

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2022      COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, February 7, 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 FEBRUARY 2, 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.

**Minutes**

**DECEMBER 6 & 20, 2021- REGULAR SESSION**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2021- CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the December 6 & 20, 2022 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh

- January 26<sup>th</sup> - Had the honor and opportunity to represent Bridgewater at the Vietnam Veterans' remembrance ceremony in Manville

- February 1<sup>st</sup> - Attended the promotion ceremony for Sergeant Bowers
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Met with Jauhara Pressey who is the community liaison for the NJ Transit and had a great introductory meeting along with Michael Pappas, Township Administrator and Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator
- Attended the Green Knoll Rescue Squad installation dinner
- Looks forward to the Township's lunar new year celebration with the Chinese American Association and the first town hall meeting which he will cohost with Mayor Moench at the JCC
- Wished Councilman Norgalis well in his upcoming surgery and hoped for a speedy recovery

#### Councilman Norgalis:

- Thanked everyone for the wonderful support he received in the unexpected passing of my brother Stanley. The cards, letters and phone calls were appreciated and were a great reminder of a life well lived

#### Councilman Pedroso:

- Wished Councilman Norgalis well in his upcoming surgery
- Attended, along with Councilman Kirsh the Green Knoll Rescue Squad installation dinner. He thanked all the EMS volunteers who donate a lot of their time in order to serve the community and encouraged those interested in volunteer work to step up
- Attended the Somerset Regional Animal shelter Board meeting where he was elected Board chair and looks forward to serving in that capacity

#### Councilman Ring:

- On February 1, I attended the swearing in ceremony from Chris Bowers, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant within the Bridgewater Police Department. I have known Sgt. Bowers for a number of years and in fact back several years ago, who was the officer that responded along with myself and other members of the Green Knoll Rescue when we delivered a baby in one of the stores at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. Congratulations to Sgt. Bowers on a well-deserved promotion
- This past Saturday, I had the honor of filling in for the Mayor and administer the oath of office to the officers of the Green Knoll Rescue

Squad during their annual installation dinner.

- A quick recap of the activity of our land use boards:
  - Since the re-org at the beginning of the year, the Planning Board has not met due to a lack of business.
  - The Board of Adjustment at their last meeting heard a proposal from an auto body shop on Route 28, which was continued to their next meeting. One of the board members, Kevin Wrobel has had to step back from serving on the Board. Tonight, we will vote to fill the open seat on the board.
  - As some may recall, there was a recent a proposal before the Board of Adjustment for a warehouse on Route 202/206. The town has recently received notification that the application has been withdrawn. What will happen with the property remains to be seen.
- This Saturday, Lunar New Year Celebration at 1PM in the Courtyard.
- Lastly, today is the one-year anniversary of the death of Lt. Col Bob Vaucher. We remember Bob's family today.

#### Council President Kurdyla

- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, attended for the first responders memorial committee. This is a great work in progress and looks forward to the coming months for progress reports and community involvement
- Attended the promotion ceremony for sergeant Bowers
- Was unable to attend the Green Knoll Grille installation dinner due to a family commitment, however, he commended them for the great work they do in the township and wished them well in the coming year.

#### **Presentation T. GENOVA, GILBRIDE PUMP STATION UPDATE**

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator introduced Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services to make a brief report regarding the Gillbride Pump Station.

The Gilbride Pump Station was constructed in 1983 and is located on Gilbride Road approximately 1,775 L.F. East of Chimney Rock Road. It was constructed to collect wastewater generated in the Middlebrook Basin, including flow from Warren Township and Green Brook Township. It is a circular wet well/dry well type configuration with three (3) 140 HP dry pit submersible pumps, each rated

at approximately 2950 gallons per minute (GPM) @ 140 Head. The wet well and dry well are both 50' deep with the influent 24" gravity sewer entering the station 38' below grade. A Grinder is located in the influent channel in the wet well to protect the pumps from damage from large debris or solids. The station was designed to pump an approximate average flow of 1.875 million gallons per day (MGD) through an 1,800 L.F. 14-inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) force main. Today the flows average 850,000 GPD on dry days and up to 4 million GPD on wet days. Electrical equipment including controls, motor control center (MCC), variable frequency drives (VFDs) and automatic transfer switch (ATS) is housed within a block, brick faced 30' x 30' building. Pump operation is controlled by a transducer and a backup control system with floats. A flow meter on the main header records pump station flow. The station has heat and ventilation. An emergency generator to provide backup power is located adjacent to the pump station building. A by-pass connection is located on the force main adjacent to the existing building to allow temporary bypassing of the pump station in the event of an emergency. Alarm conditions are annunciated at a local alarm panel with a single alarm transmitted to the Police and DPW personnel.

The Gilbride Pump Station has undergone several upgrades since the original construction including a complete upgrade in 2003 with much of the equipment reaching or at the end of its useful life. This project included: replacement of all three pumps, Controls, Electrical Service upgrades, and the generator replacement. In 2018, one pump was replaced.

The pump intakes are through the wet well wall into the dry well side of the station and are designed to be closed by 12" valves in order to isolate the pumps for maintenance and replacement of pumps. Each pump has two isolation valves and a back-flow valve. There is also a surge valve on the outflow line. The valves were installed in 1983 and are original to the building. The valves were failing. They would not close all of the way to isolate a pump in order to maintain or replace pumps. In order to accomplish this, the wet well will need to be dry by means of a full station bypass. This would require pumps being placed in the manhole that is located at the bottom of the hill and pump the waste water up to the force main connection near the front of the building.

In August of 2021 there were two pump failures that required an emergency 24-hour bypass. With the by-pass in operation, all of the pump valves were ordered in addition to 3 new pumps.

Due to supply chain issues, there were delays in getting the pumps and valves required for this 2022 upgrade to the station. Work included a confined space entry of the wet well to power wash it and removal of all solids.

The Pump Station went back on line with (2) pumps operational on January 7, 2022. The 3rd pump will be installed next week. On the agenda tonight is a resolution to order a spare pump for this station. This will avoid supply chain delays and will save time and costs overall to keep the station functioning. In conclusion, I am happy to announce that the Gilbride Pump Station renovation is now complete. Mr. Genova stated he will now be focusing his attention to the Middle Brook Pump Station.

After the presentation, Mr. Genova fielded questions from the governing body. Council was in consensus in commending everyone working on this project for a job well done.

**Public  
Comment**

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

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed to provide public input vial electronic transmission with all comments to be read into the record unless there are unusual circumstances.

Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Ms. Franco asked that Council vote in favor of the two (2) resolutions on tonight's agenda that would support applying for grants for an outdoor fitness court noting it would be a great benefit to Bridgewater residents. She further requested that the township continue to make virtual participation available even post COVID so that residents can participate from home and share their points of view. Lastly, Ms. Franco asked that Council extend the public comments section from 2-minutes to 5-minutes.

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

**Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
Ordinances**

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

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

**ORDINANCE [#22-01](#) WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-051](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Introduction  
of  
Ordinances**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$8,000,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NEWBERRY STREET, BELLACONE STREET, CHESTNUT STREET, WALTERS BROOK DRIVE NORTH, ROLLING HILLS ROAD, ROLLING KNOLLS WAY, SHERLIN DRIVE, SHERWOOD ROAD, HICKORY DRIVE, CORNELL ROAD, SUSSEX STREET, LINBERGER DRIVE, MIDDLEBROOK ROAD AND LIEDL AVENUE, 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.**

Township Administrator Pappas explained administration has been working on various road improvements, which are beyond those listed on the title of the Ordinance. In the past year, we had a very positive experience as the cost contracts were well below the original estimates. A more detailed breakdown of cost estimates for these roads will soon be forthcoming in order to help us determine the actual structure of the bidding documents including how many will be definitively constructed and how many will be alternates, similar to what was very successfully done last year.

Councilman Pedroso explained he is concerned about introducing this bond budget at this time as we are uncertain about the impact this will have on our overall budget. He requested Administration to provide information as it relates to the budget before a final decision can be made on this matter.

Councilman Kirsh stated we made a commitment on behalf Bridgewater residents to invest \$40M over a five-year period. While he acknowledged the concerns expressed by Councilman Pedroso, Councilman Kirsh offered he is comfortable proceeding based on the commitment we have made to modernize our roads.

Councilman Norgalis stated part of the vision we had is understanding that our roads are in a deplorable shape. We had a professional analysis done and there was a unanimous vote we would invest \$40M over five years in our infrastructure. That became our promise to the residents and we need to fulfil the second chapter of what will be a five-part series. While there are some budget constraints, Councilman Norgalis opined we will have to figure out how to do this because it is vital to fulfil the promise we made.

Councilman Ring was in agreeance with Councilman Kirsh and Councilman Norgalis

Councilman Kurdyla stated getting this done will allow us to get the bids in early enough so that we can get the work done timely and take advantage of some price points similar to what we did last year, which enabled us to work on additional roads that were not initially on the plan.

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

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

**[THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.](#)**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-052](#) 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 24th 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; and

**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 Director of Finance will forward the Supplemental Debt Statement received this date electronically to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey.

**Resolutions**

**GRANT APPLICATION TO FUND AN OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT® AS PART OF THE 2022 NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN. APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, “EXPLORING THE FUTURE TO BUILD A CULTURE OF HEALTH,” GRANT OPPORTUNITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,000.00**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has made funding available on a rolling basis under the, “Exploring the Future to Build A Culture of Health Grant”. The Township of Bridgewater will apply for the grant and if approved, we will construct a free-to-the-public outdoor Fitness Court® as part of the 2022 National Fitness Campaign.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-053](#) is appended to the official minutes

**ADOPTING AND ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR AN OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT® AS PART OF THE 2022 NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN WHEREIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER WILL ACCEPT A \$30,000 AND PROVIDE A LOCAL MATCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000**

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is a resolution similar to one adopted last year. The grant for \$30,000 requires a \$50,000 match which we anticipate to raise via private donations so the township’s budget will not be burdened.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye



Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-054](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZATION APPROVING FINAL LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGEWATER FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUADS WHO QUALIFY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE TOWNSHIP LOSAP PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

There was no discussion.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-055](#) 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 A THREE-MONTH PERIOD COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$77,555.75 PAID FROM THE TOWNSHIP'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND**

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is the same firm we used in the last year. Although proposals were sought, this is the only firm that responded.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye

Council President Kurdyla      Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-056](#) is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - ALTERNATES**

**BRUCE BONGIORNO, ALTERNATE #1, JOHN GAYESKI, ALTERNATE #2, JEFFREY SICAT, ALTERNATE #3 AND JOHN KULAK, ALTERNATE #4**

Councilman Ring stated Kevin Wrobel who served on the Zoning Board had to step down due to a conflict. In that regard, alternates 1 thru 4 are moving up in their positions. John Kulak is only new member to the Board.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-057](#) is appended to the official minutes

**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 \$55,700.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE 21-13 SEWER BOND ORDINANCE**

Councilman Norgalis appreciated Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services for the presentation he provided. Being there are no operational problems that would arise if this resolution was held off for some additional weeks in order to be closer to having a budget and to have a better understanding of our financial situation, Councilman Norgalis offered that this resolution should be tabled. Councilman Pedroso and Councilman Ring were in agreeance.

Councilman Kurdyla and Councilman Kirsh offered they were ready to proceed with this resolution today.

Councilman Norgalis made a motion to table this resolution to a future date. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ring. The vote was as follows:

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

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE (CASH) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,703.60, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR ANBL, LLC, BLOCK 142, LOT 9, ON 84 WALNUT AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ**

Township Administrator Pappas stated the site in question is a single-family home and the property has been developed per the expectation of the performance guarantee. In that regard, William Burr, Township Engineer has recommended the release of the guarantee.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-058](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE AMENDED CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$639,188.59 TO \$641,303.90 AN INCREASE OF 0.33% OR \$2,115.31, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., FOR THE RUNNING BROOK ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL FUND**

There was no discussion.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye

Councilman Ring                   Aye  
Council President Kurdyla       Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-059](#) is appended to the official minutes

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER / REIMBURSEMENT OF FIRE PERMIT FEES INCLUDING \$60. FIRE PIT, \$60. PROPANE GRILLS AND \$100.00 SPECIAL EVENT FEES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$220.00 FOR THE SOMERVILLE ELKS LODGE / JACKS KIDS FOUNDATION LOCATED AT 375 UNION AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807 IN CONNECTION WITH AN OUTDOOR TAILGATE PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT ON JANUARY 22, 2022, FROM 11AM TO 4PM**

Councilman Ring stated this resolution came about as a result of internal issues at the Elks that caused an oversight in applying for waivers. As a member of the Elks, Councilman Ring stated he will be abstaining.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-060](#) is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 18-24 CREATING CHAPTER 21 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE**

There was no discussion.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-061](#) 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 litigation and contract negotiations.

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 Pedroso, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:20 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-02-07-062](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:26 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Allen Kurdyla  
Council President