

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 29, 2020 - VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a special session on Tuesday, November 29, 2020 at 5:00 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 SPECIAL MEETING WAS PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 23, 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 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.

Presentation

PROGRAM YEAR 2019 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - CDBG-CV3 PROJECT

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator explained that we received notification that funds had become available for improvements to communities that serve low income constituents; monies must be used to prevent, prepare for or respond to the coronavirus. After review, Administration felt the facility that best fit into this pocket is our senior center. Deputy Administrator Wells explained we are looking on working to create a space that will become more COVID-19 friendly. Some of the projects that administration is thinking of include replacing all the bathrooms to make everything touchless, including the doors and sinks. Administration is also looking to upgrade the rooms, internet/wifi and also create a nice outdoor space that can be used year around. The award is for \$220,449.22 and administration welcomes any ideas.

Council was supportive noting the seniors are very loyal to this center and continue to use this resource even though there are other facilities in the area that are better. Council supported the general idea to make the senior center nicer and safer.

It was confirmed that if these monies were awarded, this will become a 2021 project. Proposals are due January 11th and CDBG will work with us on bid packages to get this moving.

Public Comment

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

Council President Norgalis read the following resolution title and advised the public may comment on this matter:

AUTHORIZING PROGRAM YEAR 2019 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - CDBG-CV3 PROJECT TO MAKE COVID-19 RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 455 SOMERVILLE ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,449.22

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

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 read the following public comment into the record:

Michael Pectorious, 564 Cabot Hill Rd

In the past, there has been a lot of public discussion regarding utilization of the Darby Tract for public purposes. Unfortunately, any attempts or even recommendations for improvements (trails, bike paths, dog park, etc...) have generally been unsuccessful. This is unfortunate as similar nature paths have been successfully developed in surrounding towns. I think we have an opportunity in front of us. I assume the PSEG RPV Tower Replacement Project will require some brush clearing and logging-type roads to be run through the Darby tract in order to bring in the necessary equipment to replace the towers. Can we improve the required work the PSEG will have to do and build out some biking/hiking paths. This would provide a nice opportunity for Bridgewater residents to connect with nature and have a nice place for outdoor exercise while maintaining the natural beauty of the Darby Tract. I would be happy to discuss my vision for this improvement in more detail if desired.

It was noted that the Office of Constituent Relations will reach out to Mr. Pectorious and his comments shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Administrator. Councilman Kirsh asked that information be passed to this resident that PSE&G came into an agreement with the Planning Board that they would provide information on exactly how each of the locations are going to be accessed.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING PROGRAM YEAR 2019 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - CDBG-CV3 PROJECT TO MAKE COVID-19 RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 455 SOMERVILLE ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,449.22

On question of Councilman Kirsh, it was confirmed the goal is to do all the work proposed while staying within the grant monies allocated to Bridgewater.

Councilman Kurdyla expressed he was concerned that the Council was not given an opportunity to review what other options we have to use these grant monies.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#20-12-29-313](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,750.00 IN THE CURRENT FUND

This will allow the transfer of monies from where they were not expended to where they can be utilized.

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, 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 [#20-12-29-314](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT - EMPG/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE - EMAA. (SUB-AWARD FY 2020 EMPG-EMAA-1806). TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 IN FEDERAL FUNDS

There were no questions.

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 [#20-12-29-315](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE 2021 JOINT INSURANCE FUND (JIF)

There were no questions.

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 [#20-12-29-316](#) is appended to the official minutes

ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR NEW PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE PRASADA RAJU INDUKURI, 33 BROOKWOOD CT, PRINCETON, NJ 08540 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$657,999.99

Council President Norgalis complemented Township Clerk Linda Doyle for her diligence in seeing this opportunity and bringing it to our attention. This monies will be a great benefit to the 2021 budget.

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 [#20-12-29-317](#) is appended to the official minutes

Council President Norgalis Thanked the Council and administration for the support he has received throughout this year. Councilman Pedroso applauded Council President Norgalis for his efficiency and to Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator and his team for running these meetings in these unprecedented times.

Adjournment Councilman Ring made motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President