

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
OCTOBER 21, 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, October 21, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Acting Council 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 (Absent)
Christine Henderson-Rose
Council Vice President Howard Norgalis
Council President Matthew C. Moench (Absent)

Also Present: James T. Naples, Township Administrator
William B. Savo, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes

The October 3, 2019 regular session minutes were presented for approval. On motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the minutes were approved. All were in favor.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended the Township's Firemen's Inspection two weeks ago in Bradley Gardens and was pleased to report that the inspection was very well attended.
- Was unable to attend the meeting of the Library committee but will reach out to the Chair of the committee and have a report for Council at the next meeting.
- There is a property that is being considered for potential open space. He will report more on this at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Rose:

- She is very excited about a check for \$271,510.00 from Somerset County for the Lane Voorhees house. These monies will take care of sealing up the exterior of the building in preparation for the building's restoration on the inside. The History committee is also very excited and has commenced the archeological work with Monmouth University. More information on this project will be provided in February.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Council President Moench is in Court and unable to attend tonight's meeting. Councilman Pedroso is on business in California.
- Concerning Washington Valley Road construction:
The Road is open for those that want to use it. Councilman Norgalis stated he has corresponded with County Engineer Matt Loper who stated work will continue through the rest of autumn on the traffic signal and pavement upgrades at the intersection of Chimney Rock Road. The intersection will remain open for the remainder of the road work and there will be unrelated paving of Washington Valley Road next year that will require short periods of closing.
- Attended the Far Hills Steeplechase races as the guest of RWJ Somerset Foundation. He noted it was the best weather we have had in decades.
- Received an invitation from the Kalafer family to their October 24th event to learn about their twenty-year vision for the ballpark and stadium and will participate on their panel.
- Participated in the Somerset Business Partnership meeting at Drew Gardens to learn about environmental activities at the Gardens including their leads platinum building which has the highest level of leads certification.
- Reminded everyone that the Center of Excellence development will return to the Planning Board at 7PM on October 28th. The Planning Board has also publicized an additional notice for an additional meeting on Tuesday, October 29th. The Planning Board has never in the past held back to back meetings.

**Mayor's
Reports**

Township Administrator Naples

- The Council is reviewing the Police Department manpower report of which Administration is looking forward to working with the governing body on any questions or comments they may have.
- Held two (2) flu clinics this month. One for all township employees and a second flu clinic at the senior center where vaccines were given to over fifty (50) seniors.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilwoman Rose, 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.

Jeffrey Brookner, 16 Nicole Terrace was present. He stated that at the last meeting, there were several people who raised public comment about the desire for more openness on the part of the Council in terms of having documents readily available to the public before the meeting and broadcasting the Council meetings. He added that while this was supported by some members of the governing body, there has been no improvement at this meeting. None of the items listed on the agenda were available to the public in advance of the meeting. He stated this openness is routine for other government agencies for State, County and local level.

Mr. Brookner stated he appreciated that the police study has come to the Council. He had heard from other sources that it has been with the Council for a long time and is disappointed to hear that it is not further along. He requested quick attention to this matter noting it is an important issue.

Mr. Brookner added that when he was on the Board of Education (BOE), there was an issue with the payment for the School Resource Officer (SRO). There were some negotiations and a recommendation was submitted to the Council president. Mr. Brookner asked for the status of that recommendation as Mayor Hayes has indicated that if a decision is not received soon, he cannot continue paying for the officer without BOE reimbursement until a settlement is reached. Mr. Brookner stated that if the Council does not act on this matter, the SRO will be removed from the schools. He requested for an update on this item as well.

Michael Long, 345 Vosseller Avenue in Martinsville was present with his wife and son. This family requested that the Council enact regulations on residential bee farming noting that while Mrs. Long is allergic to bees, they have a next door neighbor with 3-potential hives. Mr. Long was advised that Township Attorney Savo will take this matter into advisement along with Township planner Doyle and the administration and provide the governing body advise on best way moving forward.

Maureen Beck, 557 Rolling Hills Road in Bridgewater was present. She stated that when she first moved to Bridgewater, it was a quiet town but the aero traffic has gotten out of control and it has become unbelievably noisy. Ms. Beck was advised that the Township has no ability to regulate the air traffic but added this matter will be taken into advisement.

Cathy Franco , 766 Weemac Road in Bridgewater was present. She thanked the

governing body for posting the agenda well in advance of this meeting and without making any changes to it. She discussed police staffing noting this matter was before the governing body in October of 2018 and would like to see a resolution to this matter. Ms. Franco also stated she was hopeful that the October 28th and October 29th dates would continue to be available for the Planning Board to discuss the Center of Excellence. On question of Ms. Franco, she was advised to address her questions concerning the Center of Excellence with the Planning Board. She corrected a statement that was made that there was no public in the past that has been in support of the Center of Excellence noting that she and others have in the past been before the governing body in support of the project as long as it will not have a negative impact upon the overall development of Bridgewater. Council Norgalis responded that at the Dec. 2017 meeting where the COE was discussed and approved by the Council, only six people spoke in support of the project.

Patti Selikoff, 16 Gibson Terrace in Bridgewater was present. She inquired if the Township Council had made the decision on whether or not they would go forward with applying for a grant to repair the HVAC system at the Library as discussed in prior Council meetings. She was advised by both Councilman Kurdyla and Admin Naples that the Township is paying for a study that is being done by a structural architect as part of the grant requirement. The governing body will be able to make a more informed decision after the grant requirements are made available by the State.

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

Resolutions

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2019 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) RADON \$2,000.00

Township Administrator Naples advised that monies received from this grant are used to purchase the radon testing kits that are offered free to the residents.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-219](#) is appended to the official minutes.

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2019 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) HEROES AND HELPERS GRANT- \$2,000.00

Township Administrator Naples advised that monies received from this grant are used to purchase target gift cards which are then given by the PBA members to local families in need to use for holiday shopping.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-220](#) is appended to the official minutes.

PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2019 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION-NEWCOMERS CLUB \$5,000.00

Township Administrator Naples advised that monies received from this grant are used to set up a newcomer’s chapter for new high school students. Last year, over 90-students were serviced.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-221](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR MERCAL, LLC, 290 & 294 GARRETSON ROAD, BLOCK 408, LOT 2.04 & 2.05

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-222](#) is appended to the official minutes.

REIMBURSEMENT OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR SPRING RUN CORPORATION LOCATED AT 1722 WEST CIRCLE DRIVE, MARTINSVILLE, NJ 08836 FOR THE ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CAMPFIRE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019 WITH A RAINDATE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18th

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-223](#) 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 litigation and 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 Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, Council convened in a closed session at approximately 8:05 p.m. All were in favor.

A copy of resolution [#19-10-21-224](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9 pm and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew Moench
Council President