

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 20, 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, August 20, 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, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes **AUGUST 6, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION**
On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the July 16th regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed on a voice call vote. Councilman Pedroso abstained.

Council Reports Councilman Norgalis:

- Reported he received a phone call from Roberta Heller, daughter of Norma Hancock who was the former owner of the twenty acre plot on North Bridge Street. Last year the township acquired this property using Open Space funds. Ms. Heller has again raised the subject, as she did last year, asking for some sort of historical marker commemorating the former Hancock ownership. Council President Rose has indicated that this is an agenda item for this fall. If Council is supportive of this idea I will so inform Ms. Heller.

- Over the months I have received multiple concerns about the house at the corner of Sherlin Dr. and Crim Rd. According to local residents a large tree fell on the house years ago and virtually no attempt has been made to repair the home. The condition of this home is truly a blight on the neighborhood. Mr. Naples is looking into it.
- The 2017 audit of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority, to which we are the largest member, has been completed with no audit recommendations.
- The Advance Realty plan for the residential and commercial development of the former SANOFI site on Route 202/206 is scheduled to come back to the Planning Board on Aug 27. The previous development plan was withdrawn by the applicant due to disagreements among the various stakeholders.
- Last week, I and all the members of the Planning Board received an e-mail from Ann Marie Lehberger, who serves as the scribe for the Planning Board, saying she was resigning from Township employment. As fate would have it I saw her in COSCO this morning and she told me she would be working at the mall. I am very sorry to lose a very dedicated employee.

Councilman Kurdyla

- Reported he received an anonymous letter from a person complaining on a person associated with the Township. He noted if the Council was polled they would concur they would not like the contents of the letter or nature of the complaint. However without the writer signing the letter most likely no action will be taken. He advised anyone who wants to make Council aware of any indiscretions or has concerns with a matter he would encourage them to sign their name so reports such as this can be investigated and possible action taken to rectify the issue if necessary.

Councilman Moench:

- Reported on September 6, during the Council session Mayor John Spediphora, Chief Thomas Delaine and Coordinator of the On-Point Program in Stafford Township, Ocean County will be present to speak on the On-Point Program which partners with social workers with the Police Department bearing no impact on taxes to be proactive with community matters. This program proactively provides treatment opportunities for residents struggling with drug and alcohol abuse, mental health matters etc. through grants and ways that have not imposed on the budget. He noted Congressman McArthur has recently proposed a bipartisan bill on this program as a model for other communities to embrace.
- He reported he is the liaison to the Library Committee this year. It has come to his attention and raised concern that the Committee although advisory should be reporting to the Council. He stated that the Committee has control and directs

the spending of money from the Library. Such as fees collected through late charges, photocopying and other services the library has estimated at \$30,000 per year is at the disposal of the Library Advisory Committee to direct its spending. He raised concern at a minimum Council should be overseeing these ways and approving a budget and overseeing how the money is being spent. He added he's not sure the Committee's proper mechanism is in place to approve spending and parameters set to guide the Committee while spending. He asked Council direct the Auditors to review the spending as well as the legal department look into bylaws and how the money is being spent or authorized.

Council President Rose stated the money may be Audited through the County or Library Commission.

Mr. Naples advised his understanding is that all the money collected each year passes through the Library Commission not through the Township and suggested the Library Commission be tasked with the Audit.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Welcomed all those present at the session.

Council President Rose:

- Reported she together with Councilman Moench and Kurdyla attended National Night out Event.
- Reported as liaison to the Board of Education this year she met with School Board representatives looking at hiring Class 3 Officers also know as Resource Officers for the fall.
- Attended the monthly Board of Social Services Meeting in Somerville.
- Reported on August 8th, she had the opportunity to attend and participate on behalf of the Township a special Purple Heart Presentation at Avalon on Route 28 for a 99 year old gentleman and World War 2 veteran and recipient of a Purple Heart with residents and family. She stated it was an interesting and moving experience.
- President Rose advised she was asked whether Bridgewater was a Purple Heart Community and she has since determined the Township is not. It takes a resolution on a part of the Council and with Council consent she would look into pursuing that. Council was in consent.

Mayor's Reports

Mr. Naples stated there is no Mayor report.

Presentation

Council President Rose stated approximately a year ago two members of the Hobb's family came to a meeting of the Friends of Bridgewater History to talk about the contributions their ancestors made to the area commonly known as Hobbstown and their desire to designate that area of the Township as such officially as opposed to Somerville

Manor. She stated the Friends of Bridgewater History supported that proposal and adopted a resolution which has now come before Council to review in order to support that change. President Rose stated there are several members of the Hobb's family members present together with members of the Friends of Bridgewater History, and Don Bowers who was instrumental connecting her with Kenny Hobb's.

Council President Rose read the resolution in full:

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE HOBBS FAMILY TO BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP AND DESIGNATING THE NEIGHBORHOOD KNOWN AS "HOBBS TOWN" AS AN UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

WHEREAS, Amos Hobbs, a son of Perry Hobbs and Charlot Stewart Hobbs' fifteen children was born in Georgia in 1881.

WHEREAS, Amos Hobbs married Francis Hicks in 1903 and was a tenant farmer and ordained minister prior to moving his family from Georgia to Brooklyn, New York in 1918 to work on the BMT subway and was an organizing member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Amos Hobbs purchased land in Bridgewater Township in 1920 in a development of 20' by 100' feet lots laid out by the Weston Park Realty Company of New York and referred to as Somerville Manor; and

WHEREAS, two of his brothers, General Washington Hobbs and Robert Hobbs, joined Amos in purchasing lots in Somerville Manor; and

WHEREAS, on an evening in April of 1920, Amos, General and Robert set up camp on the dirt road that cut off from the old Somerville Road, which is now known as North Bridge Street, and by the light of lanterns and a fire, laid out the foundation of what would become Amos' home; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, Amos moved his wife and eight children from Brooklyn, and along with General and Robert, they lived together in the newly completed home; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, General purchased three acres of farmland adjacent to Amos' property and Robert purchased land in Somerville Manor and become the nucleus of the community; and

WHEREAS, Amos, General and Robert Hobbs invited other friends and family from Georgia to join them in the new community, leading to the creation of a distinct and vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, the Macedonia Baptist Church was established by Amos and the original

church was built in 1922 at the end of Monmouth Avenue and he served as its pastor until 1929; and

WHEREAS, General was a carpenter and handyman, as well as the largest landowner in Somerville Manor and well-known in Somerset County for building summer cottages for wealthy New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, by 1936, the Hobbstown community enjoyed a playground and pool, a regulation baseball field and a dancehall, all built and funded by the residents; and

WHEREAS, when the proposed plan for the construction of Interstate Route 287 placed the highway through the middle of Hobbstown, threatening to demolish the Macedonia Baptist Church building and displace the entire Hobbstown community, residents thereof formed the Somerville Manor Civic Association and with the help of local, state, and federal officials, were successful in re-routing the highway to bypass the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Somerville Manor Civic Association was successful in convincing Bridgewater Township to extend sewers, gas, and other municipal services to Hobbstown; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Manor Civic Association remains to this day an active and vibrant part of the Bridgewater Township community; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbstown community was instrumental in the creation of the Martin Luther King Youth Center in 1973; and

WHEREAS, a “Family and Friends Reunion” was held in August of 1995 to celebrate the deep connections between that Hobbs and the Hicks, Bryant, Miller, Murdock, Proctor, Sermons, McCray and Tukes families; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Hobbs family and friends will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Hobbstown by Amos, General and Robert Hobbs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey recognizes and acknowledges the significant contribution of Amos, General and Robert Hobbs and their descendants to growth and development of Bridgewater Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the neighborhood consisting of Prince Rodgers Avenue, Sussex Avenue, Mercer Street, Richard Street, Monmouth Avenue, Hudson Street, Henry Street and Hoagland Court in the Township of Bridgewater is hereby declared to be an unincorporated community within the boundaries of Bridgewater Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Office of the Governor of the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, with a request that same consider the area designated herein as Hobbstown as a Census-Designated Place for the 2020 Census.

Councilman Pedroso stated this resolution to designate this section of town officially to be named Hobbstown is long overdue. The family has had a significant contribution and positive impact on the neighborhood.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolutions #[18-08-20-209](#) is appended to the official minutes

Council President Rose asked the members of the Hobbs Family, Friends of Bridgewater History and Don Bowers come forward where she presented them a framed copy of the resolution and a photograph was taken of the group.

Nan a female representative of the family came forward to thank the Council for the acknowledgement and stated generations to come will have an understanding of the history and contributions their ancestors made to the community. Whereas the great matriarchs, Amos, General and Robert who shared the vision to find a safe affordable place to live, work, raise their children and families were model citizens and offered good will for their community.

Kenneth Hobbs thanked Council, President Christine, Don Bowers, Nan, Darrow Murdock, Friends of Bridgewater History and all those who came forward to bring this resolution designating Hobbstown tonight. Mr. Hobbs stated he would like to continue to work with Friends of History in the future.

President Rose acknowledged Chris Corsini, Township Attorney for his research on this section of town. She noted he presented her a book written by a member of the Hobb's

family about “Hobbstown” which is still in print today and available on amazon.

Discussion

Council President Rose said the Marijuana Ordinance prepared by legal Counsel was initially on for discussion by Council . She wanted to be sure Council had a clear and concise understanding of the ordinance. Chris Corsini, Township Attorney has verified for her that this ordinance does not outlaw medical marijuana dispensaries. Council President stated on other’s positive experiences with medical marijuana she has become a strong advocate.

Councilman Moench said he felt it was important to move forward on the ordinance before the state legislation takes effect as soon as September. He noted the worst case scenario the state law would override the local ordinance. He feels this ordinance affords the opportunity to protect the town.

Councilman Pedroso noted this is at least the third time Council has discussed this topic and feels we should move forward.

Councilman Norgalis concurs with legal that the wording in the ordinance does not preclude medical marijuana. Councilman Norgalis’s concern comes from under state statute if an application for permit comes before the planning or zoning board they are reviewed under the rules and regulations that exist at that time. He added the Township does not have the right or opportunity to change the rules after the fact to ban recreational marijuana so he would like to move forward with a motion to introduce the ordinance.

Council President Rose asked should a pharmaceutical company wish to undertake testing would they be precluded?

Chris Corsini stated section 4 of this ordinance is the operative one that states this ordinance would not preclude them from doing so.

President Rose complimented Mike Deak reporter on his Courier News article adding it was very informative. She added it reflected the experience she has had in her own family.

ORDINANCE be introduced and that the Clerk now read publicly the title of the same as follows:

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 53 ENTITLED “RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA” TO BAN THE SALE, CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURING AND TESTING OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA WITHIN BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 6th day of September, 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.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution 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 [#18-08-20-210](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**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.

Robert Young, 926 Route 202-206, Bridgewater resident for 51 years identified himself as a Certified Marijuana Consultant, told Council he was glad to see the ordinance allows medical dispensaries and supported the ordinance. He advised it was his article written by Mike Deak in the Courier News yesterday. He is a medical marijuana card holder in NJ and his main concern is for senior citizens including him at 68 years old. He noted restrictions need be had but let the senior citizens that need this alternative medicine have that option.

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

There being no questions concerning the following resolutions, Council President Rose called for a consent vote on c, d, e, f, g, h, l, j & k - resolutions a & b were discussed separately.

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,282.56, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE BOND FOR BOUND BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-CEMETERY, BLOCK 381, LOTS 27, 28, PART 22, 500 MOUNTAIN AVENUE, BOUND BROOK, NJ

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR GLOTEL, INC., BLOCK 163, LOT 6.01, ROUTE 202 NORTH, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$351,225.75 TO \$353,030.19 AN INCREASE OF .51% OR \$1,804.44, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR HILLCREST ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SECTION III (A POINT 200' WESTERLY OF AMUR ROAD EASTERLY TO THE TOWNSHIP BORDER), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$293,307.65 TO \$315,486.88 AN INCREASE OF 7.56% OR \$22,179.23, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO DOGWOOD DRIVE, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 DECREASING THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$2,238,888.38 TO \$2,180,441.13, WHICH IS A DECREASE OF 2.61% OR (\$58,447.25) FROM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT TO PILLARI BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CORP. LOCATED AT 65 SQUANKUM YELLOWBROOK ROAD, FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727 FOR THE LEGHORN AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE 2016 CAPITAL SEWER FUNDS

AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FROM \$166,087.50 to \$16,111.80 FOR CJA INVESTMENTS, LLC AT 460 MILLTOWN ROAD, BLOCK 198, LOT 1

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR LABORATORY TESTING AND ANALYSIS TO TEST AMERICA LABORATORIES, INC. LOCATED AT 777 NEW DURHAM ROAD, EDISON, NJ 08817 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,857.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2015 SEWER BUDGET

PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-33-012-013, 22 WEST TAP & GRILL LLC, 1601 ROUTE 22, BOUND BROOK, NJ 08805 - BLOCK 800 LOTS 1.02 & 2

WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR BRIDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOCATED AT 651 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, BRIDGEWATER IN CONNECTION WITH A FAMILY PICNIC/COOKOUT FOR IT'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 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 [#18-08-20-211 thru #18-08-20-219](#) are appended to the official minutes

Councilman Moench stated he has done some research on the Municipal Alliance it the Municipal Alliance appointment process seems inconsistent with the bylaws and the appointees also seem inconsistent with the bylaws. He noted the Township staff dominates the membership of the Board.

Council President Rose advised Chris Corsini review and clarifies the Municipal Alliance current practice and provides a memo to Council on his findings.

Council President Rose noted as being part of the Municipal Alliance for years in her former capacity through Somerset County it can be difficult to guarantee volunteers during the day and adversely to have staff available during evening hours.

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2018 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION-NEWCOMERS CLUB \$5,000.00

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2018 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION-YOGA IN THE PARK \$2,500.00

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, 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 [#18-08-20-220 thru #18-08-20-221](#) are appended to the official minutes

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Christine Henderson-Rose
Council President