

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 18, 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, June 18, 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:                    James T. Naples, Township Administrator  
   Christopher Corsini, Deputy Township Attorney  
   Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

**Minutes**

**MAY 17, 2018 - AGENDA SESSION**  
**MAY 21, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION**  
**JUNE 7, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION**  
**JUNE 7, 2018 - CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Moench, the May 17<sup>th</sup> agenda session minutes, May 21<sup>st</sup> regular session minutes and June 7<sup>th</sup> regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. The Closed session minutes were passed around for approval.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended a Lacrosse festival in Pennsylvania. There were four (4) Bridgewater teams that presented themselves very well. Councilman

Kurdyla explained this is the reason he was unable to attend Bradley Gardens Little Loop and the picnic at Centerbridge.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended the Centerbridge Annual picnic. It was the best weather they have had in years.
- Somerset County Business Partnership BIZFEST was again held at the Imperia in Somerset. There were lots of presenters and visitors.
- Attended the “Welcome Summer Picnic” sponsored by Matt and Stephanie Moench. It was held at the Apple Grove Pavilion at Duke Island Park. Councilman Pedroso and Councilwoman Rose also attended.
- The planning Board meeting scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to lack of applications.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended Councilman Moench’s summer picnic.
- Reminded everyone that tomorrow, the air force will be conducting some aerial maneuvers and training exercises over Bedminster’s Trump National golf course between 10am and 11:30am.

Council Vice President Moench

- Attended a ribbon cutting for the Hunterdon medical center which has added new surgery wing.
- Attended the John Basilone memorial charity game at Bridgewater high school.

Council President Rose:

- Attended the Flag Day celebration that is conducted by the Elks every year. At this ceremony, 30 residents were naturalized in front of the courthouse. Some veterans were also celebrated and overall, it was a very nice event.
- Attended the ceremony to commemorate the rediscovery and dedication of the Washington Rock at Middlebrook.

**Mayor's  
Reports**

**Mayor Daniel J. Hayes**

- Attended the Somerset Business Partnership Economic Summit. Dean Hughes of Rutgers spoke about the local economy. It was noted that Somerset County leads the State in economic growth by a significant amount and Bridgewater’s economic plan supports same. Mayor Hayes recognized the economic development team which has continued to guide us to develop our commercial asset.
- Has been invited yet again to advocate for continued pharmaceutical leadership and has been asked to work with pharmaceutical companies

and meet with our congressional delegations to talk about how important it is to continue discussions concerning pharmaceutical leadership for our township, state and nation.

- Had the opportunity to speak at the New Jersey Historic Commission's meeting held at the Van Holten house this week.
- Had the opportunity to kick off the Farmers market which has been in operation the last two weeks.

## Presentation PRESENTATION OF FIREMEN PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hayes stated Bridgewater has a strong history of volunteerism; the strength of that is seen in our Fire Departments. He added there is an organization known as the NJ State Firemen's Association that essentially oversees the firemen's activities. This association, also known as the Relief Association is over 100-years old and was setup to aid firemen and their families in their times of need. They operate a nursing home for fire fighters, provide death benefits for members and sponsor the annual convention. They also provide financial assistance to firefighters in need including aid for surviving spouses.

The Bridgewater's Fireman's Relief Association is a subsidiary of the State Association and is made up of active members from the fire companies that are physically located in our Township. They meet once a quarter for regular business and their committees meet as needed to evaluate request for financial relief. The State Association periodically issues proclamations for firefighters actively participating in fire service after 50-years of continuous service.

Mayor Hayes stated that tonight, several members are being recognized for having served continuously for over 50-years. Together, they possess a subtotal of over 216 years of volunteer fire service and activity.

Mayor Hayes stated it was a great honor to present the proclamations and thanked them on behalf of the 44,000 Bridgewater residents they have served for so many years.

The following Fireman were recognized and presented with Proclamations:  
Bob Forsythe  
Michael Montone  
Councilman Allen Kurdyla

## Discussion STATUS OF THE LANE BROKAW HOUSE

Council President Rose headed this discussion. She stated she earlier forwarded the most recent estimate for the repairs at Lane Brokaw house which is 50%

higher than it was in 2015 when Council initially applied for the County grant.

Council President Rose stated she is looking for a commitment from the governing body to perform the stabilization work needed for this home. She asked them to approve, on faith, the County grant resolution on the agenda tonight that will authorize acceptance of the historic preservation grant.

Township Administrator Naples explained because the County grant requires a match, the only way to move forward is by doing an emergency appropriation that will allocate funds for a match in the 2019 Budget. He added the County will not release the grant unless there is a match and at this time, being there is no money in the Budget allocated for this item, the Chief Financial Officer cannot certify availability of funds.

Council President Rose inquired of the Council if they will, in the future, agree to spending over \$200,000 on the Lane Brokaw House.

Councilman Kurdyla stated the Council has had many discussions about this matter. If action continues to be delayed, the stabilization cost continues to go up and the condition of the house continues to deteriorate.

Councilman Pedroso stated as much as he would like to see the Lane Brokaw house stabilized, he is not able to make a responsible decision when there are no solid numbers concerning the expenses to do that.

Councilman Moench inquired if township employees can work on parts of the stabilization project in order to bring the cost down and if the Mayor would be willing to authorize that. He also asked if the Mayor plans to place the grant match amount on next year's Budget. Township Administrator Naples stated he will get back to Council about authorizing township employees to work on this project. He also stated administration has always supported the proposal to stabilize the Lane Brokaw house but has no authority to make a commitment about placing monies for this project on next year's budget.

Councilman Norgalis stated he is concerned the stabilization of this house will cost a lot more than the projected numbers. He added although the outside brick work may be historical, nothing inside the property, in his opinion, is historical and for that reason is unwilling to commit to an undetermined amount of funds without knowing what the real cost of the project will be.

Council President Rose stated she will suspend further discussions concerning the Lane Brokaw house until that time when Council has all the information they need to make an informed decision.

**Discussion****HOBBSTOWN**

Council President Rose headed this discussion. She stated at the December meeting of the Friends of Bridgewater History, there were several representatives from the Hobbs family who talked to them about their interest in having the area of the Township that is currently referred to as Somerville Manor renamed and called Hobbstown. They would like to have this done in time for their 200<sup>th</sup> family anniversary which is in July of 2020. She added she talked to the Township attorney and they are working on determining what the metes and bounds are. She also stated she is in possession of a resolution from the Friends of Bridgewater History supporting the idea that this section of Township can be renamed and signed as such.

Council President Rose asked for the governing body's opinion about designating this particular area of town which is around Monmouth and Sussex Avenues by the post office as Hobbstown as opposed to Somerville Manor.

Council expressed support for this proposal but suggested the residents around this area should be advised of this and determination made concerning whether they are in support.

**Public Comment**

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

Robert Walton from JCP&L was present. He stated it has been a couple of months since the March storms that impacted 526,000 people in Northern New Jersey. He discussed the extent of the storm disturbance then stated he was present to discuss any questions or concerns the Council might have. On question of the Council, Mr. Walton stated JCP&L maintains the separation devices that keep high voltage wires from touching each other and to inform them when separators are broken or missing.

Council stated they appreciate the emails he sends out to keep everyone apprised of current events.

Stephanie Moench, 1303 Roger Avenue was present. She stated she is the chairwoman of the Bridgewater Creative Arts Committee and was present to speak on its behalf and its recommendation for the regional center creative placemaking pilot grant. She stated while preparing a recommendation, they were careful to consider every aspect of the grant while paying careful

attention to disbursing the idea within the boundaries of the regional center including the Finderne area, specifically for the beautification of this area. They also looked very carefully as to how their idea could bring economic vitality and stimulation of tourism.

Ms. Moench stated their proposal for the Township is called “The Hearts of Bridgewater” and includes 12 sculptural hearts that would be placed throughout the town within the regional center. The proposal has a lot of potential for future expansion as well as community engagement. She added she sat down with Township administrator Naples to discuss a collaboration of ideas of both the administration and the creative arts committee.

Ms. Moench stated that Mayor Hayes mentioned earlier that Bridgewater leads the State in economic growth. She stated she would like to show the County and State how our hearts are growing as well through the hearts of Bridgewater.

Councilman Pedroso offered that as the liaison for the creative arts committee, Stephanie has taken great charge of this committee, revived it and made it something it wasn’t before.

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

Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
Ordinances

**AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CERTAIN OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 374 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1985; N.J.S.A. 2A:809; N.J.S.A. 2A:8-13; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-165; N.J.S.A.40A:9-135; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146, AND CHAPTER 95 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1996**

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

There was discussion about documentation in support of the increase being recommended for the Chief Financial Officer. In order to investigate this further, this Ordinance was tabled and will be acted upon at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Pedroso made motion to table this Ordinance, Councilman Moench

seconded that motion which carried on the following roll call vote:

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

- Introduction  
of  
Ordinances** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A BINDING REFERENDUM, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181 ET SEQ. OF THE FAULKNER ACT AND N.J.S.A. 40: 12-15.7, AS TO WHETHER THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SHOULD ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 20-6 (UTILIZATION OF THE LAND) OF CHAPTER 20 (OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SO AS TO PERMIT THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MONIES TO BE UTILIZED FOR 1) THE MAINTENANCE OF LANDS ACQUIRED FOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES AND 2) HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES, STRUCTURES, FACILITIES, SITES, AREAS OR OBJECTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH PROPERTIES, STRUCTURES, FACILITIES, SITES, AREAS OR OBJECTS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PURPOSES, AS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN N.J.S.A. 40: 12-15.7(a)(1)(c) & (e)

Council President Rose explained this was discussed at the last Council meeting and it was agreed to prepare a binding referendum question about using Open Space monies for historic preservation.

Councilman Norgalis expressed concern that this has the potential to drain the Township's Open Space funds. Councilman Moench recommended the Ordinance be amended to tighten up the language & make it more restrictive. Council was in consensus.

- Resolutions** RESOLUTION COMBINING BONDS AGGREGATING THE PRINCIPAL SUM OF \$18,910,000 AUTHORIZED BY ELEVEN BOND ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST OF VARIOUS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY INTO ONE CONSOLIDATED ISSUE OF BONDS AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, MATURITIES AND OTHER DETAILS OF SAID CONSOLIDATED ISSUE

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [\*\*#18-06-18-173\*\*](#) is appended to the official minutes

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$200,000 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND TO THE REFORMED CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK AFFORDABLE HOUSING CORPORATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE VACANT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 216 CHURCH ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTH BRANCH REFORMED CHURCH FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING. HOUSING UNITS DERIVED FROM THIS PURCHASE WILL COUNT TOWARD BRIDGEWATER AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITMENTS.**

Jim Zarra was present & thanked the governing body for their support of this resolution.

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$671,769.36, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR FNC REALTY CORPORATION, BLOCK 166, LOT 6, ON 794 ROUTE 202, BRIDGEWATER, NJ**

**AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FROM \$2,952,630.59 to \$132,771.97 FOR BRIDGEWATER REGENCY, LLC AT CHIMNEY ROCK CROSSING EAST, CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD, BLOCK 730, LOT 1.01**

**AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FROM \$3,209,881.76 to \$98,480.42 FOR BRIDGEWATER REGENCY, LLC AT CHIMNEY ROCK CROSSING WEST, CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD, BLOCK 711, LOT 6.01**

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN CONNECTION WITH OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP USE OF THEIR FIRE PIT ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 PM BEGINNING JULY 10, 2018 THROUGH JULY 31, 2018**

**AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF \$60.00 APPLICATION FEE FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH A FAMILY FUNFEST FREE COMMUNITY EVENT AT THE PATRIOT'S BALL FIELD PARKING LOT ON JUNE 9, 2018**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, 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 [\*\*#18-06-18-174 thru #18-06-08-179\*\*](#) are appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2018 REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM FOR CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A STORYTELLING TRAIL AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY BRIDGEWATER BRANCH AND PLACING PAINTED HEART SCULPTURES IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN THE REGIONAL CENTER. BOTH PROJECT WILL EMBRACE LOCAL CULTURE AND HISTORY, HEALTH AND WELLNESS, ART AND LITERATURE TO DRAW PEOPLE TO BRIDGEWATER TO EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY AND STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC VITALITY**

Councilman Moench recused himself from the discussion of this resolution.

Township Administrator Naples stated he met with Stephanie Moench, President of the Creative Arts committee and together they came up with the proposal that is before the Council as follows:

- 1) A grant in the amount of \$10,000 will be for the purpose of creating a Storytelling Trail around the perimeter of the Somerset County Library Bridgewater Branch. The trail will include eight interchangeable display cases where one-dimensional themed art pieces can be displayed throughout the year.
- 2) A grant in the amount of \$5,000 will be for painted sculptural installations, also known as "Hearts of Bridgewater" to be placed in strategic locations throughout the regional center.

Councilman Pedroso stated he is in support of the painted sculptural installations noting that in his opinion, this proposal fulfills more objectives than the storytelling trail proposed around the perimeter of the library.

Councilman Norgalis was concerned about the safety of the library's proposal and supported Councilman Pedroso that the sum total of the grant monies should be utilized for sculptural installations throughout the township.

Council President Rose expressed disappointment and opined this resolution contains a proposal that is a good compromise between the administration and the creative arts committee.

Councilman Pedroso made motion to amend the resolution to read that the total sum of the grant monies, equaling \$15,000.00, will be utilized for sculptural installations throughout the Township. Councilman Norgalis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

#### **THE RESOLUTION FAILED.**

A copy of resolution [\*\*#18-06-18-180\*\*](#) 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 Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:04p.m.

A copy of resolution [\*\*#18-06-18-181\*\*](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:31p.m and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Christine Henderson-Rose  
Council President