

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JANUARY 17, 2019 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

Also Present: 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

**DECEMBER 17, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 17, 2018 - CLOSED SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2019 - REORGANIZATION SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the December 17, 2018 regular session minutes and January 3, 2019 reorganization minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. The December 17, 2018 closed session minutes were passed around for signature.

Council Reports

Council Vice President Norgalis:

- Councilman Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla met with Police Chief Nicarretta and the Police Captains to get a better handle on the Chief's "Public Safety" presentation of last month. He stated they continue to gather relevant information on the police addition issue.

- Met with newly appointed Labor Council J. Andrew Kinsey of Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt and Cappelli to help him understand his concern

about the previous lack of communication between Labor Council and Town Council.

- The Planning Board reorganization for 2019 took place on January 8th, 2019. All appointments are the same as last year. The Frontier Road hotel project was deemed incomplete and the case was withdrawn by letter from their attorney Jeffrey Lehrer. It will be resubmitted at a later date.
- The Planning Board acknowledged receiving the Redevelopment Request for the ballpark. The County has decided that only the stadium and the two adjacent parking lots (red and blue) will be under review as candidates for Redevelopment by the Planning Board.
- The continuation of the Center of Excellence application will be on Jan 28, 2019 at 7:00pm
- Attended the Green Knoll Rescue Squad installation dinner along with President Moench and Mayor Hayes.

Councilwoman Rose:

- Had a successful meeting on Saturday where Howard Stamato led a group of about twelve (12) people through a process of planning for historic preservation in the Township. There were also two (2) representatives from Somerset County who advised that future grants from Somerset County for any property do not require a match. The Lane Brokaw property grant required a match only because the freeholders were concerned that Bridgewater was not serious.
- During the meeting, they worked hard and have come up with some good ideas for the use of Voorhee and Hancock homes. There was discussion about Camp Cromwell as well being there is a stonewall that is to the South side of the Cromwell property that is original to the revolution and backs up the Miriam property. More information will soon be forthcoming.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Met with the Police Chief Nicaretta along with Councilman Norgalis regarding his police department manpower concerns.
- Stated he was present at the meeting with the historic preservation group.

Councilman Pedroso

- Attended the Somerset County Regional Partnership meeting.
- Reminded everyone that on Monday, January 28, 2019, the Planning Board will be hearing the application for the Center of Excellence. He added

this is perhaps the largest single project since the Bridgewater Commons Mall and in his opinion is the single largest threat to Bridgewater that has ever existed and asked that everyone attend the meeting.

Council President Moench

- Stated he has asked Township Attorney Savo's office to prepare a pay-to-play Ordinance which specifically restricts donations from re-developers. The benefit is that if the Township does move forward with a redevelopment project, the public has some confidence that it is moving forward as a result of the merits of the project and not because of donations that the developer has made.
- Has spoken with Councilwoman Rose to work with him on taking a look in general about how we structure the position of Municipal Judge in Bridgewater and compare that to other municipalities with regard to contract employee verses actual employee, overall compensation package, how they handle fill-in judges etc. A report will then be provided to the Council at a later time.
- He discussed the administration and Police Chief's proposal to hire additional police officers noting he would like the sub-committee which includes Councilman Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla to meet with the administration and police chief and consider whether or not the Township should hire a consultant to help us analyze the staffing needs of the police department. He added he has spoken to two consultants whose fee is approximately \$40,000.00. He offered the Council can agree to hire two officers in the meantime as we await the report of the consultant.

After a considerable discussion, Council was in agreement that being the police staffing issue is a public safety matter and involves spending a good amount of tax payer monies, they will proceed with Councilman Moench's proposal to hire 2-police officers at this time then hire a consultant to study the staffing needs of our police department in order to provide a recommendation. Councilman Moench will take the lead in following up on this proposal with the Chief. Councilman Kurdyla has decided to refrain from further participation in the police department chief / Council discussions. Township Attorney Savo was asked to prepare an Ordinance in this regard.

Mayor's Reports

Township Administrator Naples

- Will relay the information on Council's proposal regarding staffing needs of the police department to the Police Chief.
- The Township will be holding a free radon testing event. There will be free radon testing kits for Bridgewater residents on Saturday, January 26th from 9am to 11am in the Municipal Building.

Presentation ABANDONED PROPERTY

Council President Moench asked Jason Santarcangelo, Esq. to come forward. He added we have a lot of problems in the Township with abandoned properties which have at times been difficult for the Council to address. Jason has worked with municipalities in the past to come up with a structural program whereby municipalities have tools at their disposal to address blighted houses that are vacant or abandoned.

Jason M. Santarcangelo, Esq stated abandoned or vacant properties are not only a blight to the community but a risk to the public safety and our first responders. The key for any municipality is to develop a process with which to address abandoned properties. He advised it is best to utilize the Code Enforcement Department and Fire Official who are best able to determine when there are abnormal conditions in the town.

The process looks for residential properties that are not legally occupied and/or lawful construction has ceased. Putting together a vacant or abandoned property Ordinance gives the municipality more powers to address the situation.

Council was in agreement that Attorney Santarcangelo will work with Township Attorney Savo and administration to put a proposal together for the governing body to consider.

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.

Geraldine Staub, 10 Braemer Place was present. She spoke eloquently concerning the Center of Excellence proposed project and expressed that she and her neighbors were concerned about traffic, the quality of life for her community and added the development is not Bridgewater quality. She asked the Council to rethink the project. Ms. Staub was asked to appear before the Planning Board on January 28th to express her concerns.

Paula Heacock of 49 Highland Ave was present. She stated she was present with a few of her neighbors about the three (3) homes that are being built on Leeham Avenue. She added she had appeared before a Board last year to discuss the drainage concerns she was having and how this project would negatively affect their properties and asked for a solution that would alleviate their concerns. It has been over a year and she no longer has a backyard and has water in her

basement and front yard. Her neighbors have the same problems. Ms. Heacock was asked to reach out to Township Administrator Naples via email and copy the Council President and they will make sure she gets answers.

Tony Donato of Muirfield Lane was present. He expressed his concerns over the Center of Excellence proposal. Councilman Norgalis provided a synopsis of the proposal for the benefit of the residents that were in the audience.

Geraldine Staub, 10 Braemer Place. She had a question about the Center of Excellence and the proposal to widen the highway. Ms. Staub was advised to address her concerns with the Planning Board and to visit the Planning Department Office in the municipal building to review the plans that the center of excellence has provided that showcase their proposal.

Patrick Dinapoli, President of the PBA was present. He expressed his concern that the Council has not agreed to hire the number of police officers requested by the Police Chief. He added numbers don't always tell the whole story. Council advised that it is because the numbers don't always tell the entire story that they have agreed to hire a consultant to conduct a study and provide the Council a recommendation.

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

**Ordinances
for
Introduction**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 105 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED "OUTDOOR STORAGE" TO CHANGE THE TIME TO HOLD HEARINGS PURSUANT TO 105-9 FROM FOURTEEN DAYS TO THIRTY DAYS

The Township of Bridgewater has adopted a property maintenance code in which the property owner has 14-days to respond to a blighted condition. Township Administrator Naples stated Township Attorney Savo has recommended extending the time for the holding of the hearing of such matters from fourteen (14) days to thirty (30) days to allow greater flexibility to both the property owner and the Township in resolving matters.

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

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

Council President Moench

Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-01-17-033](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 4th day of February, 2019 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 206-62 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “NO PARKING” AND SECTION 206-63 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “NO PARKING AND PARKING CERTAIN HOURS; EXCEPTIONS” OF SO AS TO PROHIBIT PARKING IN CERTAIN AREAS AND AT CERTAIN TIMES ON THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX PROPERTY

Township Administrator Naples stated Police Chief Nicaretta is recommending the entire length of Hanlon Drive be designated a “No Parking” zone. He is also recommending that the Municipal Parking Lots be designated as being for municipal business only and student parking be prohibited from 7am to 2:30pm.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-01-17-034](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 4th day of February, 2019 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94 ENTITLED "FEES," SECTIONS 94-2 ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES" OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND RECREATION FEES FOR THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM, NON-RESIDENT FEES AND CERTAIN PROCESSING FEES

Township Administrator Naples explained that Kristen Schiro, Director of Human Services has proposed to streamline public participation in programs and activities by implementing an online payment and registration system. The processing fee that has been added to the ordinance is to cover the fees that are associated with converting to the online system.

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

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

[THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#19-01-17-035](#)** is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 4th day of February, 2019 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.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXCHANGE OF LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 437, LOT 12 AND BLOCK 445 LOT 12 AS SHOWN ON THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX MAP OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER IN EXCHANGE FOR CASH CONSIDERATION OF \$239,100 AND BLOCK 566, LOT 7; BLOCK 567, LOT 12; BLOCK 568, LOT 2; BLOCK 572, LOT 2; BLOCK 573, LOTS 17, 19 AND 21; BLOCK 680, LOT 7 AND BLOCK 706, LOT 47 OWNED BY SOMERSET LAND EQUITIES AS SHOWN ON THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12-16

Somerset Land Equities offered to exchange the Somerset Land Equities property, containing approximately 42,289 s.f. of land for the Township property, containing approximately 120,000 s.f. of land. They have further offered an additional \$239,100 to compensate the Township for the difference in the value of the lands being exchanged. It has been determined that the Township property being exchanged is no longer needed for municipal purposes.

As the township property to be exchanged bordered the Eisenhower School, Councilman Norgalis had asked Councilwoman Rose, as the Board of Education representative, to check with the BoE to confirm they have no interest in the property. Councilwoman Rose advised they did not.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution **#19-01-17-036** is appended to the official minutes

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said pending ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 4th day of February,

2019 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 Moench called for a consent vote:

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO GIBBONS, P.C. AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR

REAPPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY - ROBERT E. ALBANO

AUTHORIZING A GRANT/LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$663.00 TO WILLIAM J. WALL, RESIDING AT 2707 PACKER COURT, LOT 2707, BLOCK 164.06, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP CONDOMINIUM FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS, CHAPTER 126-SECTION 321.4Q

APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A 2019 AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCCER CENTERS LOCATED AT 300 MEMORIAL DRIVE SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE SPRING AND FALL TRAVEL PROGRAMS. SOCCER CENTERS WILL PROVIDE THE USE OF TURF FIELDS, REFEREES AND TRAINERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$107,800.00 TO BE PAID FROM THE RECREATION TRUST FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$285,140.80 TO \$218,193.36 A DECREASE OF 23.48% OR \$66,947.44, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. 491 ELIZABETH AVENUE, SOMERSET NJ 08873 FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT,

SECTION IX (LYME ROCK ROAD TO ROOSEVELT STREET EAST), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE CHIMNEY ROCK PARK - ROLLER HOCKEY RINK CONVERSION PROJECT TO THE REYNOLDS GROUP (575 ROUTE 28, SUITE 110, RARITAN, NJ 08869) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,200.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL BOND

APPOINTMENTS TO BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 18-18 CREATING NEW CHAPTER 22 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#19-01-17-037 thru #19-01-17-044](#) are appended to the official minutes

ESTABLISHING ADVISORY AD HOC COMMITTEES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69A-36 TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL IN CONDUCTING LEGISLATIVE INQUIRIES INTO AFFORDABILITY ISSUES, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Councilman Pedroso and Councilman Moench stated this Ordinance is an attempt of the governing body to increase citizenship engagement. Councilman Kurdyla and Councilwoman Rose opined they need more information in order to make an informed decision on whether this committee is necessary.

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

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

Council President Moench Aye

Councilwoman Rose made motion to table this resolution in order to obtain more information. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kurdyla. The vote was as follows:

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

Councilman Pedroso made motion to move the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moench. The vote was as follows:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-01-17-045](#) 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 Councilwoman Rose, Council convened in a closed session at approximately 9:00 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#19-01-17-046](#) is appended to the official minutes

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:45 pm and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew C. Moench
Council President