

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JANUARY 14, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, January 14, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication

Council President Pedroso 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 5, 2021, WITH A SUBSEQUENT MEETING NOTICED ON JANUARY 11, 2021, 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 (absent)
Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Timothy Ring (absent)
Council President Filipe Pedroso

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 Pedroso led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

DECEMBER 21, 2020 - REGULAR SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

DECEMBER 29, 2020 - SPECIAL SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

JANUARY 4, 2021 - REORGANIZATION SESSION, VIRTUAL ACCESS

Council President Pedroso stated these minutes will be addressed at the next Council meeting when the full Council membership is present.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

In Councilman Kirsh's absence, he asked that the following be read into the

record. Council President Pedroso read the following:

Councilman Michael Kirsh is not attending tonight's meeting so he may participate in required compliance training offered through the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management-- ICS-402: Overview for Executives/Agency Administrators/Elected Officials. If that session ends before the Council meeting does, he will dial in at that time.

On Council reports, I would like these brief items stated on my behalf:

- The Planning Board met and reorganized on Tuesday, January 12. Al Fross will remain Chairman and Maurizio Vescio will remain Vice Chairman. Members were sworn to new terms, as applicable, without change from 2020. Tom Genova was sworn in as the Mayor's Alternate member. All Board professionals remain the same. The Planning Board will next meet on January 26. The Zoning Board is scheduled to hold its reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 19.
- The Board of Education met and reorganized on January 5. Jean Lee is continuing the unexpired term she began during 2020. Barry Walker began a new term. Jessica Levitt began a first term. Lucy Sandler from Raritan also began a first term. Jackie Barlow will continue as Board President. Barry Walker will serve as Vice President.

Councilman Norgalis:

- It was with great sadness that he saw the mob attack on the Capital. Not only were lives lost and some damage to an historic building, but the action caused nations around the world to look at the USA, not as a nation of laws but as a nation of thugs. His prayer is that the rumors of armed conflict in the coming days are unfounded.
- Participated along with Administrator Pappas, Deputy Administrator Winegar, Township Attorney Corsini, and Human Resources Director Caravella in interviewing candidates for the CFO Job previously held by Natasha Turchan. On more interview will take place next week.
- Attended, along with Councilman Kirsch, the Somerset County Governing Officials 2021 kickoff meeting. The original speaker, County Administrator Colleen Mahr could not attend due to illness and Commissioner Melanie Marano filled in with a robust reflection on 2020 and the hope for 2021.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Concurred with Councilman Norgalis comments regarding the Capital

noting everyone felt remorse and hoped for better days ahead.

- Is in the process of setting up an Open Space meeting for the beginning of February.
- Was contacted by a resident today regarding the possible donation of a property to our Open Space inventory. More details will soon be forthcoming.

Council President Pedroso

- It is time for our nation to come together. Council President Pedroso stated he hoped the politicians, media and everybody involved can soon join in and focus on uniting our Country.

Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated Mayor Moench is also attending the same training as Councilman Kirsh and was therefore unable to participate in tonight's Council meeting.

Administrator Pappas stated that he and his staff including Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services, Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator, William Burr, Township Engineer and others are working very consistently in order to soon be able to present to the Mayor and Council more detail regarding the Township road project plans as far as what is to be proposed for 2021. While this will be budget dependent, administration is working to take the information that was prepared from the Pennoni report and be able to utilize it. They are hopeful to be able to present something to the Council in the next month.

Proclamation

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Councilman Kurdyla read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his life devoted to the service of others, undoubtedly impacting the course of American history and civil rights forever; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. became the voice of the American Civil Rights Movement through his moving speeches and peaceful, widespread actions that resulted in the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Even during the heights of discrimination and prejudice in America, Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded humanity that something as simple as a dream can change the world;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, at 39 years of age, but his legacy standing up for equality and against injustice lives on to this day; and

AND WHEREAS, Countless Americans across the nation remain inspired by Dr. King, and participate in Martin Luther King Day service projects, seeking to better the communities which they live in; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, do hereby proclaim January 18, 2021 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** as a day of service in Bridgewater and a reminder of the importance pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not just today, but always.

Presentation

SOMERSET COUNTY SHARED SERVICE MARKETPLACE

Councilman Norgalis stated he believes this is a good project as it provides an opportunity for Counties and Townships to offer/rent equipment to/from others.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated this matter was discussed at a staff meeting and there is interest in understanding the details of how this will work. He added that before this is brought to the Council for action, that detail will be sought and discussed with Councilman Norgalis and Councilman Kirsh who are on the Shared Services Committee.

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator explained he attended a webinar that gave an overview of the County's new platform called the Shared Services marketplace. The County is looking for a buy-in from all Somerset County municipalities in an attempt to make this a feasible and sustaining platform. The premise is that municipalities will be able to post equipment, personnel, supplies, vehicles etc that various municipalities have and are able to rent out to other municipalities.

Some background work remains but this far, the County is providing a platform where municipalities can be able to either post items they are willing to rent out or find items they would like to rent. Deputy Administrator Winegar stated Administration will continue discussions to determine how this can be useful in Bridgewater then present it to the Council at a later date.

Discussion

TELECOMMUNICATION ORDINANCE

This matter has been rescheduled to February.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 the various ways they can participate as follows:

- ⇒ 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

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 Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Council President Filipe Pedroso

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator stated he had received no public input.

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

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

There were no Ordinances to consider.

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

There were no Ordinances to consider.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION RE-EXTENDING THE VACATION TIME CARRYOVER PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-31(B) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FROM DECEMBER 31, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021 IN CONSIDERATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE EMPLOYEES WHO WERE UNABLE TO UTILIZE THEIR ACCRUED VACATION CARRYOVER LEAVE AS USUAL

Township Administrator Pappas explained Council approved a similar resolution

last year noting we have staff with key positions and due to the responsibilities they have are not able to take time off. Administrator Pappas stated he felt it was important to bring this matter to the Council in order to allow said employees additional time to take their vacation.

Councilman Norgalis opined vacations are important and we should actively encourage our employees to take vacation time to rejuvenate and be with their families.

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Absent
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Absent
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-01-14-037](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 WITH \$210,009.35 IN FEES TO BE PAID TO BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is a one-year contract with a 2% increase from previous year. Administration will return to the governing body sometime this year to discuss thoughts they have regarding this shared services agreement moving forward.

Councilman Norgalis questioned whether we are recovering cost. Administrator Pappas explained he has not really delved into this but hopes to do so this year. Council President Pedroso offered he will support this one-year agreement but will need more information in the next year about the business operations of this and whether or not it is beneficial.

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Absent
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Absent

Council President Pedroso Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-01-14-038](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCCER CENTERS LOCATED AT 300 MEMORIAL DRIVE SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY 08873 AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE SPRING AND FALL TRAVEL, IN-TOWN, JR, PSA, AND FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAMS WITH SOCCER CENTERS TO PROVIDE THE USE OF TRUF FIELDS, REFEREES AND TRAINERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$137,000 WITH NO FEES INCURRED TO THE TOWNSHIP

There were no questions.

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Absent
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Absent
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-01-14-039](#) is appended to the official minutes

Council President Pedroso read the following resolutions by title then called for a consent vote:

RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT AT REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS AS MANDATED BY N.J.A.C. 5:39-1(H)

AN AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO APPALACHIA HYDROGEOLOGIC & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, LLC FOR CAMP CROMWELL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,000

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FOR THE RUNNING BROOK ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FROM \$578,442.08 TO \$639,188.59, AN INCREASE OF 10.50% OR \$60,746.51, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL FUND

**REAPPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
- JOSEPH J. LIFRIERI**

Councilman Norgalis stated Mr. Lifrieri has been a very conscientious commissioner on behalf of Bridgewater Township and was certain he will continue to serve us faithfully. Councilman Kurdyla was in agreement.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Absent
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Absent
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolution [#21-01-14-040 thru #21-01-14-043](#) are appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Filipe Pedroso
Council President