

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 2021 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

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, BY SENDING WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE 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. A SUBSEQUENT NOTICE WITH LIVESTREAM INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON JUNE 17, 2021.

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.

Minutes

JUNE 10, 2021 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the June 10, 2021 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

- The Planning Board did not meet in the month of June, first due to the Primary Election and then postponement of items on the agenda. The Zoning Board will begin in-person meetings in July.

- Attended the life celebration for Steve Kalafer at the TD Bank Ballpark

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended the life celebration for Steve Kalafer at the TD Bank Ballpark
- Attended the swearing in of Police Officer Jared Calimano
- Reached out to resident Jim Lambert about a fence matter

Councilman Ring:

- Also attended the life celebration for Steve Kalafer at the TD Bank Ballpark
- Was in the courtroom earlier for the swearing in of the newest police officer

Council Vice-President Kurdyla:

- Was not able to attend the swearing in for Police officer Calimano but sent his best wishes.

Council President Pedroso

- Also attended the life celebration for Steve Kalafer at the TD Bank Ballpark

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Mayor expressed it is nice to be back in the courtroom noting the Planning Board will also revert to in-person meetings by the end of July.

BUDGET

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Matt Holman was present to speak concerning the budget items that are on the agenda for Council's consideration. He stated the cap bank law allows for municipalities to increase their budget, by ordinance, by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations. Mr. Holman recommended that council approve this Ordinance.

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

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

2021 COLA ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution **#21-06-21-170** 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 8th day of July, 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 in said Township as the place for public 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.

RESOLUTION TO ANTICIPATE MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES IN THE 2021 BUDGET USING THE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF REALIZED REVENUES FROM THE PRIOR THREE YEARS

Mayor Moench explained the Director of Division of Local Government Services authorized the use of a three-year average for the calculation of miscellaneous revenues because of the adverse effect of COVID -19 on revenues. This resolution anticipates 2021 miscellaneous revenue based on an average of realized revenue from the last 3-years.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 **#21-06-21-171** is appended to the official minutes

INTRODUCTION OF 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Moench thanked the council for their patience in waiting for the budget to be prepared/finalized for their review. He also thanked the budget subcommittee including Council President Pedroso and Councilman Norgalis for their work and assistance.

Mayor Moench stated the 2021 budget is challenging especially due to Covid-19 noting we faced a lot of challenges as far as revenue is concerned. As Council knows, last year, we saw a decrease in revenue in a lot of areas, the biggest one being hotel occupancy and the mall. This year, a lot of that revenue is starting to come back but it's not quite there yet.

Mayor Moench expressed that last year we had to make a lot of difficult decisions including laying off employees and no increase in pay for the police department. While the 2021 budget is a tough budget, the decisions that council and administration made last year have put us in a much better position without having to be faced with some of the choices we made last year. We are able to provide a lot of the services that our residents are accustomed to without raising taxes. Mayor Moench announced the budget has a flat tax rate which means there will be no tax increases for our residents. Like every year, we reassess both residential and commercial properties and this year we were very fortunate to see an overall increase in our ratables.

The highlights this year includes the fact that we will be able to pay off some of the deferred charges we had last year. One of those is we pushed off paying Social Security but we will be able to do so this year so that we do not affect future budgets. We will also be paying off the five-year bond for emergency appropriations that we took last year so that we don't push this into the future and affect future budgets.

The 2021 Budget will be \$46,711,972.87 which is approximately a \$2.8 million increase from the 2020 budget. The majority of this increased spending stem from statutory and deferred charges which account for \$1.8 million of the increase. Mayor Moench further explained we have money set aside for our road infrastructure and monies to update the court System so that we are able to provide streaming services which will allow for us to be more interactive with the public during public meetings.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the introduction to the 2021 Municipal Budget was proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

[THE 2021 BUDGET WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#21-06-21-172](#)** is appended to the official minutes

**Public
Comment**

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak unless there are unusual circumstances.

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

Denise Hoffman of Whitehouse Station, NJ was present.

She questioned what Bridgewater Township is going to do to assist the 82 affordable housing residents whose HOA fees were substantially increased. She also expressed disappointment that she has not been afforded an answer to her inquiries noting she had made numerous attempts in the last six months. Township Administrator Pappas explained the affordable houses were deed restricted with a 30-year deed restriction which kept them in the affordable housing program. The 30-year period is expiring and the home owner's association has decided to increase the monthly maintenance fee. Some associations choose to leave the fees as is while others choose to raise the fee. We have been working with our affordable housing consultant and attorney to determine what options we have to try and assist these residents whose fees went up almost 3-fold. We are coming to a decision soon that can be presented to this Council for consideration.

John Archoleo, 1110 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836

He discussed the sewer system and also questioned whether administration has taken advantage of Covid relief monies not only to assist residents pay their sewer tax but also for the sewer infrastructure including the sewer pumping stations. He also asked that the sewer system not be sold and opined that would be a poor choice/decision.

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

Discussion

AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS DEFINED IN AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION" SECTION 99-13 ENTITLED "FIRE WATCH AND FIRE SAFETY STANDBY POLICY" TO ADJUST THE FEES FOR SERVICE

Township Administrator Pappas explained this version of the Ordinance enhances what was introduced at the last Council meeting. After considerable discussion, Council agreed to the changes suggested without need for re-introduction.

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GILBRIDE AND MIDDLEBROOK SEWER PUMP STATIONS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND APPROPRIATING \$1,500,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 #21-13 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-21-173](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-85 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED "OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT" TO CODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER CONTROL ACT

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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 Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

ORDINANCE #21-12 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution **#21-06-21-174** is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION” SECTION 99-13 ENTITLED “FIRE WATCH AND FIRE SAFETY STANDBY POLICY” TO ADJUST THE FEES FOR SERVICE

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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 #21-14 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution **#21-06-21-175** is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

ISSUANCE, BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE NEW JERSEY, OF A NEW PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE TO PRASADA RAJU INDUKURI, 33 BROOKWOOD COURT, PRINCETON, NJ 08540 FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$657,999.99

Township Administrator Pappas stated this is the liquor license that the township sold at the end of last year.

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 [#21-06-21-176](#) is appended to the official minutes

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PEDROSO READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE AND ALLOWED FOR DISCUSSIONS/QUESTIONS. HE THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT VOTE:

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-1 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF FIELD STREET, GRAND BOULEVARD, MANVILLE BOULEVARD, RIHA STREET, AND WOODROW AVENUE TO PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC. (24 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE 300, NEWARK, NJ 07102) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,260.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-2 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES ENTIRE LENGTHS OF BRAHMA AVENUE, KILLARNEY STREET, AND POPLAR STREET TO MCMAHON ASSOCIATES, INC. (4573 SOUTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 200, YARDVILLE, NJ 08620) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,990.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-3 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES ENTIRE LENGTHS OF BURNING BUSH ROAD, CAMELOT DRIVE, FALCON COURT, MOUNTAINVIEW AVENUE, RED LION WAY, ST. GEORGE ROAD, AND VICTOR STREET (MOUNTAINVIEW AVENUE TO BYRD AVENUE) TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC. (DBA MASER CONSULTING) (53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$104,700.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-4 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES ENTIRE LENGTHS OF CAMBRIDGE LANE, MARK DRIVE, MUIRFIELD LANE, AND TOK PLACE TO REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS II, INC., (232 KINGS HIGHWAY EAST, HADDONFIELD, NJ 08033) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,310.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-5 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES ENTIRE LENGTHS OF CRICKET LANE, MALLARD DRIVE, MASTAPETER ROAD, AND NORTH GASTON AVENUE

(ROUTE 22 WEST TO SOMERVILLE ROAD) TO VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, LLC (755 MEMORIAL PARKWAY, SUITE 110, PHILLIPSBURG, NJ 08865) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,445.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR BIDDING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT (INSPECTION) AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE 2021-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF AMUR ROAD, CEDARCREST ROAD, DIAMOND PLACE, OPAL WAY, AND REDWOOD ROAD TO GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC. (301 GILBRALTAR DRIVE, SUITE 2A, MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,300.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL FUND

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolution [#21-06-21-177 thru #21-06-21-182](#) are appended to the official minutes

**Public
Hearing**

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-021-009, FOR MISH-J.O. INVESTMENT CORP. T/A GREEN KNOLL GRILLE645 ROUTE 202-206 SOUTH, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807

Council President Pedroso stated the above matter has been postponed to July 8, 2021.

**Closed
Session**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss:

PUBLIC SAFETY - License Renewal
LITIGATION - Center of Excellence

When and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time.

The public is excluded from said meeting and further notice thereof is dispensed with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:20 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-183](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:40 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Filipe Pedroso
Council President