

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JANUARY 13, 2022 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication.

Council President Kurdyla 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, 2022, 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 JANUARY 11, 2022.

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Filipe Pedroso
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council President Allen Kurdyla

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 Kurdyla led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh
• Nothing new to report

Councilman Norgalis:
• Nothing new to report

Councilman Pedroso:
• Nothing new to report

Councilman Ring:

- Nothing new to report

Council President Kurdyla

- Nothing new to report

**Mayor's
Reports**

Mayor Matthew C. Moench
Nothing new to report

Presentation

ROAD PROGRAM UPDATE

William Burr, Township Engineer was present to conduct the presentation. He provided a two (2)-year progress report on the Bridgewater Roads program noting that since January 2020, Bridgewater Township has reconstructed or preserved 87 different roads, or approximately 24.6 miles of Township roadway. This total of 87 roads is greater than that of the previous four years combined. A list of those roads as well as other statistics is available [here](#)

**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.

Scott Maroldo, Director of Office of Constituent Relations read the following comments that had been received earlier.

Francis Higbie, 872 Sebring Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

I would like to see Park Avenue in Thomae Park resurfaced between Shepherd and about Nagle Street. Mr. Moraldo advised that he contacted Mr. Higbie to advise him that Thomae Park has already been resurfaced.

Camille McLawrence, 4 Stella Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

I'm not sure if this topic has been brought up in the past but is there any plans for a dog park at the Chimney Rock green space or anywhere else in Bridgewater in the near future? If no, I would like for there to be a consideration of building a dog park somewhere else in the township.

Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

I continue to request the council consider expanding the two (2) minute comment limit to each member of the public. The school board has returned to a five-minute limit - the county commissioners also have a five-minute limit. With an agenda of 8 items this may limit an individual's ability to comment on each of these if they felt necessary to 15 seconds each. Thank you for your consideration.

The following resident was present and spoke in person.

Victor Dapolla, 41 Ash Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Expressed his concern with the requirements to wear masks noting that masks have become unfriendly. Council President Kurdyla expressed the governing body will do what they can to be responsible to the public by following the guidelines issued by the State of New Jersey while respecting the wishes of the people who have problems complying with the rules.

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

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 89 ENTITLED “EXCAVATIONS” TO INCREASE ROAD OPENING MORATORIUMS FROM FIVE (5) YEARS TO SEVEN (7) YEARS

Mayor Moench stated the township has spent a significant amount of money on our roads and we want to make sure we can protect that investment. The best way to protect the Bridgewater residents and the Township’s investment in its roadways is to limit unnecessary road openings for a period of time.

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

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

[THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#22-01-13-040](#)** 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 7th day of February, 2022, 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 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.

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL 30-DAY EXTENSION UNTIL APRIL 30, 2022 FOR THE RENEWAL OF HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FROM HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, PRESCRIPTION AND VISION INSURANCE

Township Administrator Pappas stated administration is requesting permission to apply for the State health benefits plan. This resolution will allow us to extend our current insurance through April 30, 2022.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-041](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION UNDER THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM WITH THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022

Township Administrator Pappas explained in order to be considered for State health benefits, there is a 90-day period that is required in advance of the potential effective date and this resolution will allow us to pursue that.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-042](#) is appended to the official minutes

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - JEFFREY SICAT AS ALTERNATE #4

Councilman Ring stated he and Councilman Pedroso did a virtual meeting with Mr. Sicat as his name had been suggested as someone to consider for the Zoning Board and based upon to that meeting and the information they have received, Mr. Sicat will be a good fit for the Board of Adjustment.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-043](#) is appended to the official minutes

APPOINTMENTS TO BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 18-18 CREATING CHAPTER 22 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

Councilman Norgalis stated the purpose of the Bridgewater-Raritan Municipal Alliance is to decide how best to use State money in order to support the Bridgewater-Raritan School system. The list of people proposed for this committee are active in the community and the school system.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-044](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO REVIEW THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICTS 1, 2, 3, AND 4 FOR THE YEAR 2022

Council President Kurdyla stated the State of New Jersey has placed a requirement that the compensation of the members of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall be reviewed by the governing body wherein the fire district is located. Each of the fire districts have provided their salaries and their resolutions supporting those salaries for Council to review. It was noted that the salaries of the fire commissioners are approved by the voters in the fire district budget. The intent of this resolution is to satisfy a State requirement that the governing body has reviewed the salaries.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-045](#) is appended to the official minutes

APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$32,400.00

Township Administrator Pappas stated this is an annual grant that we seek that is primarily used for vests for our police officers.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-046](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCCER CENTERS LOCATED AT 300 MEMORIAL DRIVE SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE SPRING AND FALL TRAVEL, IN-TOWN, JR,

PSA, HIGH SCHOOL, ADULT, SUMMER AND FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAMS FOR 2022. SOCCER CENTERS WILL PROVIDE THE USE OF TURF FIELDS, REFEREES AND TRAINERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$139,500. THIS IS A USER FUNDED PROGRAM THAT WILL OPERATE AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP

Township Administrator Pappas stated our recreation program has extensive offerings for citizens of all ages. This is a program to be funded by those that participate, there will be no subsidy by the Township.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-047](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Closed
Session**

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

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 Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:20 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-048](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Resolutions

APPOINTING JUSTYNA ZAGORSKA AS TOWNSHIP TREASURER PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-37 ET SEQ OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Township Administrator Pappas explained the township has had a vacancy for this position for a number of months and has been undergoing a rather extensive search to find an individual with the appropriate skill set that would be the right fit for Bridgewater township. Justyna Zagorska is an employee of the Borough of Kenilworth and serves as the Assistant Treasurer and the municipal payroll administrator. She has the skills and experience that would make her very successful in this role for Bridgewater.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-049](#) is appended to the official minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss contract negotiations & litigation.

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 Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:45 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-13-050](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:35 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Closed
Session

Allen Kurdyla
Council President