

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in an agenda session on Thursday, February 27, 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 agenda 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
 Wells Winegar, Deputy 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:
 No Report

Councilman Kurdyla:
 No Report

Councilman Ring:
 No Report

Council President Norgalis:
 • No Report

Mayor's Reports

Matthew C. Moench

- Mayor Moench offered this is a great evening. He was pleased that the D&R Presentation will be heard this evening and congratulated those who won the election during the Saturday, February 15th Fire District Elections.

Mike Pappas, Township Administrator

- Township Administrator Pappas stated that he met with the County Traffic Engineer regarding improvements to the intersection of Washington Valley Road and Chimney Rock Road and the County has agreed to revisit certain concerns. The second part of the discussion referenced a traffic accident on Washington Valley Road and a petition that was circulated and delivered to Township. The County Engineer together with Sergeant Lamey of Bridgewater Police Department expressed willingness if requested formerly by the Township to conduct a traffic study on Washington Valley Road. Acting Township Engineer Bill Burr and Sergeant Lamey will be conducting the traffic study and Mr. Pappas will report back to Council on that study at a later date.

Presentation D&R Greenway

Council President Norgalis introduced Linda Mead, President and CEO of D&R Greenway Land Trust to come forward. Ms. Mead offered D&R Greenways mission is to preserve and care for land and inspires a conservation ethic. They have preserved almost 21,000 acres of land in central NJ and this particular property was preserved as the 303 property preserve since 1989. She recognized Vice Chair, James Fiorentino and Treasurer, Michael Kuntz on the Board of Trustees. Several other staff of D&R were present including Director of Land Stewardship, Tina Nortez. She recognized partners in the preservation including those who assisted in funding including Somerset County Freeholder, Brian Gallagher, Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, Sue Coffman and Laura Zwak, neighbors and friends who donated towards this preservation and finally all the Council and Administration.

D&R Greenway Land Trust presented a video to mark the completion of the Wemple Estate Preservation project on Steele Gap Road. This project was a dream fulfilled for Bridgewater resident and 101 year old World War II Veteran, Bob Vaucher. D&R Greenway also presented the township with an original painting to mark the occasion.

Mayor Moench said he would like to thank D&R Greenway Land Trust, Crossroads of the American Revolution, his partners in the Township and County Governing Bodies and the very dedicated group of residents who took this project to fruition. This land will now be preserved for all future generations for Bridgewater residents to enjoy. He offered the painting of the property will be

hung proudly in the Municipal Building.

David Stempien, Brendan Burns and his daughter, Jillian spoke on their quest to save and preserve this revolutionary trail and encampment located on this property. He thanked Councilman Kurdyla and James Weideli for their support, Linda Mead for her stewardship and liaison through this process, Laura Swank who succeeded in raising significant contributions, NJ Green Acres and Somerset County, Robert A Ceiling as Project Historian, Steven Lang former owner, Brendan Burns, Fred Shandor, Stanley Stempian, Bob Vaucher, Bill Savo and others whose perseverance were endless. Thanked all for saving a historical and educational treasure to be forever preserved.

Brendan Burns echoed the same sentiments noting he was proud and honored to be a part of this collaboration. Mr. Burns noted a proud moment offering his daughter, Jillian who in fourth grade rallied 400 + signatures from Adamsville School mates.

Bob Vaucher spoke on the property and was honored with a painting dedicated to him depicting the Wemple property created for Bridgewater Township. Air Force Association Bill Focina, AFA Chapter 195 VP Jim Morgan, NJ AFA President Howard Leach were present to present the painting to Bob Vaucher.

Council President offered a five minute recess in the meeting for photographs.

Council President asked the Clerk to call the roll to reconvene the session.

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Councilman Michael Kirsh

Councilman Allen Kurdyla

Councilman Timothy Ring

Council President Howard V. Norgalis

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.

Andrew Leven, 2 Holmes Court, noted he enjoyed this D&R Event and the new revitalizing atmosphere at this council session. He acknowledged Councilman Kurdyla by name applauding his efforts regarding the preservation of the Wemple property.

Kathy Healy, Jackson Avenue, Manville volunteers with SRAS wanted to thank

**Public
Comment**

this governing body and administration who support the shelter. Last year 1,023 animals were adopted out all funded by donations. Ms. Healy also publically thanked Councilman Ring who strongly supports the Regional Animal Shelter and their efforts as a moral obligation and thanked him for the additional signage to better direct people to more easily locate the shelter building.

Council President Norgalis advised Chief Payne is available to address any questions on the recent accident on Washington Valley Road. No one had any comments or questions for Chief Payne.

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

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

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 offered this Ordinance is timely in light of all the Veterans who participated earlier in the evening honoring Bob Vaucher. He added its important having a committee to support veteran’s services and be more involved in the community.

Mayor Moench asked Michele Smith to come forward and add any comments she may have as an active Veteran supporter in the community. He noted Ms. Smith is eager to be involved and will be a nominee for the committee as it begins the process to build the seven member committee team. He noted Michele is a Marine Veteran herself and does various speaking engagements where she speaks on men and women Veterans and some of the challenges they face regarding PTSD and trauma induced care.

Ms. Smith offered there are many ways to engage Veterans some as simple as asking a Veteran to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XII (DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES) AND ARTICLE XVIII (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS MAINTENANCE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO FURTHER AMEND AND CLARIFY THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF BOTH DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Moench said this ordinance was created in order to better match the structure of these departments.

Mr. Corsini noted this ordinance is another reflection of clarifying outdated ordinances to make them consistent.

Council President expressed to the public Ordinances are living documents which expand and contract to meet the needs of the business.

Council President Norgalis read the forgoing resolutions by title:

Resolutions AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR APPROPRIATION RESERVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$366,512.00

Council President offered this is a routine resolution. No other comments were offered.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHRISTINE PHILLIPS OF 143 CANDLEWICK LANE AND GERALDINE STAUB OF 10 BRAEMAR PLACE TO THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Council president offered this is a credit to this township to continue having residents take an active part in government.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE HONORABLE KATHERINE E. HOWES, J.M.C., OF PEAPACK-GLADSTONE, NEW JERSEY AS THE ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Mayor Moench offered Judge Howes will be an alternate when Judge Kelleher is in some way unable to attend a court session. This body preferred to have their own appointment of a fill in or alternate Judge. He noted Judge Howes works in various surrounding municipalities and is well known and respected in her field.

Council President Norgalis added Judge Howes is the first female Judge to serve in this capacity in Bridgewater.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THOMAS GENOVA DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Mayor Moench offered Mr. Genova has been a stellar employee and happy to have him serve in this capacity.

Councilman Kurdyla asked it be known that if Mr. Genova has any current development or project with ownership interest, inspection work would be done outside the Township as a standard protocol.

AUTHORIZING QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2020

Chris advised many towns have lists of special counsel and felt it wise Bridgewater do the same.

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2019-2020 HAZARDOUS BUSING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 256,153.00

Council President Norgalis advised students who live less than 2 miles are not bussed so without sidewalks or clear non hazardous roadways this busing is offered. The Board of Education tracts this together with our Police department by student and mile.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2020 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BY THE FOLLOWING NONPROFITS WITH INTENDED PROJECTS WITHIN BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP: COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON, AND WARREN COUNTIES, MARTIN LUTHER KING YOUTH CENTER, THE SHIMON AND SARA BIRNBAUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, VISIONS AND PATHWAYS AND MIDDLE EARTH

This resolution is done each year in collaboration with the Somerset County Community Block Grants application to be competitive to receive money for non-profit projects.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY UNDER THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT FOR PHASE 1 AND 2 OF THE HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT THE BRIDGEWATER LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,517,036

Councilman Kurdyla offered he has worked on this at the request of the Library Committee. He offered this resolution supports the submission to apply for a grant, however, given the competitiveness we hope to secure moneys to defray these costs.

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND R.I. HERITAGE INN OF BRIDGEWATER, LLC AND S.S. HERITAGE INN OF BRIDGEWATER, LLC FOR A HOTEL, RESTAURANT, AND MEDICAL OFFICE FACILITY LOCATED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS 1260 ROUTE

22, DAY'S INN) NO CURRENT ADDRESS ASSIGNED ON BLOCK 222, LOTS 3, 4 AND 5 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Council president offered this is a formal agreement holding the developer to abide by the parameters established and agreed to.

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WELDON MATERIAL, INC. 1 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD, WATCHUNG, NEW JERSEY FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE HOT PATCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000

Council President noted hot patch is a necessity to fill the potholes as a bridge before the roads are slated for improvements.

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR 2020 WITH THE SOCCER CENTERS LOCATED AT 300 MEMORIAL DRIVE SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE SPRING AND FALL TRAVEL PROGRAMS. SOCCER CENTERS WILL PROVIDE THE USE OF TURF FIELDS, REFEREES AND TRAINERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$115,840

Councilman Kurdyla asked about disparity in the rates for trainers. Mike Pappas offered to provide the differential noted during Mondays regular session meeting.

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF RARITAN AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR ELECTRIC SUBCODE OFFICIAL/INSPECTOR SERVICES AND SUBCODE/INSPECTOR ELEVATOR SERVICES

Mr. Pappas noted this agreement for shared service already exists and this amendment reflects Raritan paying the overtime costs to cover the Township's associated costs.

**Motion to Set
Agenda**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the agenda was set for the March 2, 2020 Township Council regular meeting.

**Closed
Session**

On the motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in a closed session at approximately 8:41 p.m. to discuss the following:

- Litigation - Center of Excellence
- Litigation - Ratepayer Litigation
- Contract Negotiations - Route 202/206 Traffic Corridor Study

All were in favor.

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

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.

A copy of Resolution [#20-02-27-074](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting reconvened to open session at 9:48 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard V. Norgalis
Council President