

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13, 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a special session on Thursday, February 13, 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 special meeting was provided on January 22, 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.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh:

- Attended the Martinsville Rescue Squad installation dinner on February 1st.
- Attended the Raritan Valley Chinese School New Year celebration on February 8th.
- The Planning Board is scheduled to meet on February 25th. It is anticipated that the Board will consider approval of the Center of Excellence resolution.
- The Board of Education last met on February 11th. They are putting together a school's start time committee with approximately 20 members from the community. Councilman Kirsh will be speaking to the Council president and Administration to ensure that any municipal impact will be considered.

- Attended Census training in Edison to determine what is required to ensure Bridgewater has an effective presence as it relates to Census counting. He will be nominated as our representative to the Somerset County Complete count committee and asked that we put together a Bridgewater Local complete count committee. Councilman Kirsh is in contact with Deputy Township Administrator Wells about getting Census information on the website and social media. He added that one of the biggest differences in this census as compared to previous years is that this is the first time that the census will have an internet option.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- On Saturday, February 8, 2020, the Open Space Committee met and walked two (2) properties. He advised that administration will be receiving a report on those two parcels.
- Made a public apology that due to a calendar error on his part, he did not attend the Martinsville Rescue Squad dinner.
- He questioned the status of the HVAC system grant and was advised that although at this time they have not heard back from the State, Administration will advise as soon there is new information.
- This Saturday, February 15th is the Fire Districts' election from 2pm to 9pm and urged everybody to go out and vote.

Councilman Ring:

- Attended the annual reorganization meeting of the Martinsville Rescue Squad where Mayor Moench installed their 2020 officers. Councilman Ring wished these officers best of luck this year.
- Attended the meeting of Animal Shelter Board. The board has expressed some assistance from the town with signage. When the new shelter was built, they were issued the same address as the Municipal Complex which creates challenges with deliveries and customers finding them in the back corner. The administration has agreed to work with the shelter for some possible additional directional signage on Commons Way at Hanlon Drive and Garretson Road at Claude Drive. The Shelter would also like to upgrade an existing sign on Commons Way. This sign sits on State property and may be more involved. Further research is being done on that sign request.
- Moving forward, the Friends of the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter (FOSRAS) will be meeting immediately prior to the Shelter Board meeting.
- Attended the monthly meeting of Bridgewater Raritan Municipal Alliance. This group has had a number of vacancies for some time, which

sometimes makes it difficult to have a quorum and be able to conduct business. Tonight's agenda has a resolution to fill a number of vacant seats and has generated some questions both via email and on social media. In an effort to address some of those concerns, he offered some background of the Municipal Alliance noting it is part of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The Township ordinance specifies that Bridgewater is to have ten representatives and two additional representatives from Raritan. He added the ordinance provides some guidelines as to who MAY be appointed but does not specify requirements as to who SHALL be appointed and therefore offered the governing body has some flexibility as to who we appoint but deferred to Township Attorney Corsini to offer advise if this is incorrect.

- Councilman Ring advised that 99.9% of the work the Municipal Alliance does is funded through a grant from the State that passed through the County and added that if it were not for this grant, this group would probably not exist. The current grant cycle is winding down and the July 2020 to June 2025 grant paperwork is out. Form 3 of the packet provides guidelines of who would/should be appointed to the committee. One of the sectors that has to be represented, is "Representatives of the local communication media; or Public Relations". While we have a couple of media outlets that cover the local area, there is one, The Breeze, which covers both Bridgewater and Raritan exclusively. As this committee is the Bridgewater Raritan Alliance, The Breeze was our first choice to be part of the Alliance. Councilman Rings stated that tonight, we are scheduled to appoint Audrey Blumberg to fill that role. Audrey is listed on the resolution with her business address, since she is being appointed as a representative of the newspaper which she owns. This is consistent with the way we have used Police Headquarter address for the Police Chief, the Wade Building for the School District Administrative Staff and the High School for the Student Assistance coordinator or other student support services staff members.
- Councilman Ring further stated that like many grants, funding has been cut back for this program. He offered it is important to align our Alliance to the Grant Guidelines as much as possible. He added the ordinance allows for such noting there is no intent to be deceptive about the individuals that we are hopefully appointing tonight.

Council Vice President Pedroso:

- Wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Council President Norgalis:

- Attended the monthly Somerset County Employers Legislative Committee (ELC) meeting where John Donnadio Executive Director of the NJ Association of Counties (also known as NJAC) spoke on various state county issues.
- Took part in the ribbon cutting on opening day for the AC Hotel. This hotel is associated with the Marriott chain. The roof top meeting facilities are still under construction. There will be a separate ribbon cutting for that part in a few months.
- Attended the reorganizational meetings for Green Knoll Rescue Squad, the Martinsville Rescue Squad and the Green Knoll Fire Dept. All three meetings were held at the Bridgewater Manor.
- Was the guest speaker at the Boy Scout Troop 88 meeting to help facilitate qualification for Citizenship badges for 18 scouts. They meet at Eisenhower School.
- All four fire districts in Bridgewater will hold their annual elections on Saturday February 15th.
- Tomorrow is Valentine's Day. He urged everyone not to forget the important person or people in their lives.

Mayor's Reports

Matthew C. Moench

- The Municipal Alliance has been restructured. Mayor Moench stated it is very important that we get the right members on that Board because it is an important Board that needs active people as anti-drug and opioid issues are issues that are critical to our community.
- Commended Councilman Kirsh on his work with the Census and will work with the Township staff to ensure they are involved.
- Camp Cromwell continues to be a work in progress. Mayor Moench will be providing a status in the near future.
- Had a meeting with the School Superintendent and will have personal meetings once a month to ensure there is open communication.
- Looking to appoint new member to the Library committee in the near future.
- Donna Langel, Senior Citizens coordinator retired. Administration will soon be looking for someone to fill this very important position.
- The process to hire a Police Chief is underway. Mayor Moench will provide the Council an update as soon as it is available.
- The Township has partnered with the JCC to have a Community Day on March 1st. Mayor Moench encouraged everybody to attend.
- The budget hearings are coming up. Mayor Moench would like to go back to having department presentations so that the Council has an opportunity to address the department heads directly.
- Received a letter from Judge Ciccone approving our request to designate

Katherine E. Howes as our backup Judge.

**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.

J.P. Leven, 91 Millword Drive was present. He congratulated all the newly elected officials. He expressed concern over the time changes that the Board of Education is proposing and offered that this is a concern that could affect property values. He encouraged Bridgewater Township to be involved.

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

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
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

This Ordinance clarifies some of the language in Chapter 4 regarding the Police Department's organization.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

[ORDINANCE #20-08](#) WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution **[#20-02-13-066](#)** is appended to the official minutes

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 this Ordinance will allow for smooth operation of the department of municipal services.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting was opened to the public.

No one wished to be heard.

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

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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

ORDINANCE [#20-09](#) WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-02-13-067](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE” TO SUPPORT, RECOGNIZE, AND HONOR THE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Moench stated one area that is missing is a true organized veterans committee. The intent is to honor and support the veterans. Council was in support.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-02-13-068](#) 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 2nd day of March, 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.

Mayor Moench announced that our very own Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations is scheduled to report for service in a week and will be away for a month. Council wished him well and thanked him for his service.

Resolutions

APPOINTMENTS TO BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 18-18 CREATING NEW CHAPTER 22 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE - AUDREY BLUMBERG, WILLIAM RIJKSEN, GABRIELLA GUZMAN, TIFFANY SLOWINSKI, LINDA STEFANI, LOIS FYFE, KRISTEN BONCZEK AND PAUL PAYNE

There was question as to whether residency in Bridgewater is required to be on this Board. Township Attorney Corsini offered he did not find lack of residency to be a problem.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-02-13-069](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION APPROVING FINAL LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGEWATER FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUADS WHO QUALIFY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE TOWNSHIP LOSAP PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET

Council thanked and recognized the efforts of our volunteers.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-02-13-070](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,400.00, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, FOR BLOCK 349, LOT 5, NY SMSA d/b/a/ VERIZON, 300 PROMENADE BOULEVARD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Township Administrator Pappas offered that Acting Township Engineer has found that all on-site improvements have been completed in accordance with the approved plans and has recommended the release of the performance guarantee and acceptance of the improvements.

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 [#20-02-13-071](#) is appended to the official minutes

CLARIFYING CERTAIN LANGUAGE FROM RESOLUTION 20-01-30-061 ADOPTED

ON JANUARY 30, 2020 AND 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.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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 [#20-02-13-072](#) is appended to the official minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss litigation.

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 Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:38 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#20-02-13-073](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:50 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President

**Closed
Session**