

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

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 3, 2020 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:

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council Vice President Filipe Pedroso (absent)
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

Also Present: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor
 Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
 Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
 Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

OATH OF OFFICE

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER - KYLE P. BALL

Acting Police Chief Payne was present for the swearing in & welcomed Officer Ball to the team. Mayor Matthew C. Moench swore in Officer Kyle P. Ball in the presence of family and friends.

Council Reports

Councilman Ring:

- Thanked everybody for making the Reorganization meeting on Wednesday a memorable event.

- Was able to attend the Manville and Bedminster Reorganization meetings.

- Had the opportunity this week to speak to the family who suffered an early morning fire on New Year's Day. They could not stop singing the praise of both our police and fire departments.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Since the last meeting, some things have come to light. He will be looking to call a meeting within the next two weeks with the Open Space committee to go over two parcels, one of which has become available due to the passing of the owner and the other is a project that involves a walking path.
- As the liaison to the Library Board, he has been working with Christopher Kanarski regarding a grant application for the Somerset County Library to install a HVAC system. Councilman Kurdyla stated our former Township Engineer was working on the bids and specifications and is not sure to what extent this was completed. Councilman Kurdyla stated he emailed Mayor Moench information regarding this matter in order to get this moving in the right direction.

Councilman Kirsh:

- Attended the reorganization reception of Bernards Township.
- The reorganization meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on January 21, 2020 and the Planning Board's reorganization meeting will be held on January 14, 2020.
- As a liaison to the Board of Education, he stated a substantial issue that is currently under discussion is a potential change in school start times.

Council President Norgalis

- Attended the Bernards township reorganization meeting.
- Attended a ribbon cutting at a new health foods store "Profile by Sanford" located on Chimney Rock plaza
- Councilman Norgalis state that in his opinion, Mayor Moench is to be commended for his vision on the Pitman schedule for the police officers. He added that if in the future it is determined that we need to hire additional police officers, the Council will have the factual information with which to make a decision.
- On January 17th, Bridgewater will open bids on the quarter mile repaving of a section of Country Club Road starting from Route 28.
- Our former Township Attorney, William B. Savo will have somewhat of a role reversal with Christopher Corsini. Moving forward, William Savo will be known as Township Attorney Emeritus and Deputy Township Attorney. He has served us faithfully for many years and deserves to be known as an emeritus.

Mayor's Report

Matthew C. Moench

- There have been a lot of changes in the municipal building including new staff and the leaving of some old staff members.
- It is his intention to hold swearing-in ceremonies of Police Officers at the Council meetings if possible as it is important for our new officers and for our existing officers to see that we are fully committed to supporting them and their endeavors.
- We sent a letter last week to the Somerset County Business Partnership informing them we will no longer be renewing our membership with them or be a participant of their activities due to their support of the Center of Excellence project.
- Attended the Bernards Township, Manville Township and Raritan Borough reorganization meetings and looks forward to working with them.
- Attended the Bradley Gardens Fire Department installation dinner.
- Today was the first day of the Pitman schedule for our police department. Previously, Bridgewater utilized a 4-day on 3-day off schedule which he found was not as efficient. The Pitman schedule allows us to have a significant amount of additional officers on the road which means increased public safety. Discussions will continue on whether or not additional officers are needed following the implementation of this new schedule.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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, 60 Nicole Terrace was present. He requested that the 2-minute limitation for the public to address the Council should be removed. He added that the agenda and the Council's processes for getting information to the public needs to be improved in order to be more transparent. He thanked Mayor Moench for attending the Council meetings noting it is healthy for the Council and Mayor to interact. He also thanked Councilman Kirsh noting it is healthy for the Board of Education and the Council to have a good working relationship and hoped he stays active and brings information back to the governing body.

Mr. Brookner further offered that while it is within the Mayor's jurisdiction to eliminate the economic development officer and to sever ties with the Somerset County Business Partnership, he asked that the Mayor be careful not to send a

message, whether intentional or not, that Bridgewater is not in favor of businesses.

Mr. Brookner opined that the proposal to increase the size of the Planning Board is in his opinion is not good politics and urged the governing body to vote “no”.

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

Introduction
of
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW SECTION 94-2(N) IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN CHAPTER 94 (“FEES”) TO BE ENTITLED “ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS” TO SET A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE USAGE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS OPERATED ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Councilman Ring inquired whether we will incur any monthly connectivity costs and whether there will be any credit card fees associated with this. He wondered whether it is cost effective to have a service charge or make this service free. Township Administrator Pappas will look into this and provide the Council more information at the next meeting.

Councilman Ring wondered whether we would like to have any enforcement authority if someone parks a non-electric car in one of those spots. Township Attorney Corsini will look into this matter and report at the next meeting.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-036](#) 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 16th day of January, 2020, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES), ARTICLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTIONS 52-1 AND 52-6 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “PURPOSE” AND “CERTAIN SALES PROHIBITED” SO AS TO REMOVE CERTAIN OBSOLETE PROVISIONS

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-037](#) 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 16th day of January, 2020, 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.

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 13 (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER) OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Mayor Moench stated that in the past two administrations, we have had an economic development officer whose responsibilities included soliciting development in town. He advised that both Township Administrator Pappas and Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services have an extensive economic development background. In addition, Chris Corsini, our township attorney has done a lot of business outreach. They have therefore made the determination that between these three positions, we have more than enough background to

cover economic development in Bridgewater. In addition, the economic development committee will be revitalized. Mayor Moench stated that from a taxpayer's standpoint, this position is redundant and should be eliminated.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-038](#) 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 16th day of January, 2020, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126 (LAND USE), PART 2 (PLANNING BOARD), ARTICLE II (ESTABLISHMENT), SECTIONS 126-4 (COMPOSITION) AND 126-5 (TERMS OF OFFICE; VACANCIES) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO INCREASE THE PLANNING BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP FROM SEVEN (7) TO NINE (9).

Mayor Moench stated the Municipal Land Use Law allows for Townships to decide on the size of the Planning Board. Increasing the size of the planning board allows more public member input. He added that one of the feedback we have had during the time of the center of excellence was the desire to have more public input and to get more segments of the population represented on the Planning Board. He added this was done a few years ago with the zoning board as allows more people to have a say in our land use matters.

Councilman Norgalis stated that as the planning board liaison for the last two years, he whole heartedly supports this.

Councilman Kirsh stated that he served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for eight years and it is fact that there are seven members and four alternates on that board. During the time he was there, every member, regular or alternate, regularly participated in all hearings and all their opinions were taken into account whether or not those individual's votes were ultimately counted. That board has worked extremely well with eleven voices and we can be well on our way to a similar collegial arrangement on our planning board where each and every voice with additional points of view is heard.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Nay
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-039](#) 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 16th day of January, 2020, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-83 (PROMOTION) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO AMEND AND CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR OFFICER PROMOTION.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye

Council Vice President Pedroso Absent
Council President Norgalis Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-040](#) 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 16th day of January, 2020, 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 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO GIBBONS, P.C. AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Mayor Moench stated administration is pleased to appoint Gibbons, PC as their work for the Township is extraordinary.

The Council President noted that Bond Council Attorney John Drakowitz from Gibbons was in the audience.

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

Councilman Kirsh Aye
Councilman Kurdyla Aye
Councilman Ring Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso Absent
Council President Norgalis Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-041](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR.

Mayor Moench stated this is a one year extension of the contract that we currently have with Somerville as we want to have an opportunity with the new professionals to determine whether this agreement still works.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-042](#) is appended to the official minutes

ISSUANCE OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE PURSUANT TO HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION - BRIAD LODGING GROUP BRIDGEWATER, LLC OPERATING AS AC MARRIOTT BRIDGEWATER, 600 SOMERSET CORPORATE CENTER BOULEVARD, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-043](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE STABILIZATION OF THE LANE VOORHEES HOUSE TO V & K CONSTRUCTION, 37 BARTHA AVE., EDISON, NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$159,000

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Absent
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-01-06-044](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President