

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 21, 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, September 21, 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 SEPTEMBER 17, 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.

Council Reports

Councilman Ring (*verbatim*):

- I was recently contacted by the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management with an opportunity for the town to have a rain garden installed, funded through a Hazard Mitigation grant. Another municipality had been awarded the grant to have a rain garden installed, but backed out at the last minute. The funds were available, with a very small window to complete the project. Thanks to the administration and staff's efforts, there is new rain garden that was installed recently at our Senior Center.

- As previously reported, The Town held a ceremony back in August to honor Bridgewater's own Lt. Col Bob Vaucher. Since that evening, the township Public Works Department has cleared some brush and installed the sign, which was donated by D&R Greenway, along Foothill Road, near Twin Oaks, which identifies the Wemple property as the Vaucher Revolutionary Preserve. Thank you to the Administration and Public Works for their support in getting the sign installed.
- While we were not able to hold our 9-11 remembrance in person, I would like to thank our Constituent Relations Department for the video remembrance that they produced. I have received multiple positive comments on the video.
- Last week I participated in the quarterly meeting of the Township Emergency Management Council/Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Lastly, over the last couple of weeks, I have received several communications from residents on a variety of topics-
  - several emails from residents urging me to ensure the council does not legally require masks
  - Concerns with the upcoming election process
  - Request for the town to consider strengthening our Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance
  - Request for us to review the township requirements on fences- in particular the changes last year to allow the installation of solid fences

Councilman Kurdyla:  
(tribute)

It is with great sorrow that I am reporting the passing of George Schofield. To me George, a remarkably successful businessman always took the time to care for his family and community. While George was involved in many activities, he never asked for recognition for what he had accomplished.

I first met George through the Finnerne Fire Department, over 50 years ago, he was always there to support the needs of the Department as a member of the business community. When the Bridgewater Promenade project came along in the 1980's, Mayor Dowden approached George to serve on a Citizen's Advisory Committee to address concerns related to the project. I was also asked to serve along with Marguerite Chandler. In

our meetings George was a tremendous calming force by making comments to keep our discussions productive, at times in a very tense environment. I must note that Bob Vaucher was also involved at that time.

When the Promenade project was completed, discussions started for the need of an Open space program in Bridgewater Township. Again, George was deeply involved in the discussions on how to make this happen. George was instrumental in this body of work and along with Beth Powers set the course for a successful campaign to start the current program. I can still remember his words of advice, "Remember open space is great, just keep in mind that you have to pay for it".

Finally, George has spent the last 15 of the last 17 years volunteering with the Martinsville Rescue Squad. He started with the squad when he was in his 70's a time when most individuals stop being involved. In addition to the Martinsville Rescue Squad, George was a founding member of the Michael Bruce Fund, a fund established to help individuals with spinal cord injuries in the memory of a Bridgewater Lacrosse player Michael Bruce.

George's obituary has a comment about him leaving his mark on this world. I certainly agree and would like to add that Bridgewater Township has suffered a tremendous loss. George's contributions to our town should be recognized as a model for how to be involved not only for family and community but for mankind as well.

#### Councilman Kirsh

- Echoed Councilman Ring's sentiments regarding the 9-11 ceremony. It was done in a very meaningful way and thanked Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator and the Office of Constituent Relations for this effort.
- We are now 10-days away from the end of the Census count and urged the residents that have not completed their Census to do so before September 30, 2020. Self-reporting is now at 83% and the remainder will be completed via field methods.
- Changes to the November General election include:  
We will have five (5) polling locations for provisional voting only. It is strongly recommended that voters make use of the Vote by mail ballots that will be sent out in the early days of October. Voters can return these ballots to the County via regular mail or drop them off at the drop box

located in the municipal building parking lot. Voters can also drop off their ballots at the polling on Election Day, as follows:

BRADLEY GARDENS FIREHOUSE  
24 Old York Road  
*Districts 1, 2, 16, 31 (Districts 5, 33, 34, 35 -4H Center)*

BRIDGEWATER MUNICIPAL MEETING RM 102A&B  
*Districts 4, 11 (13, 22, 28, 29- Hillside) (25, 26- Eisenhower)*

BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER  
455 Somerville Road  
*Districts 7, 18, 21, 32 (19, 30, 36 UM Church)*

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH CENTER  
1890 Washington Valley Road,  
*Districts 10, 12, 20, 23, 24 (6, 17- Hamilton)*

FINDERNE RESCUE SQUAD  
476 Union Ave  
*Districts 9, 15 (3, 14, 27- Adamsville) (8- People Care)*

Councilman Kirsh confirmed the above locations and designations are slightly different from what took place during the Primary Election.

Council Vice-President Pedroso:

- Echoed the sentiments of other Council members regarding the 9-11 virtual memorial. He acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Moench for having the leadership to put forward a very touching virtual event. He also acknowledged the contributions of other staff members that contributed in this endeavor.
- Echoed the sentiments of Councilman Kurdyla regarding George Scofield.
- Attended the meeting of the Regional Center Partnership virtual meeting
- Wished all Jewish Community members a happy new year noting that Rash-Hashanah was this past weekend.

Council President Norgalis (*verbatim*):

- To our friends of the Jewish Faith I wish you a Happy New Year. One filled with good health and happiness.
- Unfortunately over the past few weeks there have been numerous passing of involved Bridgewater residents. To that list we add George Schofield. George who passed from us at 88 years old having been active in the

Martinsville Squad, Martinsville Community Activities and the FINDERNE Business Group where his family business, Geo. Schofield Co. Inc, was very well known.

- I participated in the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting chaired by Police Sgt. Jamie Edwards. Dr. Gina Villani Board of Education Assistant Superintendent for Personnel was on the call and spoke about the tentative plan for hybrid classes to begin around Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- “We support the Bridgewater Police Dept” signs continue to spring up in the town as residents show their support for the men and women in blue. One of the changes that will evolve over the coming months is a roll out of the police body camera program. While the cameras have been available for months, a number of software issues have delayed their use. Administrator Pappas will arrange for Chief Payne to address the Council, hopefully by end of year, on the program.

## Mayor's Reports

### Mayor Moench:

- George Scofield and his family's contributions to the Township go back for decades. Mayor Moench sent his sincere condolences to the family.
- Received an initial briefing on the status of the road assessment that is being conducted in order to help us with our long-term road plan. They have gone over every road in Bridgewater and have put together the raw data. As we continue to make progress, Council will be kept apprised and may be able to take a vote by the end of the year. Mayor Moench stated he is hopeful that as we go into 2021, we will have a road plan that we can use as a guide for our road priority plan.
- The COVID-19 pandemic numbers continue to decrease tremendously. He thanked the residents in working together as a community to accomplish this goal.
- For all the parents working on schooling for their children, he advised the school district is working towards a hybrid program in October. The township remains available to support the school district in ensuring the schools are reopened in a safe and efficient manner.
- Last Tuesday, he and other staff members had a meeting with the religious groups in the community who were asked to send a representative so that they can engage in a dialogue. Police Chief Payne is spearheading an effort to train religious leaders who want to be police Chaplains. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

- Three contracts are on tonight's agenda. Bids continue to come in under budget which helps us mitigate change orders and have additional resources to reinvest into additional road projects.
- Mayor Moench stated he appreciates Council's support on the shared services agreement with Hillsborough that is on tonight's agenda as it helps us save money for back up services.
- The cars on 1041 Route 202/206 have been removed as of this afternoon. Mayor Moench thanked the Council for their assistance at the last Council meeting in enforcing our zoning Ordinances.
- The Bulky trash program began last Saturday and will continue for the next two (2) Saturdays.

**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.

- ⇒ 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

It was confirmed that anyone wishing to address the Council concerning the Ordinance scheduled for public hearing tonight can do so using the options described above.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator confirmed there were comments from the public and no one wished to be heard.

On Motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the public comment was closed

**Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
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**

Councilman Pedroso stated the purpose of this Ordinance is to preserve Bridgewater’s history. It has been 271 years since Bridgewater was established and it is time to form this committee to preserve and protect our history. No money is anticipated to be spent at this time. If need arises in the future, this committee will need approval from the governing body to allocate any spending.

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

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator confirmed that 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 Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Ring, the foregoing Ordinance was moved for adoption. 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 ADOPTED.](#)**

A copy of resolution **[#20-09-21-232](#)** is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE DELAWARE DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (ENTIRE LENGTH), IN THE SUM OF \$199,810.06, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE BWT-7 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF ADAMS ROAD, ADAMS COURT, MARTIN COURT AND A PORTION OF WINSLOW DRIVE), IN THE SUM OF \$340,919.54, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL FUND

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE BWT-8 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF BARRINGTON ROAD AND SUDBURY LANE), IN THE SUM OF \$241,717.90, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL FUND

Mayor Moench stated these contracts came under budget and hoped to have these road projects completed before the start of cold weather but if not, they will be the first projects to be undertaken next year.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#20-09-21-233 thru #20-09-21-235](#) are appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/ MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDERS (GREEN KNOLL RESCUE SQUAD, BRADLEY GARDENS RESCUE SQUAD, MARTINSVILLE RESCUE SQUAD, FINDERNE RESCUE SQUAD, AND GREEN KNOLL FIRE DEPARTMENT) CONCERNING PARTICIPATION THE RTF (RESCUE TASK FORCE) PROGRAM**

Councilman Ring stated this resolution is to formally accept and memorize the grant from the Somerset County of Emergency Management to create a



partnership between law enforcement, EMS and Fire in creating an RTF. All organizations involved have already signed the necessary agreement. We were recently advised of the need to memorialize this agreement in order to complete the grant.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 [#20-09-21-236](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR UNIFORMED CONSTRUCTION CODE INSPECTIONS SERVICES WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORMED SHARED SERVICES ACT, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 ET SEQ. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500.00 FROM 2020 CURRENT FUND**

Township Administrator Pappas thanked Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services on this work on this agreement. This is an important measure to provide mutual back up between Bridgewater and Hillsborough for shared services.

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 [#20-09-21-237](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CGI COMMUNICATIONS, INC., (130 EAST MAIN STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, ROCHESTER, NY**

**14604) FOR COMMUNITY VIDEO PROGRAM SERVICES FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD WITH NO COST TO BRIDGEWATER**

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator stated we were approached by CGI Communications, Inc., a company that produces videos for municipalities. They create videos on a variety of different topics of interest including history, economy, etc. They offset the cost by getting sponsorship from local businesses which means there is no cost to the Township. On question of Councilman Ring, it was confirmed we work hand in hand with them until the final product is achieved to our liking.

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	Aye
Council Vice President Pedroso	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#20-09-21-238](#) is appended to the official minutes

**RESOLUTION FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION WITH NO ASSOCIATED COSTS TO BRIDGEWATER IN NORTH JERSEY WASTEWATER COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM WITH PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSION (PVSC) AS THE LEAD AGENCY, 600 WILSON AVENUE OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Moench stated this is a co-op that allows us the opportunity to join in when there is positive pricing.

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 [#20-09-21-239](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A TEMPORARY 18-MONTH ACCESS AGREEMENT BETWEEN PSE&G AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TEMPORARY ACCESS DRIVEWAY ON BLOCK 168, LOT 18 LOCATED ON MILLTOWN ROAD ACROSS FROM WALTER’S BROOK DRIVE AND SHIELDS LANE. PSE&G IS TO PAY \$2,500.00 TO BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP IN CONSIDERATION OF THESE PREMISES.**

Township Administrator Pappas explained PSE&G is in the process of upgrading their towers one of which is located on one of our easements. PSE&G has therefore requested temporary access to reach and replace this specific tower. Township Attorney Corsini and his staff wereF acknowledged for negotiating a payment from PSE&G of \$2,500.00.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#20-09-21-240](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Howard Norgalis  
Council President