

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 30, 2020      COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, January 30, 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  
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.

**Minutes**

**JANUARY 16, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the January 16, 2020 minutes were moved for approval and passed. Councilman Pedroso abstained.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh:

- He attended, together with Councilman Ring, the seminar for newly elected officials on January 25<sup>th</sup> in North Jersey
- Attended the Green Knoll Rescue Squad dinner
- As the liaison for the Board of Education, he attended the cross functional community meeting. The topic of discussion was the change in school hours.
- There is a small application before the planning board

- There was a Zoning Board meeting on January 14, 2020 and Donald Sweeney was named chairman of the Board

**Councilman Kurdyla:**

- Attended the police retirement ceremony
- Attended an open space meeting where they scheduled a property walk on February 8, 2020

**Councilman Ring:**

- Over the weekend, he attended together with Councilman Kirsh the seminar for newly elected officials in North Jersey.
- Attended the police retirement ceremony

**Council President Norgalis:**

- Attended the viewing for the husband of Finance Department employee Patricia DeSarno who passed away very suddenly.
- Attended the reorganization meeting of the Green Knoll Rescue Squad which was held at the Bridgewater Manor.
- Attended the Chinese New Year celebration held at the Bridgewater Raritan High School. It is the year of the Rat. The program was entirely in Chinese.
- Attended the dedication of the refurbished wing at RWJ Somerset Hospital used for geriatric patients. It was made possible through a million dollar gift from the Kalafer Family.
- Attended the Bridgewater Police Department retirement ceremony for several lieutenants and one sergeant. Over 100 years of police experience has left the building.
- He will attend the ribbon cutting for the AC Hotel on Commons Way as well as the monthly ELC meeting in Somerville tomorrow.

**Presentation**

**POLICE PROMOTION**

The following officers were sworn-in by Mayor Moench in the presence of family and friends:

**Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant:**

- Sergeant Brian Blath
- Sergeant Christopher Fischer
- Sergeant Jeffrey Savare

**Promoted to the rank of Sergeant**

- Officer Kurt Bernhard
- Officer Frederick Brittain
- Officer John Cooper

**Public  
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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.

Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road was present. She congratulated all the police officers that were promoted tonight and thanked them and every member of the police department for their service. She stated she was impressed with their experience and levels of education adding it is great that there are requirements for promotion as it assures that our leaders are properly trained and educated. However, she expressed concern about the Ordinance that is scheduled for introduction tonight where qualifications for the director of municipal services and township engineer are being amended and stated she does not understand how doing this will be of benefit.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the public comment portion was closed.

**Introduction  
of  
Ordinances**

**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 FURTHER AMEND AND CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR OFFICER PROMOTION**

Township Administrator Pappas stated that this Ordinance will clarify the scoring for promotions in order to correspond with the participants on the scoring panel.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-053](#) 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 13th day of February, 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 ARTICLE XII, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING, SECTION 4-68 QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTOR AND SECTION 4-73 DIVISION OF ENGINEERING CONFIRMING THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Mayor Moench stated the department of municipal services is one of our largest departments as it oversees engineering, planning, public works, code enforcement and fire. He added the Township Engineer position was previously outsourced. It was made an in-house position sometime within the last 16-years and by so doing created the position of director of municipal services.

Mayor Moench stated that when administration looked at how our township is structured, there was a lot of concern in having this position combined because the director of municipal services is ultimately responsible for the management and running of a lot of departments which leaves the township engineer without enough time to do all the work well.

What administration is proposing is that Thomas Genova who has a lot of management experience will be the Director of Municipal Services and William H. Burr, PE, will take on the role of Township Engineer. Mayor Moench added he doesn't foresee the salaries having a negative effect on the budget due to other positions that have been eliminated and/or instances where there has been a breakage on the salary.

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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-054](#) is appended to the official minutes

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**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 CANCELLATION OF SEWER CAPITAL BOND ORDINANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,639,662.42**

Township Administrator Pappas explained that this is a cancellation for funds that have not been fully expended and the proceeds will be used in areas where monies are required.

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Kirsh               | Aye |
| Councilman Kurdyla             | Aye |
| Councilman Ring                | Aye |
| Council Vice President Pedroso | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-055](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO BRITT J. SIMON, ESQ. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: FIRST ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO DARYL J. KIPNIS, ESQ. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,000.00**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: SECOND ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO SCOTT C. MITZNER, ESQ. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400.00**

Mayor Moench explained the need for alternate public defenders.

Councilman Norgalis called for a consent vote on the above resolutions.

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Kirsh               | Aye |
| Councilman Kurdyla             | Aye |
| Councilman Ring                | Aye |
| Council Vice President Pedroso | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolution [#20-01-30-056 thru #20-01-30-058](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND - MICHAEL J. PAPPAS AS COMMISSIONER AND THOMAS GENOVA AS ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER**

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-059](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE UPDATED MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**

Council President Norgalis stated this is a plan that is required of all Townships.

Councilman Kurdyla stated that he will not be able to support this because he is not certain how the plan looks like and what hazards need to be addressed.

It was noted that this resolution must be adopted tonight as we are at risk of being ineligible for federal funding in the future.

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Kirsh               | Aye |
| Councilman Kurdyla             | Nay |
| Councilman Ring                | Aye |
| Council Vice President Pedroso | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-060](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT - EMPG/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE -EMAA. (SUB-AWARD FY 2019 EMPG-EMAA-1806). TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 IN FEDERAL FUNDS**

This was previously approved but has returned to Council at the request of the State that some wording be amended.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-061](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AMERICAN ASPHALT & MILLING SERVICES, LLC (96 MIDLAND AVENUE, KEARNY, NJ 07032) FOR COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SECTION I (ROUTE 28 TO 1,400 FEET NORTH OF ROUTE 28), IN THE SUM OF \$130,457.77, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT**

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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-062](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO.1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$266,850.72 TO \$251,321.44 A DECREASE OF 5.82% OR \$15,529.28, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO JTG CONSTRUCTION INC. (188 JEFFERSON STREET, SUITE 387, NEWARK, NJ 07105) FOR THE BWT-5 (HARDING ROAD & BYRD AVENUE) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FUNDED THROUGH THE 20 18 CAPITAL FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO.1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$694,552.62 TO \$720,701.40 AN INCREASE OF 3.765% OR \$26,148.78, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE GARRETSON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SECTION V (WESTERN BRHS DRIVEWAY TO DOWNEY ROAD), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND AND NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT**

Councilman Norgalis called for a consent vote on the above resolutions.

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Kirsh               | Aye |
| Councilman Kurdyla             | Aye |
| Councilman Ring                | Aye |
| Council Vice President Pedroso | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolution [#20-01-30-063 thru #20-01-30-064](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR SOMERSET BENGALI ASSOCIATION LOCATED AT 17 WHITEHEAD ROAD, BRIDGEWATER TO**



**HOLD THEIR ANNUAL EVENT AT BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN MIDDLE SCHOOL AT 128 MERRIWOOD DRIVE ON JANUARY 25, 2020 FROM 8 AM TO 11:45 PM**

Councilman Ring requested a meeting in the near future to discuss the approach to fee waivers and what the circumstances are for waiving fees. In this case, there is a \$60 permit fee to be waived and yet the costs to conduct a fire inspection on the weekend are far greater. As much as we shouldn't make money, Councilman Ring offered we should come as close as possible to recovering our cost.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis     | Aye |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-01-30-065](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Howard Norgalis  
Council President