

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 21, 2020 - VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, December 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 DECEMBER 15, 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: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor
Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator
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

DECEMBER 7, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the December 7, 2020 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended an Open Space meeting on December 9th. Chairman Weideli will soon provide a report for the governing body concerning the properties

being considered.

Councilman Ring:

- Was recently invited to participate in the 102nd virtual birthday party for Lieutenant Colonel Bob Vaucher (Ret.)
- Attended the first Hanukah Menorah Lighting ceremony at the Municipal Complex.
- This being the last Council meeting for 2020, Councilman Ring thanked administration and fellow Council members, especially Council President Norgalis for helping him get up to speed in understanding the role of the Council.

Councilman Kirsh

- The Planning Board recently met with regard to the applicant FOR which is part of the Center of Excellence and is a new scientific building in the back portion of the property. A continuation of this hearing is scheduled for early next year.
- He, along with Council President Norgalis had a shared services committee meeting. This matter will be discussed as part of item 12a on tonight's agenda.
- He was happy to emcee the first Menorah Lighting ceremony which although held virtually was meaningful. This and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony are great additions for our community. He thanked the Office of Constituent Relations for pulling this off and Mayor Moench for this vision.
- This being the last Council meeting, he wished everyone a safe and meaningful holiday season.

Councilman Pedroso

- Councilman Pedroso stated this is a very special night because for the first time in 800 years, the planets Saturn and Jupiter are perfectly aligned and somewhat visible. He encouraged everyone to check this out right after sunset tomorrow.
- Attended the 102nd birthday party for Lieutenant Colonel Bob Vaucher (Ret.) who has been a great asset to Bridgewater Township.
- Councilman Pedroso noted there are a lot of beautifully decorated homes around the Township and thanked the residents who go the extra mile to make the town look beautiful.
- Thanked Council President Norgalis for his work on the Council noting he is an asset to the township and an extremely hard worker. He also thanked the Mayor for his involvement with the Council noting it made a big difference. He also thanked the administration and staff for their efforts and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Council President Norgalis:

- Astronomers use the word conjunction to describe meetings of planets and other objects on our sky's dome. They use the term great conjunction to describe meetings of the two biggest worlds in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn. About an hour ago, clearly visible in the West, the pair were only 0.1 degree apart. Some say the pair will look like an elongated star. The 2020 great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn will be the closest since 1623. Jupiter-Saturn conjunction won't be matched again until March 15, 2080. It is postulated that the conjunction may have been the source of the "Star of Bethlehem" referenced in the Bible.
- This year, for the very first time Bridgewater celebrated two lightings. The first was the Christmas tree transplanted from our very own Camp Cromwell and the second was the Menorah both of which reside in the plaza in front of the complex. We expect these two activities to be annual affairs.
- Attended the Green Knoll Fire Company monthly meeting to personally thank them for transporting Santa to the Christmas tree lighting. They showed the kind of flexibility in coping with the date changes (there were several) that we should never take for granted in our all-volunteer fire companies.
- Attended the virtual meeting of the Somerset County Governing Officials. The speaker was Janice Kovach, President of the NJ League of Municipalities and Mayor of Clinton. She swore-in the 2021 board members and talked about the League's plans for 2021. The Governor had also been invited to join but did not attend.
- Attended two health presentations, one by the Middle-Brook Health Commission and the second by the Somerset County Health Department both offering plans for Bridgewater health coverage in 2021. The Administration has rejected both offers and decided to simply hire a Health Officer and be self-contained for health coverage. In looking to that objective. In that regard, I requested an inventory of all health services that we expect to provide.
- The next and last Council meeting of 2020 will be virtual on Tuesday December 29th at 5pm. It will be a simplified meeting, no minutes for approval and no Council reports.
- The 2021 Council Reorganization meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 4th. Historically our reorganizations have begun at 7pm and that will be the case on the 4th.

- Wished everyone a healthy, happy Christmas and looking forward to a much better year.

There was a short recess due to technological issues at approximately 7:44pm.

The meeting resumed at approximately 7:55pm.

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

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Thanked the Council for their kind words. He acknowledged the staff members who work hard ensure government is running efficiently and effectively.
- Thanked Councilman Kirsh for his great work emceeding the Hanukah Menorah Lighting ceremony.
- Thanked the Department of Municipal Services and Public Works for their hard work with the storm on Thursday.
- Mayor Moench advised that Advance Realty has decided to appeal Judge Miller's decision. A few weeks ago, Judge Miller upheld the Township's position that Advance Realty had to come back in front of the Planning Board for final site plan approval on the Supermarket and hotel. Advance Realty rather than come back before the Planning Board has decided to appeal to the appellate division. Mayor Moench stated we will continue to fight for the rights of our residents and uphold our Ordinances adding that more information will follow but it could take months for an update.

Presentation

ROAD PROGRAM WEBSITE

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator announced the launch of the Township's new road website, OurBWRoads.com

The website will serve as a hub for residents to keep up to date on current and future road projects in Bridgewater. The site will allow residents to see the following information:

- A video from the Mayor and Township Engineer regarding the Universal Road Assessment project and how the Township intends to use that data

- A Frequently Asked Questions page
- Status of Current Road Projects
- Map of the six Road Improvement Regions
- Interactive Road Quality Map
- Contact Us Page

Deputy Administrator Wells thanked Scott Maroldo, Director of Office of Constituent Relations for his work on this website.

Mayor Moench explained this is the culmination of the resident deliverable that he promised when he became Mayor in January. Residents will finally have a clear and transparent source of information to understand why and how the Township chooses roads for improvement projects.

Mayor Moench thanked the Township Council for their support of administration's strategy and looks forward to their partnership as we implement it to make meaningful infrastructure improvements.

The website, OurBWRoads.com, is live now and available for the public to use.

Council expressed their appreciation to Mayor and staff for the vision of transparency and work on this program.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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.

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator advised the public on the various ways they can be heard as follows:

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

There was a four (4) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the various ways discussed above. Council President Norgalis read the following titles and advised the public the recess is also to allow them time to provide input on the following items that are scheduled for public hearing and final action tonight:

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 126, SECTION 126-341 ENTITLED “PARKING OF LARGE VEHICLES AND TRAILERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS” TO CORRECT VARIOUS ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES OF LARGE VEHICLES PARKED WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94 ENTITLED “FEES” SECTION 94-3 ENTITLED “WAIVER OF FEES” TO INCLUDE CONDITIONS REGARDING WAIVING FEES FOR 501 (c) (3) AND 501 (c) (4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

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:

Thomas Ronca, 115 Timothy Place.

Last year many of the surrounding streets were resurfaced however Timothy Place was NOT one of them. It would be helpful if the street evaluation could include Timothy place. It has many school busses passing through and is an area of many young families with young children. It could be in better shape for the safety of all. Thank you.

Darshan Parikh, 862 Garfield Avenue.

Dear council members, I appreciate you discussing the road repair project for Garfield and Lincoln Ave. As some of the township personnel have seen the road conditions, lack of proper grading and drainage system has created a hazardous driving and walking conditions, which does not allow us to walk our kids to bus stops. These roads have not been paved since they were built back in

approximately 1998-1999. We are looking forward to this road project getting started. Best regards and Happy Holidays!!!!

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

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 126, SECTION 126-341 ENTITLED “PARKING OF LARGE VEHICLES AND TRAILERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS” TO CORRECT VARIOUS ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES OF LARGE VEHICLES PARKED WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Chief Payne explained the Police Department recently discovered issues with enforcement and interpretation of the current ordinance. This Ordinance seeks to remediate same by repealing and replacing the Township’s current ordinance. He added it is an effort to protect the contractors who reside in the Township and whose vehicles are parked in residential areas so as not to be in violation. Furthermore, Chief Payne noted the original intent of this Ordinance was to prohibit the parking of large tractor trailers in residential areas.

It was noted there was no public comment with regard to this matter.

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

ORDINANCE #20-24 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-12-21-302](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94 ENTITLED “FEES” SECTION 94-3 ENTITLED “WAIVER OF FEES” TO INCLUDE CONDITIONS REGARDING WAIVING FEES FOR 501 (c) (3) AND 501 (c) (4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Council President Norgalis explained Our current Ordinances have allowed for waiver of fees for non-profits including 501(c) 3 and 501(c)4. This Ordinance seeks to amend and revise the Township’s current ordinance to add conditions to granting a waiver of fees for nonprofit organizations. Only organizations having 501(c)(3) designation shall be eligible to receive a fee waiver.

Organizations designated 501(c)(4) shall be ineligible for fee waivers. In addition, the organization must perform nonprofit services directly benefitting the Township to be eligible. Council will retain authority to determine waiver eligibility and will review any unique circumstances.

It was noted there was no public comment with regard to this matter.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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 #20-25 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-12-21-303](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-1 ET SEQ FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021 WITH THE MIDDLEBROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION LOCATED AT 111 GREENBROOK ROAD, GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$44,000.00

This is an extension of a contract we have with the Middlebrook Regional Health Commission. Administration is currently in the process of hiring a health officer.

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 [#20-12-21-304](#) is appended to the official minutes

ENDORING THE TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE UNIVERSAL ROAD ASSESSMENT AND SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS

Mayor Moench thanked the Council for their support of this program over the year. Administration is seeking that the Council endorse and support the general approach/strategy that we have taken with regard to the road program. Specific budget decisions will be made in the context of the budget next year.

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 [#20-12-21-305](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO.1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$351,627.65 TO \$323,815.52 A DECREASE OF 7.91% OR \$27,812.13, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (491 ELIZABETH AVENUE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873) FOR THE HOFFMAN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (ENTIRE LENGTH), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2019 CAPITAL FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO.1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$151,516.80 TO \$154,366.00 AN INCREASE OF 1.88% OR \$2,849.20, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO NAVA CONSTRUCTION, LLC (1216 STOCKTON DRIVE NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902) FOR THE 2020 PAVING PROGRAM SIDEWALK, ADA RAMP, AND INLET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (VARIOUS LOCATIONS), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2018 CAPITAL FUND

Mayor Moench noted these are important items to contribute to the quality of life for our residents.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-12-21-306 thru #20-12-21-307](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO GARFIELD AVENUE AND LINCOLN STREET (THREE SECTIONS-ENTIRE LENGTHS) TO THE REYNOLDS GROUP (575 ROUTE 28, SUITE 110, RARITAN, NJ 08869) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$157,100.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL BOND

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE STEEPLE CHASE LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (ENTIRE LENGTH) TO MASER CONSULTING, P.A. (53 FONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,850.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL BOND

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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 [#20-12-21-308 thru #20-12-21-309](#) are appended to the official minutes

RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE SOLO BRIDGEWATER, LLC, No. 1806-32-003-005 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE CHIMNEY ROCK, LQR LLC, NO. 1806-33-017-007 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

Township Clerk Doyle explained that these applications are complete in all

respects. She added both applications needed a special ruling that has been granted by NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control that allows for the renewal of these liquor licenses.

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 [#20-12-21-310 thru #20-12-21-311](#) are appended to the official minutes

CHANGE ORDER AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$60,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FOR THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEYS SAVO SCHALK, GILLESPIE, O'GRODNICK & FISHER

Township Administrator Pappas explained this resolution will increase the legal budget by an additional \$60,000.00 in order to cater to additional expenses as a result of COVID-19.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-12-21-312](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President