

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
April 4, 2022 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, April 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via electronic communication.

Due to a recent illness, Council President Kurdyla handed the meeting over to Councilman Kirsh to preside over the meeting. Acting Council President Kirsh 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 7, 2022, 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 VIRTUAL ACCESS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON APRIL 1, 2022.

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

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

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

Acting Council President Kirsh led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation, sponsored by the Bridgewater Women's Club.

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2020, 3.9 million reports were made to child protective services; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of Bridgewater; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Woman's Club has already taken steps to raise awareness by placing pinwheels on the Municipal Complex Courtyard; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Matthew C. Moench, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Bridgewater and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Mayor Moench acknowledged the Bridgewater Women's Club for their great work on this topic adding administration and Council are proud to support their efforts. Diane Consodine of the Women's Club was present and expressed gratitude for the support they have received.

involved in a car accident this past weekend. He sent his condolences and prayers to the family of Victoria Bastos.

Closed Session

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss 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 Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at approximately 7:45 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-04-04-099](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Acting President Kirsh, seconded by Council President Kurdyla, Council reconvened to open session at 8:11 p.m.

Council Reports

Councilman Norgalis:

- Thank you to the Bridgewater Woman's Club and especially to Diane Consodine for her leadership in placing the pinwheel garden at the municipal complex to raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- April is celebrated by our Muslim fiends as Ramadan. It is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days depending on the month.
- The Somerset County Board of Election is making a minor election census redistricting involving Bridgewater Election Districts 3 and 14. Approximately 57 voters from District 14 will change to District 3. The principal streets effected are Morgan Lane, Locust St and a very short part of the South side of Union Ave between Dartmouth and Finderne Ave.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Nothing new to report.

Councilman Ring:

- Attended the retirement ceremony for Lieutenant Rice following his 27-years of dedicated service to the Police Department.
- The opening day ceremonies for Bridgewater Baseball and Softball were held this past Saturday at Prince Rodgers. Councilman Ring stated he was honored to attend and participate in these events along with Council Vice President Kirsh.
- Happy Ramathan to all that celebrate it.

Council President Kurdyla:

- Nothing new to report

Acting President Kirsh:

- Attended the Bridgewater Baseball and Softball opening day ceremonies held at Prince Rodgers.

**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 Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting was opened to the public for comment. The public was advised of the various ways they can participate as follows:

- Link for Public Comment Submission:
<https://bridgewaterocr.typeform.com/to/XG6BK5fg>
- Use raise hand feature to give audio comments
- Use Q&A feature for written comments
- Text 908-912-4247 for written comments

JD Bryden of the Office of Constituent Relations read the following public comments into the record:

Francis Higbie 872 Sebring Ave., Bound Brook, NJ

I'd like the Township to contact PSE&G and ask for improved street lighting in Thomae Park. I read several years ago that old street lights waste light horizontally and upwards, away from the street where it's really needed. I called PSE&G myself asking for this change, but they told me the request has to come from the township. I mentioned this at a council meeting years ago, but for some reason nothing changed with our lighting.

It was agreed the Office of Constituent Relations will follow up with the

homeowner and provide them next steps.

Cathy Haller-Franco 766 Weemac Rd

How will the township share the results of the county prosecutor's investigation? Will citizens be expected to OPRA the findings? And why isn't the PBA as opposed to the township setting aside 25K for legal fees related to police?

Jennifer Loughran, 716 Falcon Court was present via electronic means.

Today was the first day of the 2022 recreational skate boarding program. It was a tremendous success not only for the children that came out to learn but also for the young people that were volunteering and mentoring for the program. She acknowledged the efforts Rachel Barret, Superintendent of Recreation and her team as well as Richard Shimp, Public Works Superintendent and his team as together they helped solve numerous logistical challenges that have made this new and exciting programming available. Ms. Loughran further acknowledged the efforts of the Council and administration on the road program noting the roads are great for biking and skating.

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

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC LOCATED AT 128 VAN CLEEF ROAD SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR SPRING TENNIS INSTRUCTION, SUMMER TENNIS MINI-CAMP, AND FALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR BOTH YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS. SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC WILL PROVIDE ALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR 2022 IN AN AMOUNT THAT MAY EXCEED \$44,000.00 TO BE PAID FROM THE RECREATION/VENDOR TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY FOR ALL REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED FROM TENNIS PROGRAMS AT NO EXPENSE TO THE TOWNSHIP

Council expressed concern over the open-ended amount noted on the title of this resolution and agreed to amend the title of the resolution as follows:

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC LOCATED AT 128 VAN CLEEF ROAD SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR SPRING TENNIS INSTRUCTION, SUMMER TENNIS MINI-CAMP, AND FALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR BOTH YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS. SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC WILL PROVIDE ALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR 2022 IN AN AMOUNT TO BE PAID FROM THE RECREATION/VENDOR TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY FOR

ALL REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED FROM TENNIS PROGRAMS AT NO EXPENSE TO THE TOWNSHIP

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the title of the resolution was amended as aforementioned on a unanimous voice call vote.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed as amended. 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 [#22-04-04-100](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL TO BECOME A MEMBER FOR AN ANNUAL FEE OF \$1,250.00 FOR A TOTAL OF \$6,250.00 FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Township Administrator Pappas explained we are a member of several cooperative pricing entities. Becoming a member of MCCPC will allow for substantial savings on various goods and services through the cooperative public bidding process.

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	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-04-04-101](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TO CHRIS BATTAGLIA OF BATTAGLIA ASSOCIATES LLC, 490 RIDGEFIELD TERRACE, FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY 07022 FOR PAYROLL PROCESSING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT OF \$5,200 FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2022 THROUGH APRIL 30,

2022.

Township Administrator Pappas stated we need an additional month of these services in order to ensure our human resources staff has had adequate training and understanding of the rather complicated payroll process.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-04-04-102](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PENNONI ASSOCIATES, INC., 1900 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 TO SERVE AS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS TO CONDUCT A 2022 ROAD CONDITION ASSESSMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,500.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL BOND

Township Administrator Pappas explained we had engaged Pennoni associates last year for the universal road assessment which was a very successful operation that gave us data to create the road program. Due to the work that has been undertaken and the significant improvements that have been made to numerous roads as well as deterioration of some roads as a result of the hurricane and other conditions, we wanted to have the data updated. This proposal is in order to update the data moving forward.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-04-04-103](#) is appended to the official minutes

PERSON TO PERSON PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER FROM RUBY TUESDAY, INC. LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-011-008 FORMERLY LOCATED ON ROUTE 202 IN BRIDGEWATER, HELD IN POCKET STATUS SINCE AUGUST, 26, 2018, TO RUBY TUESDAY OPERATIONS, LLC, NEW LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-011-009

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is a transfer of a liquor license currently held by Ruby Tuesday, Inc to Ruby Tuesday Operations, LLC.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#22-04-04-104](#) is appended to the official minutes

THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SUPPORTS URGING THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-330 WHICH RESTORES ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#22-04-04-105](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO MICHAEL H. ROBERTSON, ESQ., OF THE LAW FIRM OF O'TOOLE SCRIVO LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 TO SERVE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR MATTERS CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The scope of service of the aforementioned contract shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following: 1) to assist the Township in interacting with the Office of the Somerset County Prosecutor, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney

General, and any other government entity reviewing the incident of February 12, 2022; 2) to assist the Township with any internal disciplinary proceedings insofar as same are required; and 3) to assist the Township in assessing any prospective measures deemed necessary or prudent related to the foregoing.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 [#22-04-04-106](#) 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.

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 Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:42 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-04-04-107](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of President Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council reconvened to open session at 10:08 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen Kurdyla
Council President

Closed
Session