

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
AUGUST 5, 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, August 5, 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 Councilwoman Rose, the July 15, 2019 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed on a unanimous voice call vote.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla

- Was on vacation in Bermuda.
- There will be a presentation tonight by Christopher Kanarski who will offer information regarding a grant application for the Somerset County Library to install a HVAC system.

Councilwoman Rose

- Attended the Grand opening of Mariposa Park in Bound Brook that was hosted by the Bound Brook student ambassadors for community health. With some assistance from Stephanie Moench, Chair of the Creative Arts committee, Councilwoman Rose offered this is a program that we may

want to bring to Bridgewater at some point in the future.

#### Councilman Norgalis

- Had a guided tour of the new fitness complex on Commons Way. Their offering of initial membership packages has been very successful.
- Futurewei, the US based research arm of Huawei Communication located at 400 Crossing Blvd., has filed a “Workforce Development” notice with the Department of Labor declaring it intent to layoff Bridgewater based employees on September 23rd. This is an outgrowth of the trade dispute between the US and China.
- The RFP for the demolition of the two pools at Camp Cromwell was opened last week and the low bid was under \$47,000. The details are under legal review and we can expect to see a demo resolution probably at our next meeting.
- During very heavy rain flooding up to the curb level occurs on Brown Rd. in the vicinity of Carteret Rd. Several years ago we did a Brown Rd. Phase 1 project which fixed a problem of flood water entering a home on Brown Rd. The Administration estimates that a Phase 2 project to address the street flooding could cost \$500,000 and possibly not totally fix the problem. We can expect to hear more from the residents on this issue.
- The Planning Board continues to hear testimony on the plans for a 71,000 square foot four story Choice Hotel and an 11,000 square foot Goddard School on Route 22 and Morgan Lane. The hotel was actually approved some 20+ years ago when the Houlihans Restaurant was built. The hotel construction part of the deal fell thru but the township allowed the restaurant to be built.
- Applauded Township Administrator Naples for a job well done on the road work on Garretson Rd. in front of the high school. The additional lane should make a big difference.

#### Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended a Regional Center Partnership meeting.

#### Council President Moench:

- In light of the shootings that occurred over the weekend, Councilman Moench discussed the On-Point program which has been utilized in other towns and that he has been an advocate of. This program is designed to allow the police department to partner with social worker programs so that when they become aware of individuals who may have underlying problems such as mental illness, they alert the social workers who are trained to

provide proactive outreach to people in need and in that way are able to head off problems in the community. Councilman Moench stated he remains hopeful that we will continue to explore On-Point or other programs that are just as innovative.

## Mayor's Reports

Township Administrator Naples:

- Concerning construction on Mountainside Lane, a letter was sent to the residents in this area stating construction would begin the last week of July. The contractor however, did not mobilize at that time but has confirmed he will begin work on August 12<sup>th</sup>. A second letter will be sent to the Mountainside Lane residents advising them of same.
- Tomorrow night is National Night out. The police will be present to celebrate with the community and everyone is welcome.

## Presentation SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY GRANT

Christopher Kanarski, Director of public services for the Somerset County Library system in Bridgewater headed the presentation.

He provided information on the New Jersey library construction bond act noting that on 11/7/2017, the voters of NJ approved the issuance of 125M dollars in general obligation bonds for construction or reconstruction of public library buildings in the State. The purpose of this bond act was to improve New Jersey's public libraries in order to ensure the well being and success of all residents in the State that use libraries.

Mr. Kanarski stated this will turn out to be a competitive grant program that will be administered by the State library of NJ.

The State library has defined three (3) specific areas in which a municipality may apply for a construction grant.

1. General construction needs which include updating or a revision of a branch library or building of the new library
2. Major building repairs, including a new roof or HVAC system
3. Updates to the ADA

If a township or borough decided to move forward with the grant process, the Council would be responsible for 50% of the matching funds award. The local governing body can bond for the match or part of the match and would need to provide a resolution of their intent to bond.

Mr. Kanarski explained the HVAC system has been problematic for the last several years in terms of its cooling component. He added there is a need in terms of pre-grant requirement for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to provide an

engineering HVAC study to review the existing chemical equipment at the Bridgewater branch. The study would be paid for by the Township and would allow for a written report documenting age, condition and anticipated replacement cost of the HVAC system.

On question of Councilman Norgalis, Mr. Kanarski stated the estimated cost will not be available until the mechanical engineering study is completed. Township Administrator Naples added the Township owns the building and is therefore responsible for the mechanical systems within the building. Council was in agreement to move forward in pursuing the State grant.

**Municipal  
Budget**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ACTION ON THE 2019 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

**THE [2019 BUDGET AMENDMENT](#) WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution [#19-08-05-175](#) is appended to the official minutes

**ADOPTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Councilman Pedroso offered he was not pleased with this Budget noting the spending increases by some departments are excessive and at the end of the day reflect poor management. He offered this Budget reflects Mayor Hayes' inability to manage the Township. He however stated there are some bright notes to the budget because there is a tax reduction but stated that had it been managed better, the tax reduction could have been higher.

Councilman Pedroso stated he is also pleased that we are reducing debt by almost \$1M. He expressed concern that Council is not allowed to communicate with department heads which he said is frustrating when he needs to get answers from

them about what is really needed. He added that he looks forward to being able to work with a new administration in the future and with better communication put together budgets that are fiscally conservative and sound.

Councilman Moench stated the budget as amended has improved from what was presented to the Council. Overall, it is responsive to the Council's call for accelerated debt repayment and calls for a decrease in property taxes.

Councilwoman Rose offered the policy from administration that the governing body is not to contact the heads of departments directly is not the current Mayor's policy but a policy that has been passed down from previous Mayors.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the resolution to adopt the 2019 Municipal Budget was approved. The vote was as follows:

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

**THE [2019 BUDGET](#) WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution [#19-08-05-176](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Public  
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, 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.

Linda Brankovich, 20 Talmadge Ave Bound Brook, NJ was present. She thanked the Council for looking into the matter of fireworks at the Patriots Ball Park. She addressed the quality of life issue of having 18-fireworks scheduled throughout the year noting they are loud and excessive. She stated this is an issue and asked that Council look into it.

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

**Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
Ordinances**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING VACATING A PORTION OF AN EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE EASEMENT THE PORTION BEING APPROXIMATELY 6 FEET WIDE AND 157 FEET LONG AND RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE LOCATED ON BLOCK 472, LOT 72, KNOWN AS 675 JOHN CHRISTIAN DRIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AS SHOWN ON A MAP**

**ENTITLED “TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY, 675 JOHN CHRISTIAN DRIVE, LOT 72 BLOCK 472, TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY” AS PREPARED BY JOHN HALE, P.L.S #33525 OF STIRES ASSOCIATES, P.A. DATED AUGUST 8, 2017**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilwoman Rose, the meeting was opened to the public.

No one wished to be heard.

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

It was confirmed that this Ordinance and notice of a public hearing was mailed to residents within 200-ft of the property in question.

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, 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

**ORDINANCE #19-14 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#19-08-05-177](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Introduction  
of  
Ordinances**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING EXTINGUISHMENT OF AN EXISTING ACCESS EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON FILED MAP #2762 IN THE SOMERSET COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE AND SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT RECORDED IN THE SOMERSET COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1979, AT DEED BOOK 1407, PAGE 489, FOR PROPERTY ON NORTH CROSSING BOULEVARD, BLOCK 718, LOT 141.08, 141,07, AND 141.06**

Township Administrator Naples explained these easements are no longer necessary. This Ordinance will allow us to close them out.

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, 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

**ORDINANCE #19-15 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution **#19-08-05-178** 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Resolutions**

**AUTHORIZING SOMERSET LAND EQUITIES, LLC, 6 PRESIDENTS DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ TO EXTEND EISENHOWER AVENUE FRONTING LOTS ON BLOCK 445 LOTS 12 AND 13**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ATLANTIC TACTICAL OF 772 CORPORATE CIRCLE, NEW CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE UNIFORMS, SHOES, LEATHER GEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,408.05**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CCM CONTRACTING INC. (336 ROUTE 22, GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812) FOR THE STANGLE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (ENTIRE LENGTH), IN THE SUM OF \$422,272.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2013 CAPITAL FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE PRICE FROM \$66,000.00 TO \$56,358.00, A DECREASE OF 14.61% OR 9,642.00, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO AA BERMS, LLC, AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE 2018 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BY AA BERMS, LLC (PO BOX 180, BELLEVILLE, NJ 07109), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2014 CAPITAL FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE PRICE FROM \$65,230.00 TO \$58,499.59, A DECREASE OF 10.32% OR \$6,730.41, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO AL NETO CONTRACTORS INC., AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE 2017 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS BY AL NETO CONTRACTORS INC. (1004 SEVERIN DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2014 CAPITAL FUND**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR FALLONE GROUP, LLC, 961 OLD TULLO ROAD, BLOCK 713, LOT 9**

**PERSON TO PERSON LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-001-009 FROM GC FRIDAYS NJ-PA LLC TO TGI FRIDAY'S INC. LOCATED AT 395 ROUTE 202-206, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 - NEW LICENSE NO. 1806-33-001-010**

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

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#19-08-05-179 thru #19-08-05-185](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**REAPPOINTMENT OF NADINE CARR AS REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

Council President Moench stated Council has had discussions concerning the Board of Health and whether the Council should act as the Board of health as opposed to having a separate entity. He asked that this resolution be tabled until the governing body comes to a conclusion on this matter.

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

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

**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 8:10 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#19-08-05-186](#) is appended to the official minutes

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:40pm and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Matthew Moench  
Council President