bill and by placing on the website. There is a model tax bill notice that has been proposed by the State.

Township Administrator Naples confirmed that such list exists and added on the police website, there is a prominent link at the bottom of their page which residents can use to register and be placed on this list. So far, there are 35 residents on this list. The Police Department's Office of Emergency management notifies all the branches of first responders when there is an emergency with those individuals and what their needs are.

Council was in consensus that legal will obtain more information on this, then prepare a draft ordinance to be readdressed by the governing body at a later date.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, 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.

Lefty Grimmes of East Hanover NJ was present. He addressed council concerning medical dispensaries advocating they should be available for the sick and dying who need compassionate care by use of marijuana.

Jeff Oakes of Oceanport NJ was present. He stated he supports and advocates for medical marijuana dispensaries. He came to represent those with cancer and expressed from a personal perspective that medical cannabis is vital to reduce adverse reactions of chemotherapy.

Jerry Black, 5 Ann Place in Bridgewater was present. He stated he was under the impression that his neighbor will be setting up a bee hive in another month or so and expressed he is highly allergic and carries an epi-pen all the time. Although he is 6feet 4inches and 235lbs, one bee sting could mean death to him. He expressed concern not only for himself but also for other children who might have this allergy and asked council to intervene.

Amy Roth of Springfield NJ was present. She stated that she also supports and advocates for medical cannabis dispensaries noting that a few years ago, she conducted a lot of research on dispensaries and has since found employed in such facility. She urged council to keep an open mind as the legislation is happening now.

Hugh Giordano, of Blackwood NJ was present. He is a member of the UFCW which is a union that advocates for medical dispensaries. He discussed the benefits of same including the economic advantage for the township, job creation and added it is a great way to increase revenue & tax incentives. He also offered to give Council a tour of a medical dispensary at a time of their choosing.

Jeffrey King of Eatontown was present. He expressed support & compassionately advocated for medical dispensaries and the positive effects it has for the community.

Councilman Moench addressed all those that attended the meeting and thanked them for their insight and for coming.

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

Resolutions

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

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER - SCOTT C. MITZNER

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MUTUAL RELEASE BETWEEN RENDAS PARTNERSHIP, LLP AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ARISING OUT OF A CONTRACT OF SALE DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 GRANTING THE TOWNSHIP AN OPTION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 165, LOT 2 AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS 360 MILLTOWN ROAD WITH RENDAS PAYING \$40,000 AS CONSIDERATION TO BE PAID BY RENDAS PARTNERSHIP, LLP TO THE TOWNSHIP

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE BY THE SUM OF \$40,470.00 FOR THE COLONIAL WAY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH REIVAX CONTRACTING CORP., FROM THE PRICE OF \$452,859.40 TO \$493,329.40, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

APPROVING THE DETOURS RELATED TO A PROPOSED NJDOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE ROUTE 202/206 BETWEEN THE GARRETSON ROAD AND COMMONS WAY OVERPASSES

APPOINTMENT OF KRISTEN SCHIRO AS DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#18-03-19-081 thru #18-03-19-085](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2017-2018 HAZARDOUS BUSING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 227,043.90

Township Administrator Naples noted the price is less than it was last year and noted it has steadily gone down the last couple of years. Council Vice President Moench stated as in past years, he continues to believe this expense should be with the school district and will therefore be abstaining.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution 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 RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#18-03-19-086](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR APPROPRIATION RESERVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$385,100.00

Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance was present and fielded questions from the Council.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#18-03-19-087](#) is 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.

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 Councilman Pedroso, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:50 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#18-03-19-088](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Moench, the meeting reconvened to open session at 9:30 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk