

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JUNE 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 Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Moench 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

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

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

Minutes

APRIL 15, 2019 - REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 15, 2019 - CLOSED SESSION
MAY 6, 2019 - REGULAR SESSION
MAY 11, 2019 - ROAD TOUR

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the April 15, 2019 regular session minutes and May 11, 2019 Road Tour minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the May 6, 2019, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. Councilman Norgalis abstained.

The April 15, 2019 closed session minutes were passed around for approval.

Council Reports

Council President Moench:

- Thanked Mayor Hayes, Councilwoman Rose & Meena Arvind for their hard work and dedication during the primary election campaign. He stated it has been an honor serving with Councilwoman Rose and Mayor Hayes and while they do not always agree on everything, he acknowledged their efforts in serving Bridgewater Township. He also recognized Meena Arvind's efforts as a first time candidate.

Councilman Norgalis

- Congratulations to Matthew Moench, Tim Ring and Michael Kirsh on their landslide win in the Bridgewater Primary Election earlier this week. In the November election Moench will run for Mayor and Ring and Kirsh for Council to fill seats currently held by Moench and Chris Rose.
- For some years, Bridgewater, like some other NJ towns has worshiped the drug industry as an economic juggernaut. One of those companies whose world headquarters is in our town is Amneal Pharmaceuticals. Sad to say, Amneal is one of 11 New Jersey generic drug manufacturers cited in a large scale federal conspiracy suit citing price fixing.
- Several months ago, Council authorized a referral to the Planning Board of a review of the Ball Park and adjacent parking lots as redevelopment candidates. At the time, the County Attorney Cooper letter from the Somerset County Development Agency did not include the area on the other side of the tracks. That was represented to the Council verbally as a simple oversight and that a revised letter would follow. It was under that assumption that Councilman Norgalis so advised the Planning Board at a public meeting and it was reported as such in the newspaper. It is now clear that no such modification is forth coming and the only candidates for redevelopment review are the Ball Park and the two adjacent (Red and Blue) parking lots. Councilman Norgalis recently wrote to Attorney Savo asking his intervention with the County on the County hiring, at their expense, a Planner to pursue the very strict parameters of the Redevelopment Statutes as they would apply to the subject property. Councilman Norgalis does not feel it is appropriate for the township Planner to expend time and effort on reviewing property that is County owned and over which we have no legislative control or taxing authority.
- Attended the 200 Club Annual Awards luncheon where \$40,000 in scholarships were awarded to 15 local students and 8 Valor Awards were made to first responders. The guest speaker was Attorney General Gurbir Grewal.
- Attended the ribbon cutting at the Bridgewater Manor which is under new management.

- Attended the first day of bulky trash drop off on 5-11. At 10am the line extended from the Polhemus railroad crossing down to the turn around by the sewerage treatment plant and then back to the site. While the residents appreciated the free drop off service, many were dismayed over the "over an hour" wait time. The last spring bulky trash collection day is June 8th.
- Attended the road tour administered by Engineer Battaglia and which included Councilmen Moench and Kurdyla. Long story short, we are making road improvement progress but have a ways to go. Bob Bogart made a statement years ago that if we spent the entire annual budget on road work, we still would not catch up. I think that still applies.
- Attended the Somerset County Planning meeting which highlighted various planning activities. Principal among them is the County preparation for next year's United States Census. They will be looking for task force members from every town to insure every resident is accounted for.
- Attended the Top Off ceremony for the AC Hotel by Marriott held at Zinburger Wine & Burger Bar.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended the Road Tour meeting that identified the roads in need of repair.
- Had the honor of speaking at the Martinsville VFW on Memorial Day.
- Had a meeting with the Library staff regarding the HVAC system that was causing them significant issues including having to close down the building due to extreme heat. Christopher Kanarski had approached him regarding a potential grant that would be available to assist in the repair of the system. If the grant is available, he requested that Council look into pursuing same. Councilman Kurdyla will provide the governing body with more information as it becomes available.
- Attended a ribbon cutting at the Library for the outdoor children's activity area.
- Councilman Kurdyla stated that when the municipal building was built, a generator was installed that had the capacity to restore services to half of the municipal building in the event of outages. Councilman Kurdyla offered we should look into installing a generator that can handle the entire building. In times of emergent situations, some areas of the building can be utilized by residents as a shelter. Although this is not an overnight thought, Councilman Kurdyla requested that this matter be looked into to determine if it is feasible.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Spent most of his weekend getting the voters feedback about the Township. Congratulated Council President Moench, Tim ring and Michael Kirsh for their victory during the primary election. He also thanked Mayor Hayes and Councilwoman Rose for their service to Bridgewater Township.

Council President Moench:

- Several members of the Board of Education had reached out to him with questions regarding the Garretson Road roadway. They questioned whether there are additional safety or traffic improvements that the township could do with this roadway to make traffic better. While this matter will be addressed later, Councilman Moench stated he was pleased that the BOE reached out to him as he would like to see increased communication between them and the Council.

Mayor's Reports

Congratulated Council President Moench and all the candidates that were successful during the Primary Election. One of the tenants of our government has always been a smooth transition regardless of who is in office. The administration is ready to work together to continue government until someone else is elected in November.

Moment of Silence

Councilman Kurdyla reminded everyone today marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. There was a moment of silence in honor of all involved in this tragedy.

Municipal Budget

Township CFO Natasha was present to discuss the changes proposed for the 2019 Municipal Budget. It was agreed that this matter will be addressed and introduced at June 17, 2019 Council meeting.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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.

Lynda Marsman, 570 Morning Side Drive was present. She expressed concern over the condition of Twin Oaks Road noting that it is deplorable and dangerous. She asked that this road be repaved as soon as possible.

Adam Alb, 2002 Washington Valley Road was present. He stated he has lived in Bridgewater for a little over 30-years. He expressed concern with township debt. He also expressed concern over the condition of the roof at the high school noting it has been over 20-years since it was maintained.

Geraldine Staub, 10 Brachman Place was present. She congratulated Councilman

Moench on his success during the primary election. She discussed the Center of Excellence and offered that it needs to be readdressed noting that it is inappropriate for the town.

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

Councilman Pedroso stated he had sent Township Administrator Naples an email regarding the condition of a property on Highland Ave as there was construction that was started and the foundation was laid but it has not been completed and appeared to have been abandoned. Councilman Pedroso asked for an update on this matter. Township Administrator Naples stated the contractor involved in that project has confirmed that he will complete the work. Steve Rodzinak, Construction Code Official gave a deadline to do that otherwise the township will take over the project.

Councilman Pedroso inquired if there was any update on the Center of Excellence application. He was advised this project is currently inactive before the Planning Board awaiting revised input from the applicant. In addition, there was a lawsuit filed against the COE by their residential developer, that does not directly involve the township with no date set for a retrial.

Council President Moench stated there are concerns about the size of a pit-hole on property located at Block 477, Lot 18.01 also known as 881 Route 202/206. Township Administrator Naples stated the owner of the property has confirmed that he will install a fence.

Council President Moench stated there is a house in Martinsville that has installed 15-flood lights on their property. He requested that Township Attorney Savo and Township Administrator Naples investigate this matter to determine if there is anything the Township can do in order to protect the neighbors from invasive lighting.

Introduction
of
Ordinances

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$336,042 FOR ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING TWO MASON DUMP TRUCKS WITH TOOL BOX, PLOW AND SPREADER, DUMP BODY FOR DUMP TRUCK, LAWN MOWER, TRACTOR AND SNOW ACCESSORIES, ROOF REPLACEMENT AT KID STREET BATHROOM BUILDING AND ROOF REPLACEMENT AT SENIOR CENTER, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$319,240 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

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	Absent
Council Vice-President Norgalis	Aye
Council President Moench	Nay

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-119](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. 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 1st day of July, 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; and

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.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance will forward the Supplemental Debt Statement received this date electronically to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS SEWER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND APPROPRIATING \$2,000,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to allow for construction of a new sanitary sewer line and road improvements on Woodland Terrace, Middle Brook Pump Station rehabilitation and acquisition of a vacuum sweeper and utility pick-up truck with snow plow.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-120](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. 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 1st day of July, 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; and

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.

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,663,958 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,380,761 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.

Township Administrator Naples stated this Ordinance will allow us to continue our aggressive approach to repaving roads.

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	Absent
Council Vice-President Norgalis	Aye
Council President Moench	Abstain

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-121](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. 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 1st day of July, 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; and

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.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance will forward the Supplemental Debt Statement received this date electronically to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey.

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR 2019 CALENDAR YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, c. 72

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP USAGE OF P-CARD FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE AUTHORIZED PROGRAM N.J.S.A. 40: A-5.16 (/C)

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO G.O. KELLER, INC., 1201 SOUTH AVE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY FOR THE 2019 DRY CLEANING OF POLICE UNIFORMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,960.80

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 166 SUSAN COURT, STRATTON MEADOWS, BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY KNOWN AS BLOCK 2402.10, LOT 5.166 LOCATED AT 166 SUSAN COURT, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY FOR THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PURCHASE PRICE FOR AN AFFORDABLE UNIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$121,980.00

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,111.80, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,416.77, FOR CJA INVESTMENTS, LLC, 460 MILLTOWN ROAD, BLOCK 198, LOT 1

Council President Moench called for a consent vote on the resolutions noted above:

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

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 [#19-06-06-122 through #19-06-06-126](#) are appended to the official minutes.

REQUESTING THAT THE SOMERSET COUNTY ENGINEER UNDERTAKE A STUDY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-8 TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RESTRICT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN EXCESS OF TEN (10) TONS FROM WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD

It was confirmed that while the Council believes it is in the best interest of the Township to restrict commercial vehicles in excess of ten (10) tons from using Washington Valley Road, State Statute requires that in order to restrict vehicles in excess of a certain weight class on a county road, the municipality must adopt an ordinance accompanied by the County Engineer’s certification and further submit documentation to the Commissioner of Transportation for approval. This resolution will allow the County engineer to undertake said study.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-127](#) is appended to the official minutes.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER DENYING THE TOWNSHIP’S INTEREST, APPROVAL OF OR EXECUTION OF A LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTION FINANCIAL AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET. SEQ. FOR PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE FORMER WEYERHAUSER PROPERTY AND CONSISTING OF LOTS 3.01, 13.01 and 14 IN BLOCK 329, APPROXIMATELY 18.2724 ACRES, LOCATED ON EAST MAIN STREET AND RADEL AVENUE

This resolution will confirm to the Redeveloper and to the public that Council has no intention of entering into a Financial Agreement pursuant to the provisions of the Exemption Law for long term tax abatement for the Eden Wood Property.

Councilman Kurdyla offered he will not be supporting this resolution because there has not been a study to indicate the pros and cons of supporting or not supporting a PILOT program on this property.

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

foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-128](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WILD HEART INDUSTRIES LLC (1524 MILLSTONE RIVER ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844) FOR THE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES AT CAMP CROMWELL, IN THE SUM OF \$132,300.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE OPEN SPACE FUND

Township Administrator Naples stated this is for the demolition of several of the smaller out structures that have no purpose on the property. It does not include the pools.

Councilman Norgalis stated that in the past, the Council was in support of getting rid of the pools on this property. He requested this matter be looked into for the near future.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-129](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, 747 STATE ROUTE 28, BRIDGEWATER, NJ - JULY 4, 2019

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilwoman Rose	Absent

Council Vice-President Norgalis	Aye
Council President Moench	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-130](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN CONNECTION WITH OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP USE OF THEIR FIRE PIT ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING JULY 3, 10, 17, 24 AND 31, 2019 AT 7:00 PM

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-131](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE GARRETSON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SECTION V (WESTERN BRHS DRIVEWAY TO DOWNEY ROAD), IN THE SUM OF \$694,552.62, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND AND 2019 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT

This is a project that was scheduled to commence after the schools close for summer break. Township Administrator Naples will review the comments received from the Board of education regarding improving this road to determine if they can be included by the design engineer. If need be, a change order will be made available.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-06-06-132](#) is appended to the official minutes

Councilman Kurdyla stated two years ago, Top Line Construction had done repairs on Vosseller Avenue. Part of the repair was located on the north side of Route 22 adjacent to the real estate office. Following the recent storm that we had, there was a tremendous amount of water coming down the driveway from the real estate office that mudded half of Route 22. Councilman Kurdyla asked that Township Administrator Naples look into this matter to determine what the problem is.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew C. Moench
Council President