

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MAY 18, 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, May 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication.

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, WITH A SUBSEQUENT MEETING NOTICED ON MAY 11, 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ. AS AMENDED TO PERMIT PUBLIC BODIES AS THEREIN DEFINED TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION OR OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE STAR LEDGER, POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND 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: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Wells Winegar, Deputy Administrator
Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

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

Minutes

MAY 7, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the above mentioned minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Reached out to the Clerk with minor changes to the last Council minutes.

Councilman Ring:

- Participated on the local OEM meetings along with Councilman Norgalis. Much of the discussion was around the effects of COVID-19.
- Yesterday was the official week start to recognize EMS First Responders.

Councilman Kirsh:

- Appreciative of our EMS and first responders and is glad that we can honor them through the designation of EMS week.
- The Planning Board met last Tuesday and had a successful meeting via Zoom. They will have a public hearing next month for official business and to address applications.
- The Zoning Board is scheduled to meet for administrative purposes next week.
- Councilman Kirsh hopes there will soon be a completion to the pandemic noting that the numbers appear to be leveling off.

Council Vice President Pedroso:

- His thoughts and prayers are with the residents that are dealing with the effects of COVID-19.

Council President Norgalis offered the following sentiments:

- I have conferenced in along with Councilman Ring on several of the Township Office of Emergency Management calls as our town and county strive to develop a new level of normalcy.
- Township business continues via phone, email, video links and even the US Postal Service. I miss the hugs prior to the in person Council meeting just as I miss not being to hug my children and grandchildren. I pray for better times without the need for social distancing. But I will abide by the letter and spirit of the rules.
- We are still working with the Mayor and Administrator as the 2020 budget deadline draws ever closer.
- A recent bright spot for me was a note from resident Barbara Geisler. She needed help and turned to Krista Gaffney one of only three people on the Town Council staff. Barbara got the help she needed and was so thankful she wrote a note to Krista saying "Thank you for the help, but how quickly you took it on. We in Bridgewater are lucky to have such an

excellent employee." Barbara we are glad you received the help and appreciate your taking the time to drop us a note.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Matthew C. Moench reported as follows:

- Administration continues to work with our first responders and health team to address residents concerns.
- Administration has increased the amount of data we release regarding the effects of COVID-19. Administration will continue to do this while relying on the guidance of our health team and as long as the data continues to be accurate, reliable and if there is value in sharing it.
- Thanked Director of Human Services, Christine Madrid, Health officer Kevin Summer and the entire team for their work during COVID-19.
- Administration is reviewing the possibility of opening some pools and athletic fields and will evaluate how this is feasible in a way that conforms with the law. More information will follow.
- We will put out information that Memorial Day in-person ceremonies will not be conducted this year. Administration is working on doing this electronically and will soon provide more information.
- Participated, along with Councilman Ring, on a wave parade for a 95-year old Frank Davita who is a WWII D-day veteran. A proclamation was given to Mr. Davita.
- BoxCar food deliveries continue to be successful. He thanked Councilman Ring and Deputy Township Administrator Wells for their assistance.
- Administration continues to advocate, on a State level, for legislation that would provide flexibilities to municipalities to make up revenue. We are still working on our projections and right now, our CFO has unofficially increased our projections from 1.8 to 2.1. We continue to make steps to control costs. We have eliminated overtime, curtailed our expenditure and have issued potential layoff notices to all employees.
- Administration hopes to have a proposed Budget at the next Council meeting. Mayor Moench is hopeful the proposed budget will provide the residents with the services they need while being cognizant of our current financial difficulties.
- Administration is thrilled that our school district worked with us to allow

for delayed/reduced payments to them in order to not run into cash flow issues. Unfortunately, Mayor Moench advised that our County did not and expressed disappointment that our freeholders did not work with municipalities.

- Mayor Moench has been meeting with Mayors of several other towns to advocate collectively on the needs of the businesses within Somerset County. More information will follow.

Public
Comment

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 to provide public input via electronic transmission with all comments to be read into the record, unless there are unusual circumstances.

There was a five (5) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the link/portal provided.

It was noted that the break in the meeting is to allow for public comment and to provide additional opportunity for “public hearing” input on the ordinance listed below (agenda item 9).

Following recess, on the call of the roll by Township Clerk Doyle, 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

Deputy Administrator Wells Winegar read the following resident comments into the record verbatim:

Min Ju, 91 Pearl Street - Please consider reopen the public tennis court in Bridgewater now. This activity could maintain the proper social distance while keep residents healthy both physically and mentally.

Larry Hansen, 15 Forest Avenue - I sincerely think the township needs to create an ordinance that limits when services provided across the township can be performed. This should be part of a noise ordinance. The specific health and wellness issue is sanitation services. They are getting earlier and

earlier - and they are loud. Loud trucks and slamming cans wake up my kids at 4:30 am. It's gotten earlier and earlier and is unfair. My children's ability to sleep is key for their growth, education and development. There is no reason this needs to happen so early! Please help keep a quiet and healthy township with an ordinance that addresses this! Thanks for the consideration.

Elaine Hairston, 645 Foothill Road - Can't read the agenda nor can I log into the meeting.

- It was confirmed that Ms. Hairston has been reached and provided the information needed to access this meeting.

George Bateman, 34 Catherine Lane - Hi, I would like to listen in to the council meeting tonight but I cannot find a link or number on the website to join.

- It was noted that Mr. Bateman has since been contacted and provided information on how to access to this meeting.

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

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 206-6.1 ("RESTRICTED PARKING IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE DESIGNATED LOCATIONS") IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN CHAPTER 206 ("VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC") TO SET ENFORCEMENT MEASURES FOR THE IMPROPER USAGE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS OPERATED ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Council President Norgalis explained that this Ordinance prohibits motor vehicles from parking or standing in any space designated for electric vehicles charging unless same is an electric vehicle and is being electrically charged. This Ordinance also gives the Police Department the authority to direct, enforce and issue citations to violators.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, it was confirmed that the meeting was previously opened to the public and no one wished to be heard.

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

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 #20-12 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #20-05-18-134 is appended to the official minutes

Introduction
of
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 175 ENTITLED "SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL" TO DELETE SECTION 175-33 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND CREATE A NEW SECTION ENTITLED "GREASE TRAPS

Council President Norgalis and Township Administrator Pappas explained that this Ordinance will allow us to maintain the Township's sanitary sewer system by regulating the discharging of grease and other items that are detrimental to the sewer system. It was noted the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been experiencing a number of backups to the sewer lines. The problem seems to stem from food establishments allowing too much grease to flow into the sewer system. The devise that would limit that impact on the township sanitary system is called a grease trap and allows for the grease to be retained on premise and then cleared out at a later time.

Councilman Ring opined that the enforcement of this Ordinance should commence after businesses resume normal business. It was confirmed that administration will provide leeway when enforcing this Ordinance so as not to adversely affect business owners given most are closed during the pandemic.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution #20-05-18-135 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 4th day of June, 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 126-341.2 ENTITLED "AFFORDABLE HOUSING" TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION C(3)(c) ALLOCATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FEES INCURRED IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SALES AND RESALES

Township Administrator Pappas explained that this Ordinance mimics what other municipalities throughout New Jersey are doing in hiring a consultant to carry out the function of affordable housing sales and resales.

Administration finds it is in the best interest of the Township and its residents to properly allocate Administrative Agent fees in affordable housing sales and resales. For new sale and rental developments, all of the fees of the Administrative Agent shall be paid by the owners of the affordable units for which the services of the Administrative Agent are required. For resales, single family homeowners and condominium homeowners shall be required to pay three percent of the sales price for services provided by the Administrative Agent related to the resale of their homes. That fee shall be collected at closing and paid directly to the Administrative Agent. Township Administrator Pappas explained the 3% fee is meant to lessen the burden on the affordable housing trust fund and mimics what many other municipalities are doing.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, 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 [#20-05-18-136](#) 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 4th day of June, 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 THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SEWER FUND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES TO RAFTELIS, INC. LOCATED AT 20 MAIN STREET, SUITE 301, NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS, 01760 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,850

Council President Norgalis and Mayor Moench explained that this resolution will allow us to hire a firm that will conduct a study that will assist the Township in developing a revenue-sufficient, equitable, and sustainable financial plan and rate structure for the Township's sewer utility. Currently, the sewer rate is the same for every resident regardless of size of the home or usage. This firm will help us determine if we should continue our current arrangement or if there is a better/fair way to bill, budget or manage our sewer tax.

A number of different firms provided proposals and this firm, based upon review by the Administration, is by far the best to provide the services we need.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#20-05-18-137](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING CHANGE OF SCOPE TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE BY THE SUM OF \$31,600.00 FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE BWT-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES TULLO ROAD (WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD TO MALLARD DRIVE) AND SOUTH KNOB (ENTIRE LENGTH) WITH KELLER & KIRKPATRICK, INC. FROM THE

CONTRACT PRICE OF \$39,000.00 TO \$70,600.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE 2019 CAPITAL BOND

Council President Norgalis and Mayor Moench explained two more streets are being added to the contract for improvement thus the need to increase the contract price.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#20-05-18-138](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President