

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, September 10, 2020 at 7:36 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 SEPTEMBER 3, 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 (joined at 9:18pm)
Council Vice President Filipe Pedroso
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

Also Present: Michael Pappas, Township 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 17, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Pedroso, the August 17, 2020 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

- Acknowledged that tomorrow will be the 19th anniversary of 9-11. His thoughts and prayers are with all that were affected by this tragic event.
- Was not be able to attend the police swearing in ceremony but wished

well all the police officers including:
Promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant:
Thomas Rice
Kevin Lamey

Promoted to the Rank of Sergeant:
Daniel Hennessey
Douglas Thorsen

New Officers:
Noah E. Allatt
Joseph R. Duffy
Adam D. Giurlando

- School started on September 8th virtually with the hope of hybrid learning in October.
- Recently received guidance from the Governor that the General Election will primarily be a vote by mail election. Councilman Kirsh stated the drop-box located in the municipal building parking lot is a resource that will be very valuable to our local residents.
- We have entered the final and most crucial section of the Census. September 30th is the drop down deadline to register. Councilman Kirsh emphasized the importance of completing the Census.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Thanked Administrator Pappas for his assistance in hosting a virtual meeting with the Fire Department.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Acknowledged that tomorrow is 9-11 and expressed he is grateful that Mayor Moench invited him to participate in the virtual memorial ceremony by reflecting on this event via video recording.

Council President Norgalis (*verbatim*):

- Attended the Police Promotion Ceremony where:
 - Sergeants Kevin Lamey and Thomas Rice were promoted to Lieutenant
 - Officers Daniel Hennessey and Douglas Thorsen were promoted to Sergeant
 - Three new officers were sworn in; Noah Allatt, Joseph Duffy and Adam Giurlando

- Speaking of police there is a “support police” movement in Bridgewater sponsored by a resident who, at his own expense, had 1000 lawn sign made up that say. “We support the Bridgewater Police Department”. As of yesterday 800 of these free signs were on lawns throughout the township
- A question arose earlier this week about the counting of absentee ballots. Under a law signed by the governor last week the Election Board can begin counting ballots ten days before the election.
- Attended the virtual Somerset County Governing Officials meeting last night where the guest speakers were Dr. Namitha Reddy, Director of Somerset County Health Department and Steve Peter, Somerset County Clerk. Reddy spoke about COVID and flu shots and Peter spoke about the election process and absentee balloting. Peter indicated that election results will be delayed for weeks as they manually count ballots after election.
- The dreaded Spotted Lanternfly has been seen in Bridgewater. This highly destructive insect should be killed on sight. This invasive species native to China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam arrived in the US in 2014 initially in Pennsylvania, and has since spread to 26 counties.
- Took part in a 911 Memorial filming to be used as part of the township’s nineteenth annual recognition of the 2001 attack on the World Trade center, the Pentagon and airliner over Pennsylvania. I spoke about Noel Foster. Noel was only 40 in 2001 and the proud father of two girls Megan who was 8 and Nicole who was only 5. He was working on the 99th floor in the South Tower.

Mayor’s Reports

Mayor Moench reported as follows:

- This year, given COVID concerns and in an attempt to revamp the 9-11 memorial, it will be a virtual ceremony to get more residents to participate. Administration hopes to have a larger ceremony next year during the 20th anniversary. Tomorrow, a video will be released that will highlight this event and features recorded speeches by the Council as they reflect on 9-11.
- There will be another police promotion ceremony to fill some vacancies. Mayor Moench stated it takes a little while for the police to be on the road, as they must go through proper training.
- The road assessment program continues to move forward and has made great progress. The roads have already been reviewed and the data is

now being assessed in order for a plan to be formulated by end of year that will be the basis for a long-term road plan.

- Graphics continue to be placed on the website for residents to see the progress on various road construction projects.
- Mayor Moench stated we continue to have discussions with the County regarding the pilot program that is similar to On-Point, which will allow the social workers and police department to partner and work together during police house calls.

PROCLAMATION OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Moench explained the Ovarian Cancer awareness campaign in Bridgewater dates back to 2014 through the vision and activism of Bridgewater resident Renee Edwards who, after being diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer began a campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of the disease. Renee passed away in 2016, however, her husband Jamie Edwards and daughters Leah Fitzpatrick and Jordan Edwards continue to honor her legacy by raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of Ovarian Cancer every September.

Council President Norgalis read part of the proclamation which urged residents to be cognizant of the Together Teal Campaign and offer support to those whose lives have been touched and impacted by ovarian cancer and participate fittingly in the observance.

**PUBLIC HEARING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, 1041 ROUTE 202/206 a/k/a/
BLOCK - 483 LOT-17**

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP DEPUTY ZONING OFFICER/CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL TO OVERSEE AND DIRECT THE REMOVAL OF THE VIOLATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 105 ET SEQ., OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES AND AUTHORIZING THE REMEDIATION OF THE CONDITIONS ON THE PROPERTY OWNED BY AR BRIDGEWATER II AND KNOWN AS 1041 ROUTE 202-206, BLOCK 483, LOT 17 AND FURTHER CERTIFYING THAT THE COSTS TO BE CHARGED AGAINST THE PREMISES AND BECOME A TAX LIEN IN THE SUM TO BE DETERMINED AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE DEPUTY ZONING OFFICER/CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL TO CAUSE THE FINAL AMOUNT CHARGED TO BECOME A LIEN UPON THE PREMISES AND FORM A PART OF THE TAXES NEXT TO BE ASSESSED AND LEVIED UPON THE PREMISES.

The following were present to discuss this matter:

- Township Attorney Chris Corsini
- Deputy Township Attorney Kaitlyn Mitchko

Richard Crooker, Attorney for AR Bridgewater II
Mike Pappas, Township Administrator
Steve Rodzinak, Code Enforcement Officer and Deputy Zoning Officer

The following was confirmed:

- Township Administrator Pappas explained he received complaint in early July that there were two properties as follows which had zoning violations:
 - 721 Route 202/206
 - 1041 Route 202/206
- On July 15th, following inspection of these premises and after finding there were violations, summons were sent out to the two (2) property owners.
- The owner of 721 Route 202/206 has since remedied the situation.
- The property, known as 1041 Route 202-206, Block 483, Lot 17, is the subject of tonight's discussion and continues to be in violation of the Township Code.
- AR Bridgewater II, LLC is storing vehicles for sale upon the property contrary to Section 105-3(D) of the Township Code.
- AR Bridgewater II, LLC failed to remove new vehicles stored on the property, in accordance with the Township Code.
- Proper and sufficient notice was provided to the property owner by mailing the Notice of Hearing and Notice of Lien to the owner or their attorney.
- Chapter 216-13, entitled "Wreckers" permits the Township to tow vehicles from their unauthorized location to a storage yard and charge the owner the appropriate fees accordingly.
- The amount certified by the Deputy Zoning Officer/Construction Code Official for compliance and removal is in a sum not to exceed, \$18,725.00.

Attorney for AR Bridgewater II, LLC offered he does not believe that a violation of township ordinances exists. He however requested the Township Council to exercise their discretion to award him an extension of time to remediate the situation.

After a considerable discussion, there was consensus that AR Bridgewater II has until End of Business on September 18th to remove the cars/violations. If the violation persists, the Township has the authority for enforcement action, including towing the cars away.

Councilman Pedroso made motion to take action as discussed above. The motion

was seconded by Council President Norgalis and carried on the following roll call vote:

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 [#20-09-10-211](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Public
Comment**

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

- ⇒ Link for Public Comment Submission:
<https://bridgewaterocr.typeform.com/to/XG6BK5fg>
- ⇒ Use raise hand feature to give audio comments
- ⇒ Use Q&A feature for written comments
- ⇒ Text 908-912-4247 for written comments

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

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

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

Scott Maroldo, Director of Office of Constituent Relations read the following resident comments into the record verbatim:

Resident Suhas Julapalli - At the start of the meeting, two (2) resident issues were mentioned. One regarding the Green Knoll Grille incident and another concerning the Frontier Road project. Where can more information be found regarding this?

Scott confirmed the Office of Constituent Relations will respond to this resident in the morning and will copy Council in their response.

Kathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- What is the Council doing with this advance realty car storage issue?
 - 1 - the township certainly knows the official mailing address of advance realty and that it has never been 1041 route 206 - so why did notice get sent
 - 2- one cannot see from the main road, route 206 these vehicles - therefore it is not a nuisance
 - 3- the township is looking for another way to waste our taxpayer dollars in a potential lawsuit
 - 4- the addresses listed are not consistent (741 and 1041) and therefore the council and its counsel should assure that information is presented correctly to the public
 - 5- as this township, it's citizens and businesses are suffering from this pandemic and it's effects - and as our township permits exceptions of parking lot uses for parking lots to serve food and alcoholic beverages - it becomes upsetting that the council cannot afford the same "opportunity" for other businesses to "survive" during this pandemic
 - 6- why is Open Road not a subject of this question and concern

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

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 25 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

Council Vice-President Pedroso confirmed that the purpose of this Ordinance is to preserve important artifacts of Bridgewater history. Any expenses that arise in the future will need to be approved by the Township Council.

Councilman Kirsh confirmed that per previous discussions, this Ordinance is about preservation of documents, photographs, and artifacts that will be hand held and of a reasonable size. It is not intended to be for the preservation of massive pieces of equipment. Council was in agreement.

Councilman Kurdyla stated that while he supports historical preservation, his concerns remains the same as stated at the last Council meeting.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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

ORDINANCE [#20-18](#) WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#20-09-10-212](#) 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 21st 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

**CONSENT
RESOLUTIONS**

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020-2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSES

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSES FOR SQUIRES CORNER LIQUORS, INC. T/A SPIRITS OF THE VALLEY, KRISHA BEVERAGE T/A BRIDGEWATER WINE & SPIRITS, WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS, INC. AND RAMARAM, INC., T/A BUY BEST WINE & LIQUORS

RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION 2020-2021 FOR THE HYATT SUMMERFIELD SUITES HOTEL, HILTON GARDENS INN AND FSG BRIDGEWATER HOTEL, LLC ALSO KNOW AS HAMPTON INN AND SUITES

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-021-009 FOR MISH-J.O. INVESTMENT CORP. T/A GREEN KNOLL GRILLE, 645 ROUTE 202/206 SO. BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 WITH CONDITIONS

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION MARRIOTT HOTEL SERVICES, INC. T/A BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT HOTEL, 700 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 WITH CONDITIONS

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE CAFÉ EMILIA, INC., 705 ROUTE 202, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 WITH CONDITION

RENEWAL OF INACTIVE PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE #1806-33-011-008 RUBY TUESDAY, INC., 754 ROUTE 202 TOWNE CENTRE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COVID-19 EXPANSION PERMIT TO CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN, INC, 1090-400 COMMONS WAY, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1806-33-013-006, PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING 2020-10 OF THE NEW JERSEY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

Council Vice President Pedroso asked Township Clerk Linda Doyle to confirm that the police department has reviewed the liquor license renewals and has no problems with the renewals. Ms. Doyle reported they had, however, Police Detective Ross Dunlop has offered there have been several complaints with the Green Knoll Grille regarding social distancing and need for compliance. Dunlop suggested a reminder of enforcement be sent to Green Knoll Grille to negate any future problems. Township Administrator Pappas and Township Clerk Doyle will collaborate on sending out this reminder.

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 [#20-09-10-213 thru #20-09-10-220](#) are appended to the

official minutes

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER CLUB LIQUOR LICENSES FOR FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, SOMERVILLE LODGE OF ELKS, RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB AND GERALD ABREGO POST AMERICAN LEGION

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-09-10-221](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTIONS

AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BRIDGEWATER/RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION WITH SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,294.89. UNDER THIS GRANT, BRIDGEWATER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR \$1,911.86 IN CASH MATCH, \$5,735.58 IN-KIND AND SOMERSET COUNTY WILL PROVIDE \$7,647.45

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM 2020 FOR RESILIENCY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP’S PROPOSAL OF “SHOP BRIDGEWATER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00

AUTHORIZING A CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,590.00 TO THE SOMERSET PATRIOTS TO BE USED TOWARDS FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT FEES IN 2021 AT THE SOMERSET PATRIOTS STADIUM DUE TO THE INABILITY TO EXECUTE FIREWORK DISPLAYS IN 2020 DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

AWARDING A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT TO NATURE’S CHOICE CORPORATION, 1106 MILLSTONE RIVER ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY 08844 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 ET SEQ FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER’S YARD WASTE SITE AT A COST TO THE TOWNSHIP OF \$24,000 PER YEAR, FOR A FIVE-

YEAR PERIOD AND A TOTAL AWARD OF \$120,000 COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND TERMINATING ON AUGUST 30, 2025

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE 2020 PAVING PROGRAM SIDEWALK, ADA RAMP, AND INLET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (VARIOUS LOCATIONS) TO NAVA CONSTRUCTION, LLC (1216 STOCKTON DRIVE NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902), IN THE SUM OF \$151,516.80, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND

EXERCISE OF SECOND YEAR OPTION ON THE TOWNSHIP'S CONTRACT WITH ATLANTIC TACTICAL OF 772 CORPORATE CIRCLE, NEW CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, 17070 FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE UNIFORMS, SHOES, LEATHER GEAR IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000

AUTHORIZING DISBURSAL OF \$1,400 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSES OWNED BY COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1402-1404 PRINCE RODGERS AVENUE

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DRAINAGE AND ACCESS EASEMENT FROM PDD CONSTRUCTION, LLC LOCATED ON BLOCK 642, LOTS 5.01 AND 5.02, ALSO KNOWN AS 690 FOOTHILL ROAD, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF USA, INC. FOR A PARKING STRUCTURE LOCATED ON BLOCK 483, LOTS 2, 3, 4, 5 & 12.02, ALSO KNOWN AS 1 BALAJI TEMPLE DRIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Mayor Moench acknowledged the efforts of Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator for his assistance with acquiring the grant needed for the Shop Bridgewater Program that is a great help to residents and businesses.

Township Administrator Pappas thanked Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services and William William Burr, Township Engineer for their work regarding the 2020 paving program sidewalk, ADA ramp, and inlet improvement project.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#20-09-10-222 thru #20-09-10-230](#) are 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 the following:

- CONTRACT NEGOTIATION
 - Somerset Regional Animal Shelter
- LITIGATION
 - EOC Complaint

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 Kirsh, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:48 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#20-09-10-231](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Vice President Pedroso, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:20 p.m and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President