

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
OCTOBER 4, 2021 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, October 4, 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, WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE BREEZE 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 SEPTEMBER 30, 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
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.

Death Announcements

THE PASSING OF CHIP MILLS, PE AND FORMER POLICE CHIEF RICHARD VOORHEES

Mayor Moench announced the sudden passing of long-term township employee & engineering department manager Chip Mills, PE and read the following statement:

Chip Mills loved Bridgewater. We know he loved Bridgewater because he spent more than forty years of his life working here. It is not an overstatement to say that Chip devoted his entire professional life to the service and betterment of his neighbors in this Township. More than two complete generations of Bridgewater

residents were born and grew to adulthood over the course of his tenure. Such enduring and faithful service to our community says more about Chip than any of us ever could—though even that is not nearly the whole of his story.

Even more important than the longevity of Chip's service was its character. When I say that I cannot recall ever meeting a more humble, forthright and unerringly kind man, anyone who knew him knows that I am telling the truth. Chip was not just willing but happy and eager to help anyone who darkened his door, be that person the Township Administrator, a young Boy Scout, or anyone in-between.

And Chip's kindness was not a shallow platitude, the kind you might give when you offhandedly describe someone as "nice." His was an amiability as genuine as it was deep, abiding in his character and essential to his nature as a person and as a colleague. Anyone who had the pleasure of working with or near him can tell you that.

They will also tell you about his quiet but inexhaustible devotion to whatever work was put in front of him. No matter the scope or scale of the project, Chip would sit down at his desk, and begin. There would be no doubts or remonstrance. This—his work—is what his Township needed from him, and he was going to provide it to the very best of his ability. To have such a man working in their service for more than 40 years is a profound blessing few of our residents will ever be able to directly appreciate. Still, I can't help the feeling that Chip wouldn't mind, as long as he knew that he had done everything he could to serve and help them along the way.

No recounting of Chip's contributions to Bridgewater would be complete without mention of his love for its history. To ask him a singular question about an event a few years ago was to embark on a journey going back decades or even centuries, complete with pictures, drawings, sketches and mountains of other material only he knew how or where to find. Chip's knowledge of his town and its history was as deep as his love for both.

And now he is—so very fittingly—a part of that history. His forty years, five months and eleven days of service to this Township cannot and will not go unrecognized. We will find the right way to make sure Chip Mills and his immense contributions to Bridgewater are remembered even after all of us are long gone. In the meantime, let us be sure that we remember him as he would want us to: sitting in his office or in the lunch room, quietly but unmistakably happy to be working in and for the town he loved, alongside people who he cherished and who cherished him.

Mayor Moench also announced that former Police Chief Voorhees passed away last week. Mayor recalled Voorhees riding about on his motorcycle when he was younger adding he was one of the original officers who formed the Bridgewater Police Department.

There was a moment of silence for both Chip Mills, PE and Former Police Chief Richard Voorhees.

Minutes

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the September 20, 2021 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

- The planning board met on the 28th and considered two cases. One was for a facelift to the Burger King on Finderne Avenue. The other application was for the New Jersey American Water for a minor expansion to their facility in order to allow for water purification technology.
- Attended a meeting with representatives of the Bridgewater Raritan regional school District. The topic was facilities assessment and potential next steps in addressing potential facility needs that may come up in the coming days.
- While on Mercer Street which is several blocks from the Somerset courthouse and a handful of blocks from the Bridgewater border, he noted that there is still debris on that street. This was such a contrast to what we did here in Bridgewater where within 40 hours of the storm ending, we met and made decisions on how we could remove debris for our residents so that they are able to move on with our lives
- Regarding the proclamation for the national breast cancer awareness month, he put on his pink tie which is a small gesture in acknowledging the importance of cancer screenings and cancer awareness and to support those who are battling this disease.

Councilman Norgalis:

- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Learn about the disease that affects 1 in 8 women. As someone whose wife passed away from this disease I urge all woman to take this issue very seriously and follow the directions of your medical provider.
- Charles Mills, a long-term member of the township Engineering Dept whose nickname was Chip, passed away very suddenly last week. His quiet manner and keen engineering insight served our town for 40 years. He will be missed.
- We also lost another icon in the passing of former Bridgewater Police Chief Richard Voorhees. He was one of the founding members of the police force in 1965.
- At the last Council meeting, we approved an Ordinance change that provided strict limitations on trucks over 4 tons on various residential streets in the Finderne Area. Signs posting these limitations will be installed by DPW employees very shortly.
- Last Saturday Council President Pedroso, Vice President Kurdyla and I

attended a very heartwarming ribbon cutting entitled “level up live, - educate a child” It celebrated among other things the dedication of the Kavanoor Library in Kavanoor -Tamil Nadu India a very rural area with limited social support. It is sponsored by high school age young adults of Indian heritage. Mithran Moses a tenth grader at BRHS is one of them.

- This coming Thursday the 200 Club of Somerset County will celebrate the Valor Award Dinner which will include honors to several Bridgewater Police officers that were delayed due to COVID. I will provide details of the presentations at the next Council meeting.
- Many members of the Bridgewater Indian community celebrate the October 2nd birthday of Mohandas Gandhi. He was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political leader who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule. Born in 1869, he was assassinated on Jan 30, 1948.
- Last week Council VP Kurdyla and I met with Former Councilman Bob Albano at his request to discuss funding needs for the Martinsville Rescue Squad. Bob is on their financial committee and was trying to determine if there were additional opportunities in 2022 for the town to support this all volunteer organization. We agreed to look into the matter.

Councilman Ring:

- He echoed the Mayor’s sentiments regarding Chip Mills, PE and former Police Chief Voorhees. He added that the chief was not only a long-time police officer and Chief, he was also featured on Parade magazine where he was nationally recognized for his work with Trailways independent bus lines on the Operation Home Free program which was a service for runaway children to take free bus rides home. This program gained national attention on Parade magazine which was a nationally syndicated publication Sunday paper.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- While he will not be attending the 200 Club Valor Award Dinner by Somerset County, there will be two members in his fire department who will be recognized for a life rescue that they did at a house fire in Bound brook in 2020.
- Also attended the “level up live, educate a child” ribbon cutting.
- Also attended the Township Truck inspections at the Bradley Gardens fire house and was pleased to say this is his 53rd inspection.

- It was his pleasure to know and work with Engineering Manager Chip Mills who was extremely knowledgeable and helpful.
- Former Police Chief Voorhees was tremendous and was known for his personality and work. In 1975, there had been a terrible truck accident on Route 287 when Councilman Kurdyla was serving as a Fire Chief. Voorhees, a captain at the time came to the site with two boxes of doughnuts for the firefighters who were on the scene. Voorhees got some teasing about that, considering the stereotype of police officers and doughnuts. Councilman Kurdyla stated this gesture showed the kind of person he was and represented his attitude and care for volunteer service.

Council President Pedroso

- Thanked Mayor Moench for putting the proclamation on the national breast cancer awareness month on tonight's agenda as breast cancer remains a leading cause of death in women. This brings awareness and through donations that are made, we can hopefully find a cure.
- Councilman Pedroso stated he knew Former Police Chief Voorhees "back in the day" when he was younger. He took community policing to another level and touched thousands of lives in his career. He became a police chief in Bound Brook in 1960 and later a Bridgewater police chief in 1997. He retired in 2000. Former Police Chief Voorhees contributed to the community in many ways and will be missed. Some of the organizations that he participated in include:
 - Life member of the Bound Brook rescue squad where he served as a president, captain and chief during his 27-years of service
 - Chief Driver for Somerset medical center's mobile intensive care unit
 - Member of the Somerset County Special Olympics, Far Hills Race Committee, Midland School Race Committee and United Way of Somerset County.
 - Board trustee for the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program and past president of the Somerset County Chiefs of Police.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Mayor Moench gave an update on Hurricane Ida recovery efforts. He stated that residents that need storm related debris cleanup should call the Office of Constituent Relations as we are almost done with the second sweep of the township.

- Emergency road projects will be completed this week as long as the weather holds. This is only for those roads that were severely damaged by Hurricane Ida. Vosseller Avenue was the most affected but should be completed by mid-November if the weather cooperates.
- The sewer project on Route 22 by the car dealerships was completed about two weeks ago. This work required a lot of coordination with different agencies but we were able to get it done.
- We hired PaveRite which is a specialty contractor for the purposes of making emergency repairs to our drainage system. This is to help with the drainage issues that needed attention following hurricane Ida.
- The annual halloween event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00pm at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. More details will soon be forthcoming.
- You should see a lot of road projects moving forward in October in all seven (7) regions. While everything is on schedule, weather is a big component. Mayor Moench urged the residents to check ourbwroads.com website for updates.

Proclamation NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, there will be over 275,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer in the U.S. in 2021; and

WHEREAS, over 40,000 Americans are likely to pass away due to breast cancer this year; and

WHEREAS, though these figures are tragic, all Americans rejoice that from 1989 to 2018, the breast cancer mortality rate decreased by over 40%; and

WHEREAS, this marked decrease is far more than just a statistic, for it represents over 400,000 women who have survived the disease who otherwise may not have; and

WHEREAS, the saving of those lives is directly attributable to advances in research, treatment, awareness and support that is spearheaded by organizations like Dance for the Cure; and

WHEREAS, Dance for the Cure is a 100% volunteer organization supporting breast cancer patients in Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties; and

WHEREAS, Dance for the Cure has so far gifted over \$800,000 in donations to individuals in these counties to aid them in their fight against breast cancer;

WHEREAS, Bridgewater resident Brooke Herbst and the Bridgewater Raritan High School Cheer Team, in coordination with Dance for the Cure's Ribbons of Hope initiative, hung pink bows at the Bridgewater Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, these pink ribbons are a symbol of hope for those fighting breast cancer now, a sign of support from all those who stand by them, a commemoration of those we have lost, and a mark of triumph for those women who have overcome this terrible disease; and

NOW THEREFORE I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township do hereby proclaim the month of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

And urge all the citizens of the Township to recognize Dance for the Cure and other critical programs like it throughout the nation, and the laudable efforts of Ms. Herbst and the Bridgewater Raritan High School Cheer Team have taken to raise awareness and support for those confronting breast cancer in our community and all over the world.

Bridgewater resident Brook Herbst and BRHS Cheer Team were present to receive the proclamation and were acknowledged for their significant contributions to the local breast cancer awareness efforts. It was noted that in coordination with the local breast cancer support organization, Dance for the cure, Brook and the girls put up pink ribbons all around Bridgewater municipal complex and other township properties in recognition of Breast Cancer awareness month and in support of all those who have fought and are still fighting the disease.

**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 Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

No one wished to be heard.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT AND THE APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING TO MAKE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE WALKING AND BIKING ENVIRONMENT FOR ADAMSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mayor Moench stated we need approval from the Council to allow us to apply for this grant. This grant is substantial and although there is no guarantee that we will get it, if we do, we will work on improving the walking and biking environment for Adamsville primary school students.

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 [#21-10-04-249](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021 FOR ROBERT HALF INTERNATIONAL, INC. AT 980 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 214, DEDHAM, MA, 02026 FOR TEMPORARY LABOR IN THE TAX AND FINANCE OFFICE FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$53,129.45 FOR THE YEAR 2021, \$5,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 01-2021-1100-0131-2-00028, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, \$2,500 FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 01-2021-1100-0145-2-00000 - TAX COLLECTOR - MISCELLANEOUS, AND \$2,500 FROM 07-2021-1549-0549-2-00145 - COLLECTION

Mayor Moench explained we have employees who have retired and we need to have someone do the work while we work on filling those positions.

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 [#21-10-04-250](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO ENTER INTO A STATE CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AT 415 E. EXCHANGE, ALLEN, TEXAS, 75002 FOR \$579,929.00 FOR NEW BODY WORN CAMERAS OF WHICH \$187,496.00 WAS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND THE REMAINING BALANCE WILL BE PAID FOR OVER THE NEXT FOR YEARS

Mayor Moench stated having body worn cameras are important and should be utilized. Police Chief Payne stated we currently have an older system and this will allow us to upgrade those cameras.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#21-10-04-251](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN NEW JERSEY CO-OPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE OF ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA, HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 079601, AS THE LEAD AGENCY # CK04

RESCINDING RESOLUTION #21-029-09-238 ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, TO SPACTIAL DATA LOGIC AND AWARDDING THE NEW CONTRACT TO SHI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION (SHI) OF 285 DAVIDSON AVENUE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873 THROUGH NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE OF BERGEN COUNTY, CK04, SUBCONTRACT NO. 19-34; FOR THE 50 SEAT AND HOSTING EXPANSION OF OUR TOWNSHIP SOFTWARE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,760.00, FUNDED THROUGH EACH DEPARTMENTS OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2021

Mayor Moench explained the first resolution will allow us to join the cooperative so that we can take advantage of the favorable pricing. The second resolution allows us to purchase software that will help us improve efficiency with township employees.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing 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 resolutions [#21-10-04-252](#) thru [#21-10-04-253](#) are appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PUMPING SERVICES, INC. OF 201 LINCOLN BOULEVARD, PO BOX 117, MIDDLESEX, NJ 08846-0117 FOR THE CONTRACT TO SUPPLY RENTAL EQUIPMENT AND LABOR AT THE GILBRIDE SANITARY SEWER PUMP STATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,207.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE 21-13 SEWER BOND ORDINANCE

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO REINER PUMP SYSTEMS OF 53 US HIGHWAY 206, STANHOPE, NJ 07874 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SULZER/ABS XFP205J-CB2 PE1040/4 DRY PIT SUBMERSIBLE PUMP FOR THE GILBRIDE SANITARY SEWER PUMP STATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,390.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE 21-13 SEWER BOND ORDINANCE

Mayor Moench explained these resolutions will allow us to continue work to replace the pumps and valves at the Gilbride Sanitary Sewer Pump Station. Councilman Kirsh thanked Councilman Norgalis for his diligence and work on keeping up with the pump station to ensure it has what is needed to continue to operate.

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 RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#21-10-04-254](#) thru [#21-10-04-255](#) are appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A BID TO PLACE A TEMPORARY BALLAST MOUNTED CELL TOWER ON A PORTION OF TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 551 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER NEW JERSEY, AND IDENTIFIED AS LOT 18, BLOCK 168 OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX MAP

PSE&G is replacing their infrastructure and needs a temporary tower while their tower is being rebuilt. Mayor Moench explained that as opposed to them constructing another tower, this will allow for temporary colocation as they make improvements to their existing tower. An added benefit is that there will not be a drop in cell service.

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 [#21-10-04-256](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Filipe Pedroso
Council President