

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 23, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a special session meeting on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.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 SPECIAL MEETING WITH VIRTUAL ACCESS ONLY WAS PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 21, 2021, IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ. BY SENDING WRITTEN NOTICE AND 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.

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: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
 Alex Fisher, Deputy Township Attorney
 Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator
 Linda Doyle, Township Clerk
 Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

Council President Pedroso led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Ring, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

Any resident with comments was advised they can send in their comments via the methods displayed on the screen as follows:

- ⇒ Use raise hand feature to give audio comments
- ⇒ Use Q&A feature for written comments

There was a two (2) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the ways shown above.

No one wished to be heard.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO THE NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENTS TO RESOLVE ALL OPIOID LITIGATION BROUGHT BY THE STATES AND LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AGAINST DISTRIBUTORS MCKESSON, CARDINAL HEALTH, AND AMERISOURCE BERGEN AND MANUFACTURER JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS AND ITS PARENT COMPANY, JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Alex Fisher, Deputy Township Attorney provided a summary of this resolution noting that this has to do with a nationwide litigation against two distributors; McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen and one manufacturer; Janssen Pharmaceuticals. There is a \$26 billion settlement that is to be distributed amongst thousands of Municipalities and States with the final exact number to be determined based on the impact of the opioid crisis and the population of each local municipality. Bridgewater's share is 0.0018%. Theoretically, it could be over a million dollars for use towards the opioid's crisis. The final number will be devised by the State of NJ however, the more municipalities and states opt in, the more the pot of money grows.

The Attorney General has recommended that all municipalities authorize their administration to opt in which is the purpose of this resolution. The opt in must be done by January 2, 2022 which is why this is time sensitive.

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 APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#21-12-23-302](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Filipe Pedroso
Council President