

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JULY 15, 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, July 15, 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
Council Vice President Howard Norgalis
Council President Matthew C. Moench

Also Present: James T. Naples, Township Administrator
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the July 1, 2019 Council minutes were moved for approval and passed on a unanimous voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilwoman Rose

- Apologized for not being at the last two Council meetings.
- Met with the liaisons to the Bridgewater and the Raritan Board of Education (BOE) this morning. Two of the issues they mentioned that are before the BOE for consideration include homework policy and school start time. These discussions have been triggered by recent research lending that adolescents require more sleep than they usually get.
- Attended the 27th annual Jack Gardner's soft ball tournament that the Elks sponsor every year. \$62K was raised to support the needs of medically fragile children. They also gave a \$2K donation to Bridgewater PBA for the work that they do.

- Attended both of New Jersey's State Elks Associations union convention in St. Louis. This is the first time in 39-years that the Elks have seen a plus in membership.
- Met with a resident in Bradley Gardens who is concerned about the NJ Transit trains which are kept running as they are being cleaned and complained about noise and odor. This resident had seen an article on the paper about Raritan Township reaching out to Senator Doherty about this matter and asked that Councilwoman Rose do the same which she confirmed she will do on behalf of Bridgewater.

Councilman Kurdyla

- Provided an update on the library HVAC System. He spoke to Christopher Kanarski whom he had hoped would attend tonight's meeting but was unable to do so. Mr. Kanarski has confirmed that he will apply for the grant to fix this system in good time. Councilman Kurdyla has asked him to provide the Council with a full report on what the problems are, the costs incurred to maintain the current system and the reasons why it is advisable to replace the system.

Councilman Norgalis

- At the last Planning Board meeting Tom Forsythe, DPW Superintendent, announced his leaving Bridgewater for a Pennsylvania job to be close to his first grandchild.
- Attended a meeting of the Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting which recommended approval by the Freeholders of the reorganization of the recycling organization of Voller's Construction in Branchburg.
- Attended, a meeting with Jim Naples, Natasha Turchan, President Moench, Lisa Caravello and Scott Readlinger regarding hiring a consultant to assist the township in preparing for a 1-1-20 changeover in township health services. This issue is on the agenda for tonight and is absolutely critical to the health and welfare of our employees.
- The Planning Board approved a series of plans for development at the Frontier Road 17 acre site adjacent to Chimney Rock Road. The plans include two hotels, restaurant, banquet hall and adult day care. This application has been in the works for over a year and represents a very substantial reduction in variances and waivers.
- The Zoning Board Report for the period of 1-1-18 thru 12-31-18 has been distributed to Council and to the Planning Board. It recommends a number of what he called "common sense" changes that he felt should be pursued for action by the Council. He recommended a referral to the Township

Planner and Attorney for ordinance change considerations.

- Another Planning Board issue is the awkward wording of the ordinance centered around the height of a building in the LC Zone as “three stories or 45 feet” in para 126-320.1.C.7. The “or” gives the applicant the opportunity to seek approval for four stories. Councilman Norgalis asked that this issue also go to the Township Planner and Attorney for word interpretation and clarification if necessary.
- Councilman Norgalis has reviewed the 2018 Municipal Audit and applaud the CFO and her staff in that, as usual, there are no recommendations for modifications of any of the Townships financial procedures.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Nothing new to report.

Council President Moench:

- He welcomed all the residents in the audience and acknowledged those that were present due to the Somerset Patriots fireworks discussion. With regard to this matter, he stated the Council is tasked with having to balance all the interests of the residents before reaching a decision and noted it is not uncommon to remove items from the agenda in order to do this. He added Bridgewater residents have a right to know that they have a voice and can come before the governing body to voice their concerns. It is then the Council’s responsibility to listen to the residents and can pause for the purposes of gathering more information.

Councilman Moench stated the information provided by Mr. Kalafer at the last meeting was independently verified and it was accurate and helpful. He added he fully expects that when the Council gets to the resolution portion of the agenda, they will approve the fireworks resolution.

Councilman Moench stated he hoped trust can be rebuilt between the Patriots and the Council. Moving forward, he hopes they can continue to work with the residents in a collaborative manner and in the best interests of the Township.

Mayor’s Reports

Nothing new to report.

Municipal Budget

2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCTION - RESOLUTION TO AMEND BUDGET

Council President Moench stated the budget amendments have been done collaboratively with the administration and Council’s sub-committee.

Councilwoman Rose read the following statement from Mayor Daniel J. Hayes

Mayor's Statement on the Budget

Let's be clear what the Council budget committee's proposal, as presented by Councilmen Moench and Pedroso, truly signifies. It demonstrates that after months of criticizing the Mayor's policies, budgets, priorities and finance plans, after months of campaign promises to lower tax levels and reduce debts, at the end of the day when push comes to shove, when a proposal must be made and votes taken, Matt and Filipe are saying:

- Mayor, we agree with your tax proposal - no change.
- Mayor, we agree with your program allocation - no change
- Mayor , we agree with your road program - no change
- And Mayor, we once again agree with using debt to pay for the road work - again no change. (I am ignoring the \$100,000 (which is the 0.25%) debt payment as it has no impact on the budget (It is the 0.25% difference) nor our debt level. (It represents approximately 0.1% of our debt!) It is a political gimmick - it is not symbolic, it is not meaningful it is neither leadership nor strategy.

That Matt and Filipe delayed approval of the budget for 5 months and made no changes demonstrates how responsible the Mayor's proposal actually was. It demonstrates again that Matt and Felipe are long on criticism and political rhetoric, but vacant on solutions and inept at governance. The lack of leadership, the inaction caused a critical 5 month delay in the approval of road programs resulting in needed repairs being put off until spring.

And, again, let us be clear, this is the same budget proposed by the Mayor in February. The overall tax assessment is identical to the Mayor's proposal. The allocation of the budget items is 99.75% identical to the Mayor's. 99.75% agreement is not a difference, rather it is an endorsement.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the resolution to amend the 2019 Municipal Budget was introduced. The vote was as follows:

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

THE [2019 BUDGET](#) WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#19-07-15-168](#) 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 5th day of August, 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.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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.

Carol Bianchi, new JCP&L representative updated Council on the latest improvements on outages with the utility company.

Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road was present. She requested a budget amendment copy. Councilman Norgalis provided a copy of the amendment.

Mark Henegemuhle, 774 Eisenhower Road was present. He raised concern with the safety of the Eisenhower school students. He said since the last meeting, he made several calls and filed OPRA requests to gain information regarding the proposed subdivision. He noted the Superintendent of Schools informed him he was not aware of this proposal. He asked Council reconsider this subdivision proposal in the public interest.

Patrick McVerry, General Manager at Somerset Patriots stated the Patriots have employed local residents, teenagers, individuals with special needs and people from all walks of life. He offered Council contact him directly with any issues to continue to celebrate and honor the residents of Bridgewater.

Jonathan Kalafer, Cochairman of Somerset Patriots said the audacious questioning of power is as American as apple pie, baseball and fireworks. He stated he had been in public service and served as a school teacher for 15 years. He did not take personal offense to challenges and insults he endured in those capacities.

Josh Kalafer, Cochairman of Somerset Patriots stated government exists to serve the people and the Patriots are about a lot of things including inclusiveness and togetherness. He believes in government and the system and believes Council feels the same way.

Gary Shiman, former resident of Bridgewater and member of Somerset Patriots advisory board stated the effect to prohibit displays would be felt in local businesses.

Sparky Lyle, Manager of Somerset Patriots who recalled the early days of the franchise when he physically gathered balls at the ballpark stated he never saw any eagles and said "Bridgewater is my second home and I hope this can end amicably". He was accompanied by Sparkee, Mascot.

Steve Kalafer, Cochairman of Somerset Patriots stated he wanted to stop "manufactured issues" and thanked Councilman Norgalis for reaching out to him after the previous session. He added the effects of the past meeting have been felt at the games with approx 500 less people than usual showing up and one group cancelling an outing to the park due to the "consequence of the rumor".

Terese Maso from Somerville stated she supports Mr. Kalafer with his ventures and suggested he consider constructing a Merit building or Jazz Musician Building.

Tom True, Bedminster resident and avid outdoorsman said he's never seen eagles in the area and said he has a lot of clients in Bridgewater who are involved with the patriots and live in the shadow of the Patriots Ballpark who want fireworks.

Steve Keller, Bridgewater resident stated although not active in politics wants to take his grandchildren to see fireworks.

Joanne Blair, Edison Resident, said her disabled son has worked for the Patriots many years and learned his work ethic from Mr. Kalafer and recently bought his own home.

Vic Ryker family has been in the Bridgewater area since 1940 stated the Governing Body should work together in unity.

Michael Schwartz, Hunterdon County resident has a business in Somerset County offered the Patriots recently hosted a very successful fundraiser for the Community Center in Clinton.

Candy Hengemulhe, 774 Eisenhower Road raised concerns with safety regarding the proposed subdivision in her neighborhood in consideration of the 800 students at Eisenhower School.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING FIREWORK DISPLAYS AT SOMERSET PATRIOTS STADIUM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 (RAIN DATE 8-28), THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 (RAIN DATE 9-7), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (RAIN DATE 9-12) AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (RAIN DATE 9-20)

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution 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 RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-07-15-169](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Councilman Pedroso stated the governing body often tables resolutions and it is not unusual. When information was received that there may have been bald eagle nesting near the area of the ballpark, tabling the resolution was the prudent thing to do on behalf of the Patriots. He confirmed that there is confirmation that there are no bald eagles in this area and regretted that this was not resolved without much issue.

CERTIFICATION OF 2018 AUDIT WITH GROUP AFFIDAVIT

AWARD TO BEYER FORD, 31 WILLIAMS PARKWAY, EAST HANOVER, NJ TO PURCHASE, FOUR 2019 POLICE SUV INTERCEPTOR BLACK AND WHITE, ONE 2019 LOW PROFILE BLACK AND WHITE SUV INTERCEPTOR AND ONE 2020 FORD EXPLORER 4WD TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$317,567.85 TO BE FUNDED THRU THE SOMERSET COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY SOMERSET MUNICIPAL BANC PROGRAM

RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE #1806-32-003-006 SOLO BRIDGEWATER LLC, INACTIVE LICENSE

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THEIR FIRE PIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING WEDNESDAY EVENING OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES ON AUGUST 7, 14, 21 AND 28, 2019

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SCOTT J. READLINGER OF ROUND HILL RISK PARTNERS, LLC OF SHORT HILLS, NEW JERSEY AS HEALTH BENEFITS CONSULTANT FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP

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

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, 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 [#19-07-01-170 thru #19-07-01-74](#) are appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Moench, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew C. Moench
Council President