MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
APRIL 19, 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, April 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication.

Council President Pedroso read the following announcement:

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 APRIL 16, 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
- Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
- Councilman Timothy Ring
- Council Vice President Allen Kurdyla
- 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.

APRIL 5, 2021 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the March 18, 2021 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Councilman Kirsh
- He discussed the applications that the Planning Board heard recently. One was a reforestation plan off Route 287 near TD Bank Ball Park. There is an area that is in disrepair and over time there has been a lot of significant disease to the tree buffer. This is a plan that needed Planning Board
approval as well as approvals from various other State agencies. The second case was the Verizon Wireless was authorized to go back to the PSE&G tower in the Milltown neighborhood subject to some conditions of approvals that they have to comply with.

- He along with the recreational department and representatives from Bridgewater soccer will be partnering to collect food during the month of May and will then have that food donated to the Food Bank network of Somerset County. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

- Participated in the Bradley Gardens Little Loop events.

- The Fire Districts election will be taking place in person tomorrow from 2pm to 9pm.

Councilman Norgalis:
- Another sad passing. This time Tom Marshall, only recently retired from township service, has died. Tom will be remembered by all who worked at the municipal building as the “go to” guy to get things done.

- Allen Kurdyla and I sponsored a Fire Safety article that was published in the township newsletter. I hope our residents take that information to heart.

- Our friends of the MUSLIM faith began the holy month of RAMADAN which goes from April 13 to May 12. This special time includes several spiritual requirements including fasting. Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims believe that Ramadan teaches them to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity.

- I participated in the Somerset County LGBTQ+ ‘Law Night’: virtual meeting last week. Eight of New Jersey’s Attorneys Spoke about issues affecting the LGBTQ+ Community. That brought to my mind question of what the title LGBTQ+ stood for. A little research yielded the following. People often use LGBTQ+ to mean all of the folks included in the “LGBTQIAA”: community as follows:
  - Lesbian
  - Gay
  - Bisexual
  - Transgender
  - Transsexual
  - Two-Spirit
  - Queer
- I attended the breakout session dealing with Law. There were others dealing with Estate Planning, Adoption and Discrimination. The meeting helped me to better understand the concerns and issues faced by people who identify themselves with one or more of these categories.

- Participated along with Councilman Kirsh in the Somerset County Governing Officials Meeting which had several speakers including Bob Swisher who is a partner in the Auditing firm of Suplee Clooney. And incidentally our auditor. Twelve years ago Bob founded a food pantry started in his backyard as a high school project for his daughter. It is now a major player as a hunger fighter in his part of the County.

- Attended, along with Council President Pedroso the 1:30pm Bradley Gardens Little Loop Baseball season start. A sure sign we are slowly getting back to a semblance of normalcy.

Councilman Ring:
- According to some media coverage, the Local Institute of Local Government Attorneys have taken a similar position as the NJ League of Municipalities and are encouraging municipalities to ban cannabis in their towns until the State cannabis regulatory commission figures out next steps.

- Played the role of Closer on Saturday at the Bradley Gardens Little Loop.

- Attended the viewing of our long time township employee, Thomas Marshall who also was a longtime volunteer firefighter and at one time led the operations at the Finderne Rescue Squad. He will be missed.

- County guidelines stipulate that the ballot dropboxes in each of the towns, including the one at our town hall cannot be used to receive fire districts’ elections mail in ballots. Residents are encouraged to drop off the ballots at their poling locations.

Councilman Kurdyla:
- Attended the opening day for Bradley Gardens Little Loop, a very enjoyable event. This is a good sign that things are beginning to return to normal.

Council President Pedroso
- Attended the Bradley Garden Little League opening day events.
• Wished the Muslim members of our community a very happy and successful Ramadan.

Presentation

GIRL SCOUT PRESENTATION

Girl Scouts Gianna, Amy, Julia, Lorelei, Brook, Safaa and Anabella of Troop 61136 made presentation about an idea they have about putting together a “Little Library”. They discussed the importance and advantages of same and how they plan to make this idea productive, effective and efficient. The Mayor and Council congratulated and thanked the girl scouts for the presentation and initiative to instill a love for books and for providing a great service to the community.

Mayor’s Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

• Remembered Thomas Marshall for his dedication to his work and service at Bridgewater Township. Wished his family support and comfort at this difficult time.

Public Comment

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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.

Councilman Pedroso advised the public that they can comment on the Ordinances or resolutions that are on tonight’s agenda. Any resident with additional comments was advised they can send in their comments via the methods displayed on the screen as follows:

- Link for Public Comment Submission: [https://bridgewaterocr.typeform.com/to/Hi2WaldE](https://bridgewaterocr.typeform.com/to/Hi2WaldE)
- 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 ways shown above.

Following recess, on the call of the roll by Township Clerk Doyle, the following Council members were present:

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

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator read the following public comments which are recorded verbatim:

**Kori Knapp, 2121 Washington Valley Rd**
What will be the dates to drop off bulky trash?

**Kristen Luettchau, 1115 Papen Road**
I appreciate the concern and attention that the mayor has given to residents’ concerns regarding the new PSE&G electrical towers, and I hope that he will continue to fight for us as we attempt to maintain the aesthetics and property values of our quaint neighborhood. I encourage all who are concerned about the sight and placement of these towers to reach out to the mayor’s office for assistance and to see what PSE&G can do to remediate the situation.

**Kathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road**
I am interested to know when the current fiscal year’s budget will be presented to the council for review, public comment and approval? We are now almost four months into the current fiscal year - I am hoping that we can have a proposal shortly.

The following resident made audio comments:

**Mark Siebel, 577 Foothill Road.**
He expressed he is disappointed at the noise and commotion stemming from the Green Knoll Fire House adding that he is affected by the noise disturbance even though he lives a few homes down from the fire house.

Council advised that Bulky Trash dates are May 8, 15, and 22. Residents were advised to review the township website for more information.

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

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF $8,000,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIELD STREET, WOODROW AVENUE, POPLAR STREET, RED LION WAY, ST. GEORGES ROAD, CAMBRIDGE LANE, MALLARD DRIVE, MASTAPETER ROAD, AMUR ROAD, AND REDWOOD ROAD, INCLUDING CURBING, MILLING, PAVING, DRAINAGE, SEWER AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND VARIOUS ROAD OVERLAYS THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $7,600,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**
Mayor Moench stated this Ordinance is for an investment to our road infrastructure. The roads being considered are listed on ourbwroads.com. He added we hope that by going out to bid earlier, prices may be competitive and we may be able to tackle additional roads.

William Burr, Township Engineer provided an overview of the projects completed in 2020 roads and some of the roads that continue to be in the works. He also discussed the 2021 roads noting we contracted an outside consultant to Review Township owned roads. As a result of that it was determined what roads to tackle and in what order. In total, 150-roads out of 275 roads will be improved in the next five (5) years which equates to most of the bad roads. He added that after the 5-years, we will be able to maintain township roads more effectively.

Council expressed their support and appreciation to the Mayor for his work, initiative and vision for tackling Bridgewater Roads noting this is a project that will benefit our township for many years to come.

Mayor Moench acknowledged Michael Pappas, Township Administrator, Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services and William Burr, Township Engineer for their work on this project. He also thanked Council for their support throughout this process.

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

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

ORDINANCE #21-07 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #21-04-19-105 is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION” TO UPDATE FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS, STRUCTURES, USES, INSPECTIONS, PERMIT AND REGISTRATION FEES, AND PENALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY UNIFORM FIRE CODE

Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services explained he worked closely with Thomas Scalera, Fire Official on this Ordinance which is essentially an update to our outdated books. This ordinance will allow us to update our fee structure in order to cover the cost for services provided.
On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing Ordinance was proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

**ORDINANCE #21-08 WAS ADOPTED.**
A copy of resolution **#21-04-19-106** is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126-321.4 ENTITLED “LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING” TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY WAY OF AN AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Township Administrator Pappas advised we entered into a settlement agreement for affordable housing and this is a component of our periodic update of some documents that were part of that settlement.

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

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

**ORDINANCE #21-09 WAS ADOPTED.**
A copy of resolution **#21-04-19-107** is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126-235 (MINOR SUBDIVISION), CHAPTER 126-236 (PRELIMINARY MAJOR SUBDIVISION), CHAPTER 126-327 (FINAL MAJOR SUBDIVISION) AND CHAPTER 126-153 (SITE PLANS) UPDATING THE ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS AND THE CHECKLISTS TO REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF CERTAIN FINAL ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS WITH LAND USE APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE: DOCUMENTS REQUIRING CHAIR, SECRETARY OR ENGINEER SIGNATURE, FILED DEEDS AND PLANS, PUBLIC HEARING DOCUMENTS AND CHECKLISTS

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator explained this Ordinance will allow us to require that land use applicants provide electronic copies of their applications in order for us to be able to store and retrieve documents with ease
and at low cost. The voluminous files we have that need to be maintained forever are expensive to maintain. Moving forward, electronic copies will assist us tremendously in that regard.

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

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

ORDINANCE #21-10 WAS INTRODUCED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-19-108 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 3rd day of May, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time on said day as the time and the Bridgewater Township Municipal Court Chambers at 100 Commons Way or in compliance with Executive Order via virtual access which a subsequent link will be made available via the agenda and website 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 spread the same upon the minutes of the meeting.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk shall forward this ordinance to the Bridgewater Township Planning Board for their meeting to be held April 27, 2021 to review and prepare a recommendation.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND $ 725,879.42

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is to allow for monies to be available in the temporary budget as the 2021 budget has not been finalized. He discussed some of the larger budget items that need funding including hazardous busing and the recycling program.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:
The resolution was adopted.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-109 is appended to the official minutes.

Amending Township Council Resolution No. 20-05-07-128 to authorize an additional payment of $83,058.50 to Community Grants, Planning & Housing (CGP&H) from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Affordable Housing Compliance Services rendered in calendar year 2020 for a total contract value of $189,038.50.

Township Administrator Pappas explained we entered into an agreement with CGP&H pursuant to Resolution No. 20-05-07-128 to serve as the Township’s Administrative Agent as well as assist the Township with compliance with the Township’s obligations in the 2017 Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center in the amount of $105,980.00. The amount outstanding for services rendered in 2020 is $83,058.50. These monies are to be paid from the Affordable Housing Trust fund.

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

- Councilman Kirsh: Aye
- Councilman Kurdyla: Aye
- Councilman Norgalis: Aye
- Councilman Ring: Aye
- Council President Pedroso: Aye

The resolution was adopted.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-110 is appended to the official minutes.

Authorizing an award of contract to Community Grants, Planning & Housing, LLC of 1249 South River Road, Suite 301, Cranbury, NJ 08512 to serve as the Township’s Administrative Agent for Affordable Housing and provide housing rehabilitation program services for calendar year 2021 in an amount not to exceed $364,075.00 paid from the Township’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Township Administrator Pappas stated we have sought proposals for an Affordable Housing Administrative Agent to administer the Township’s affordable housing program and found this contractor to be best suited to act as an agent for the Township and will be responsible for the administration of the
housing rehabilitation program and for the administration of all affordable housing units within the municipality in accordance with the Fair Housing Act,

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-111 is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2021 NAMELY ARCHER & GREINER, PC -ONE CENTENNIAL SQUARE, 33 EAST EUCLID AVENUE, HADDONFIELD, NJ 08033, KAUFMAN, SEMERARO & LIEBMAN, LLP -2 EXECUTIVE DR #530, FORT LEE, NJ 07024 and RUDERMAN & ROTH, LLC -675 MORRIS AVE # 100, SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081

Township Administrator Pappas explained this will allow us to have a list of firms that we can use when there is a conflict with either our township attorney or land use attorneys.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-112 is appended to the official minutes

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/INSPECTION SERVICES FOR STONY BROOK DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SECTIONS I & II TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN (DBA MASER CONSULTING) (53 Frontage Road, Suite 110, Hampton, NJ 08827) IN THE AMOUNT OF $144,900.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL BOND
Township Administrator Pappas stated this resolution will allow for improvements to Stony Brook Drive.

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

- Councilman Kirsh: Aye
- Councilman Kurdyla: Aye
- Councilman Norgalis: Aye
- Councilman Ring: Aye
- Council President Pedroso: Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution **#21-04-05-113** is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR A CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL (CRP) TO COMMENCE RETROACTIVELY FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $200.00

This resolution will allow us to retain the services of the County of Somerset’s Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) who will assist us in signing the mandatory annual municipal recycling tonnage report. Councilman Kirsh expressed he is frustrated that the County is requesting a fee for this service. He stated we liaise with the County on many occasions and opined this fee is unnecessary adding he felt the County is “nickel and diming” the township.

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

- Councilman Kirsh: Aye
- Councilman Kurdyla: Aye
- Councilman Norgalis: Aye
- Councilman Ring: Aye
- Council President Pedroso: Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution **#21-04-05-114** is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR 2021 RECYCLING IN THE AMOUNT OF $448,293 BASED ON A FEE OF $26.70 (INCREASED FROM $24.33 IN 2020) FOR SERVICES TO 16,790 HOUSEHOLDS (AMOUNT UNCHANGED FROM 2020) FUNDED FROM VARIOUS ACCOUNTS FROM 2016, 2017 2018, 2019, 2020 AND 2021
Council expressed frustration stating the fees for these services have seen a steady rise over the years. Councilman Ring expressed he would welcome a presentation from the County about this. Council President Pedroso offered we should look into private services/companies and consider whether there are other alternatives.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-115 is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3 PERMITTING THE FIRE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO TEMPORARILY USE THE SERVICES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP’S QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT AS A SHARED SERVICE WITH NO COST TO THE FIRE DISTRICT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

Township Administrator Pappas explained Fire District #3 made this request last year and has once again requested the same.

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 Norgalis    Aye
- Councilman Ring        Aye
- Council President Pedroso Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-116 is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BRIDGEWATER/RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION WITH SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,406.78. UNDER THIS GRANT, BRIDGEWATER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR $2,425.85 IN CASH MATCH, $7,277.54 IN-KIND AND SOMERSET COUNTY WILL PROVIDE $9,703.39

This resolution will allow us to apply for funding with the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.
A copy of resolution #21-04-05-117 is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment
On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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Filipe Pedroso
Council President