

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 17, 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, August 17, 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 AUGUST 13, 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: Wells Winegar, Deputy Administrator
Scott Maraldo, Director of Constituent Relations
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda Doyle, Township Clerk
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

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

Minutes

AUGUST 3, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Council President Norgalis, the August 3, 2020 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- He will be at the Township building tomorrow for two (2) meetings to address certain township concerns.
- Plans on getting the Open Space committee together for a meeting to

discuss two properties. This meeting is preliminary. More information will soon be forthcoming.

- Attended Bob Vaucher's ceremony at the municipal building.

Councilman Kirsh

- Attended the ceremony at the Townhall for the Bob Vaucher's reserve naming. It was a great community event.
- The Planning Board has not met and is not scheduled to meet until September.
- The School district has adopted a Hybrid learning model for the Bridgewater Schools. It is a combination of both virtual and in-person learning with an option for all virtual learning.
- The 2020 General election scheduled for November 3rd will be a principally vote by mail election, very similar to the Primary Election. The drop-box located in the municipal building parking lot is a resource that will be very valuable to our local residents once ballots are delivered on the first week in October and due back on Election Day. More information will be provided in the coming days.
- With regard to the Census, Bridgewater has done very well. The reporting rate in New Jersey is 65.7%, for Bridgewater it is 81.3%. This is higher than 78.9% that was reported in 2010. Between now and September 30, enumerators are out in our communities surveying locations where there has been no response yet and stimulating responses. He urged those that have not filled out their census to do so as soon as possible, online or via telephone.

Councilman Ring (*verbatim*):

- I would like to start by thanking the Administration, Wells and Scott in particular for all of their efforts in helping to organize a fantastic event last week to honor Bridgewater's own, Lt. Col Thomas 'BOB' Vaucher. Unfortunately COVID limited our ability to promote the event, but the video is available on the township's Facebook page.
- I attended the promotion ceremony for Captain Mitzak and Captain O'Neill. Congratulations to both of them.
- As the liaison to the Animal Shelter, I wanted to report that the Administration has started to schedule some meetings with various parties

involved with the shelter, with the goal of better understanding their operation and some of the challenges taking place.

Council Vice President Pedroso:

- Attended a special event which was a celebration of the Wemple property which has been renamed the Vaucher Revolutionary Preserve at Steele Gap. Councilman Pedroso gave a brief history of this property noting Bob Vaucher led the effort to raise public funds to ensure that this land was preserved for future generations of residents to enjoy and is now part of Open Space.
- Councilman Pedroso stated during the celebration, he gave a tribute honoring Lt. Col (ret.) Thomas "Bob" Vaucher's long history of service to this country, his civic engagement and advocacy to this Township. Councilman Pedroso asked that this tribute be made part of the record. The address is appended to the official minutes as [Schedule A](#)

Council President Norgalis (*verbatim*):

- Attended the police promotion ceremonies for Chief Payne and later for Captains Sean O'Neill and John Mitzak. As Mayor Moench said in his comments "They have served as "Acting" in a time of great transition and turmoil for both the Township and the Department with the utmost of poise and professionalism. Congratulations to all.
- Thank you to Michael Pappas and his staff for taking the issue on flooding on Brown Rd so seriously. They met with Arnold Quast two weeks ago who has represented his neighbors on this issue back to 2012. Mr. Quast has been before this council seeking an engineering solution and called me last week to say he was overjoyed that Mr. Pappas and his staff continue to seek a lasting solution.
- Received a letter from a resident seeking a portable generator noise ordinance because his neighbor's portable generator is so loud and operating around the clock during the recent series of power outages. Talked with him and suggested he talk to his neighbor and try to resolve.
- Has a meeting scheduled with the Bridgewater SRVSA Board Representatives (Bob Albano and Joe Lifrieri), at their request, to discuss what options, if any, we have regarding the use of the sewer utility by a Hunterdon County developer. The 240 homes will be located on the Hunterdon County part of the Fox Hollow Golf course.

**Mayor's
Report**

Mike Pappas, Township Administrator

- Thanked Councilman Ring and the members that serve on the animal shelter for taking ownership of their respective roles. He will soon be meeting with representatives of some of the shelter's stake holders on Friday and will continue to keep the Council apprised.
- The recreation department continues to organize and operate programs on a limited basis and has been very successful.
- The challenge of the recent storm and power outages also came with brush and trees that have come down. The Public Works department has been busy responding to requests from the senior citizens. Seniors have to call our Public Works to schedule pick up which is generally on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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

**Public
Comment**

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 four (4) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the link/portal provided.

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

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

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator stated there were some residents who requested to address the Council in person:

Former Councilwoman Christine Henderson Rose, 1725 Woodfield Rd in Martinsville was present. She stated that Herb Patulo passed on this week. He was a historian and will be dearly missed for his contributions to the historical preservation advocates. She then congratulated the Council on naming the property on North Bridge Street after the Hancock family noting that was a

recommendation made by the Ad hoc historical committee last year and she was glad to see that it has been done. Former Councilwoman Rose stated a lot of history is on that property and hoped for the possibility of historical preservation noting if eligible, the township can apply for County historical grants.

Harold Glasser, 9 Moorhouse Court in Bridgewater was present. He stated that at a July Council meeting, he raised an issue with regard to the police violence on people of color and stressed the importance of administration providing data and information on policing in Bridgewater so that residents can have answers to questions such as how often do the police in Bridgewater use force and in what situations, how do the police investigate allegations of improper use of force, how does a resident with complaint about police behavior bring that complaint and how can they be assured that this is handled appropriately and by whom etc. He requested that Council explain steps taken or hope to take to provide answers to such questions.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated Mayor Moench and Council have stated they have great confidence in the Police Chief and our Police Department. He added there are very stringent rules that the police have to adhere to as provided by the attorney general. All were in consensus that if there is a specific concern about a member of our Police Department, that should be handled privately as the law is very specific about the processes to address employees in public. The public was invited to speak with the Mayor or Administrator privately regarding any concerns they may have about a specific member or members of our police force.

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator read the following resident comment into the record verbatim:

Allen Papp 1367 Plymouth Rd. What properties are being considered for Open Space acquisition?

Council President Norgalis stated there is a process that the Open space committee goes through when they become aware of properties that may be available. They go through some documentation including personal visits and willingness of the owners and some other negotiations. These are not discussed in public until they are finalized/under contract. Councilman Kurdyla stated we do not discuss open space properties on open forum in order to not get involved in bidding wars etc

Harold Glasser, 9 Moorhouse Court in Bridgewater spoke a second time. He stated the questions he asked are not specific to anyone but are to understand

Introduction
of
Ordinances

what the policing process is in Bridgewater. Mr. Glasser was offered that the State Guidelines will be mailed to his home or electronically if he prefers.

Councilman Kurdyla made motion to close the public input. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ring and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “HISTORIC PRESERVATION” FOR THE PURPOSES OF CREATING THE OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP HISTORIAN AND A LOCAL HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councilman Pedroso stated he is pleased to present this Ordinance. Bridgewater was originally created by world charter in 1749 and is named after Bridgewater England. It was incorporated in 1798 as one of the original 104 municipalities in NJ. In the 1800’s, parts of Bridgewater were given up to create Warren, Branchburg, Somerville, Raritan and Bound Brook.

Bridgewater is home of the Middlebrook Encampment which had its first US flag in 1777 and a 13star flag still flies to this day, 24 hours a day by special order of Congress. 271 years after the Township was created by world Charter, we do not have a historical preservation committee. Councilman Pedroso stated he believes it is time. It will cost no money to the township as it is made up of six (6) volunteers and one (1) historian. This committee will be tasked to gather history, preserve and share that history with future generations. If residents want to donate items that have historical value, they can do that with this committee.

Councilman Kurdyla expressed concern that the Ordinance is written without definition of how these items will be donated and without a budget. He added the Local Advisory Committee should consist of seven (7) members and then vote one (1) historian out of these members. Councilman Pedroso stated he sees no need to spend money. If such a need arises, the committee would need approval from the governing body.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing Ordinance 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 ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-08-17-205](#) 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 10th day of September, 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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL PAPPAS AS ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

Council President Norgalis stated our former CFO Natasha Turchan resigned. There was a series of interviews and there remains a need for a permanent CFO. Michael Pappas, Township Administrator will fill in until the end of the year while a permanent CFO is sought. This will be with no additional compensation and there will not be a need for him to obtain Municipal Finance Officer Credentials.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 [#20-08-17-206](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HISTORY OF THE HANCOCK PROPERTY TO BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP, AND DESIGNATING THAT AREA OF BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE AS “THE HANCOCK PRESERVE.”

Council President Norgalis explained that on North Bridge Street, there are two pieces of properties totaling 20-acres which were the original Hancock farm.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#20-08-17-207](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, FOR DEMOLITION CAMP CROMWELL II CONTRACT WITH T.R. WENIGER, INC., (1900 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE, PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00

It was noted that the contractor posted a Performance Guarantee for the demolition of Structures at the Camp Cromwell site but has since decided to terminate the contract. Michael Pappas, Township Administrator explained that Thomas M. Genova, Director of Municipal Services, has reviewed the provisions of the Mutual Release and has recommended the release of the performance guarantee.

Council expressed concern over the contractors that have been terminating contracts and asked that this be looked into. Township Attorney Corsini will look into this.

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 [#20-08-17-208](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR A CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL (CRP) TO SIGN THE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT AND COMMENCE RETROACTIVELY TO JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00

Council President Norgalis state we do not have anyone on staff that has the credentials required to certify the agreement. Councilman Kirsh expressed concern as to why the County needs a fee to certify the agreement. Councilman Ring offered that moving forward, this fee should be incorporated into the annual recycling/tonnage agreement.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-08-17-209](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Closed
Session**

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

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 Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:39 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#20-08-17-210](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:10 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President