

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MAY 6, 2019 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council Vice President Norgalis 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, 2019 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 (Absent)
Council Vice President Howard Norgalis
Council President Matthew C. Moench (Arrived 7:40)

Also Present: James T. Naples, Township Administrator
Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance
William B. Savo, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

Council Vice President Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

APRIL 11, 2019 - AGENDA SESSION
APRIL 15, 2019 - CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the April 11, 2019 agenda minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. The April 15, 2019 closed session will be distributed during the May 20, 2019 session.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended with his daughter the Special Olympics this past weekend at the Basilone Field. Acknowledged the work and support the township has done over the years.

- Will be scheduling a meeting with the Project Manager, Township Engineer and Library Committee to discuss and gain input on the replacement of the

HVAC system at the library.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended a meeting with CFO Natasha Turchan to review the 2019 Budget. He is waiting for various responses and anticipates getting them soon.
- Expressed his concerns over the Washington Valley Road improvement project. He stated this project is a mess and has inconvenienced so many in the Martinsville area adding the buses cannot get through and students are unable to get to school on time. He questioned why one lane wasn't made accessible in order to better accommodate traffic matters. He asked what Administration is doing to alleviate some of these resident concerns.
- Mr. Naples explained this is a Somerset County project and the County has been coordinating with the school district regarding bus issues. They have also been working with our township engineer and we have added signage to the detour routes. Township Administrator Naples added the Police department has increased manpower to manage access to the site and the Chief has put patrols in neighborhoods. The township is doing all we can to keep traffic moving through the area.
- Councilman Pedroso exclaimed this project was not planned well and is a fiasco. He asked why the Mayor hasn't been more involved.
- Mr. Naples stated the Mayor has been following up since the beginning on this project and is actively communicating with the County and others to minimize concerns.

Council Vice President Norgalis:

- Congratulations to Deputy Clerk Grace Njuguna who has received New Jersey State Certification as a Registered Municipal Clerk. She has worked long and hard to achieve that goal.
- Attended the swearing in ceremony for our newest police officers Nicholas J. Grasso and Michael B. Macchia.
- Attended the 69th Annual Citizen of the Year award ceremony where Paul Grzella was honored for a life time of community service. Our very own Deputy Township Attorney Michael Camerino achieved this recognition just three years ago.
- Attended the Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Council meeting dealing with a Trap Rock quarry application in Franklin Township. The application was approved to modify their internal quarry transfer operation.

- The two most recent Planning Board meetings were canceled due to lack of application.
- Asked the Mayor to make a formal contact with the Raritan Valley Country Club after being told by one of their board members that the Club is for sale due to declining membership. This is a really big piece of property and we need to understand their intentions.
- Baker and Taylor has issued their Department of Labor and Workforce Development a 60-day notice indicating they will be closing their Bridgewater location in July and terminating all 200+ employees.
- Thanked Mr. Naples for arranging for the preparation of the Hotel room inventory as follows for use by the Planning Board:
Current Inventory 848 rooms
Under Construction 150 rooms
Board Approved but not built 230 rooms
Board Applications pending 490 rooms
- The first of three spring bulky trash days is this Saturday May 11th. The other two days are May 18 and June 8th.
- A Somerset County document shred date is June 15th 9am to 1pm at the Chimney Rock DPW location.
- The Council continues to receive written correspondence via US Mail simply signed "concern citizen". The public is reminded that all such unsigned material is to be discarded.

Council President Moench:

- He received a call from a resident regarding the improvements on Beach Avenue to address shaving the raised edges on the sidewalk. He asked Mr. Naples if the Township or a contractor did that project. Township Administrator Naples will inquire and advise.
- He received correspondence regarding Hoffman Road. Mr. Naples stated he contacted that person and advised Hoffman Road is on the list for improvements this year.
- He and Filipe met with Administration on the budget. He offered he is awaiting responses from CFO Natasha Turchan regarding that discussion in order to schedule the adoption date of the budget. He offered he is aware there is a process for amendments so should amendments be necessary he would like the information timely.

- Councilman Pedroso asked for time line on adoption of the 2019 municipal budget.
- CFO Turchan offered the State deadline for adoption was April 28th.
- Regarding Washington Valley Road, he received correspondence from the County wherein he had raised concerns on the part of the public. Bill Cooper responded to his letter totally minimizing and dismissing his concerns indicating his complaints were not valid and that he should have spoken with the County Engineer if he had issue. President Moench stated he received dozens of complaints from residents and those who travel that roadway.
- Council President Moench stated Bill Cooper specifically credits Mayor Hayes in coordinating these efforts with public officials and noted that does not seem accurate.
- He asked that legal counsel review and prepare a resolution regarding truck traffic on Washington Valley Road.
- Mr. Naples offered Bill Savo elaborate during this session on legal opinions he provided regarding recusal of Planning Board members and rescinding the ordinance for the R-Seed Zone regarding the COE.
- Council President Moench said the members had received those opinions and there was no need to speak publically on them.
- Mr. Naples reported Chief Al Nicaretta and Captain Payne are available this evening to field any questions regarding how he arrived at the choice he made to do the manpower study to determine the number of officers that should be considered for hire.

Mayor's Reports

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.

Donna Kelly, Eastbrook Road expressed frustration over the Washington Valley Road improvement project. She has reached out to Freeholder Levine and will be meeting with him this week. She stated she has three children at two different schools and with the delay of buses has struggled to juggle them to be at school on time on multiple occasions. She questioned why they can't assign a police officer during peak school transport hours, both morning and afternoon, to open the barricades and allow only the buses to pass through.

Mr. Naples explained this project has been difficult to navigate. The County, BOE, Township Engineer and Mayor Hayes have been communicating but the roadway had to be done in sections and was not able to be staged to have one passable lane. Everyone is aware the frustration and are working to better accommodate the buses and children affected by the delays.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting was closed to the public.

Resolutions

PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, MATURITIES AND OTHER DETAILS OF THE REFUNDING BONDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,100,000 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DEBT SERVICE SAVINGS TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO APPRAISAL SYSTEMS, INC. TO PERFORM PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL INSPECTIONS AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOWNSHIP REASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR 2019 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$59,460.00

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO.2/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE AMENEDDED CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$810,602.93 TO \$810,994.16 AN INCREASE OF .00048% OR \$391.23, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE GARRETSON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SECTION VI (EASTON TURNPIKE TO HILL LANE), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND

CHANGE OF CORPORATE STRUCTURE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SQUIRE'S CORNER LIQUORS, INC. T/A SPIRITS OF THE VALLEY LICENSE NO 1806-44-002-004 LOCATED AT 1990 WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD, MARTINSVILLE, NJ 008836 TO NEW LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 1806-44-002-005

AUTHORIZING FIREWORK DISPLAYS AT SOMERSET PATRIOTS STADIUM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 29 (RAIN DATE 7-16), FRIDAY, JULY 12 (RAIN DATE 7-17), SATURDAY, JULY 13 (RAIN DATE 7-28) FRIDAY, JULY 26 (RAIN DATE 7-30) SATURDAY, JULY 27 (RAIN DATE 8-9) THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 (RAIN DATE 8-15) AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 (RAIN DATE 8-23)

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$430.00 AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION, 355 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ ON JULY 4, 2019

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FAMILY FUNFEST EVENT BEING HELD ON JUNE 1, 2019 AT THE PATRIOT'S BALL FIELD PARKING LOT

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#19-05-06-112 through #19-05-06-118](#) are appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew C. Moench
Council President