

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 16, 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, December 16, 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: Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance
 Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
 Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes

The December 5, 2019 regular session minutes were presented for approval. On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the minutes were approved. All were in favor. Councilman Kurdyla abstained.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended Police Chief Nicaretta's walk off following his recent retirement.
- In the past week, our emergency services spent two full days at the American Water company for a hazardous material event.
- Regarding Open Space, there are two projects that he believes will soon be on the Council agenda for review.

Councilwoman Rose:

- Requested a point of clarification in terms of the center of excellence and its next steps. It was confirmed that the next step is for the Planning Board to memorialize the resolution. The project will then return to the Council

for approval of their Developer's Agreement.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Krista Gaffney from the Clerk's Office received a written "Thank You" from the Ridge High School Band for her help in getting a license.
- We need to determine the parameters for the 202/206 traffic study approved by the Council at our last meeting.
- The December 5th gunman scare on Country Club Rd drew widespread attention. As of this time Councilman Norgalis stated he does not yet have the names of the first responding officers. When he does, he intends to file with the 200 Club of Somerset County for a valor Award for those officers.
- Attended Mayor Hayes' Farewell Speech on December 11th where he thanked about 25 township employees for their support of his administration and service to the community.
- Attended the annual meeting of the Somerset County Business Partnership where they honored the Somerset Valley YMCA and the Chimney Rock with the Economic Vitality Award. Both honorees have locations in our town.
- The Planning Board approved the COE application by a vote of 6 to 1 (he was the one) in spite of tremendous resident opposition to the scope of the project. Councilman Norgalis has been inundated with phone calls and emails from Bridgewater residents whose common theme is that Planning Board members should be ashamed of their support for this project.
- Councilman Norgalis along with Township Attorney Corsini and soon to be Administrator Pappas have been interviewing all Department Heads and key employees as part of the transition from the Hayes Administration to the Moench Administration. The reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 1, 2020 at noon in the courtroom.
- Attended the senior citizen Centerbridge Holiday Luncheon at Maggiano's Restaurant. It was the largest such gathering they have ever had.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended Assemblyman Peterson's breakfast with Santa.
- Attended the Centerbridge Holiday party.
- Attended, as a member of the audience, the Planning Board meeting regarding the center of excellence. He thanked Councilman Norgalis for his "no" vote and for his active participation during the process.
- Wished everybody a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Council President Moench

- Thanked all of our first responders who responded to the shooting incident

last week. He especially thanked Acting Chief Payne for his leadership noting this was a tough way to be introduced to the job as acting Chief.

- Thanked Township Administrator Naples for his cooperation during the transition process along with CFO Turchan who will continue with the Township next year.
- Council President Moench stated his vision is to have significant emphasis on constituent services and constituent relations and improving how we handle constituent matters. For that reason, the new administration will have a Deputy Township Administrator who he introduced as Wells Winegar.
- The reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 1, 2020 at noon and will be followed by a reception at Maggiano's Restaurant.
- Attended the Planning Board meeting regarding the COE noting he was disappointed with their decision.
- Attended Assemblyman Peterson's breakfast with Santa.
- Attended the Martinsville Community Center's holiday event.
- This being Councilwoman Rose's last meeting, Council President Moench stated it was nice working with her for the past ten years, thanked her for her service and friendship and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Mayor's Report

Natasha Turchan, Director of Finance

- Nothing new to report.

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.

Erin Elizabeth Rose, 1725 Woodfield Road in Martinsville was present. She thanked Councilwoman Rose, who is her mother, for her thirty plus years of service in Bridgewater while acknowledging her dedication noting that she made it through some of the hardest times while she served with the Board of Education.

Howard Stomato, 10 Northern Drive was present. He stated he is overjoyed to hear about the proposed traffic study noting it is long overdue. He also expressed the need to continue discussions on how we use open space monies and how our

Bridgewater history is preserved.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$521,785.00 IN THE CURRENT FUND

Council President Moench stated this resolution will not increase the budget but will rather allow us to move monies within the budget from areas that we didn't use it and reallocating it to areas that were under budgeted.

CANCELLATION OF CAPITAL BOND ORDINANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,160,485.69

Council President Moench stated these are monies which were allocated and not spent. This resolution will allow us to put said monies in the general fund.

AUTHORIZING RUN-OUT CLAIM SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE PROVIDED BY QUAL-CARE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CHARGE OF \$109,273.00

Council President Moench stated we currently receive employee health benefits service through QualCare, with such services terminating on December 31, 2019. This resolution will ensure that claims incurred but not submitted or paid by Township employees are properly resolved in accordance with the terms of the current employee health care plan.

CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,581.65 TO THE AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT TO QUALCARE, INC., MARCH 1, 2019, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR 2019 ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED TO BE \$144,258.

CFO Natasha stated Qualcare bills administrative costs based on a certain dollar amount per life per month. They had originally underestimated their billing cost and this resolution will allow us to pay off the overage.

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 / FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE PRICE FROM \$2,238,888.38 TO \$2,244,217.92, WHICH IS AN OVERALL PROJECT INCREASE OF 0.24% OR \$5,329.54 FROM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO PILLARI BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CORP., AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND RELEASE OF

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND FOR LEGHORN AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE 2016 CAPITAL SEWER FUND

AUTHORIZING UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019 FOR LABOR LAW ATTORNEYS MARK CALIGUIRE AND ANDREW KINSEY AND UP \$5,000 FOR COMMERCIAL TAX APPEALS TO THE FIRM OF FLORIO PERRUCCI

CFO Natasha stated our labor attorney who also handles our tax appeals requested additional funding due to the number of appeals that they handled and some labor negotiations that were not able to fit in their original contract.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second by Councilwoman Rose, 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 resolution [#19-12-16-253 thru #19-12-16-258](#) are appended to the official minutes.

Farewell Address

CHRISTINE HENDERSON ROSE COUNCIL FAREWELL ADDRESS

Councilwoman Rose's farewell address is appended to the official minutes. [\(Schedule A\)](#)

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilwoman Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Matthew Moench
Council President