

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

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 7, 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 MAY 12, 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

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

**Minutes**

**MARCH 3 & 21, 2022 - REGULAR SESSION**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2022 - CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the above referenced minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh

- Gave a brief welcome speech on behalf of Bridgewater at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life held at Duke Island Park

- Had the honor to speak and appreciate all that have served our nation at the American Legion Ceremony on Memorial Day.
- We had a Primary Election a few days ago where Township Clerk Doyle ran 12-locations of our 36-voting districts. The vote by mail box was open for several weeks and an in-person early voting was available for 10-days in the municipal courtroom.
- Budget conversations continue. The budget that was introduced has had some changes since it was last presented. Councilman Kirsh offered he will continue to work with the administration and council to ensure the final document reflects the priorities of our community for the remainder of the year.

#### Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended, along with Councilman Ring the “The 200 Club of Somerset County” annual award ceremony for Police, Fire and EMS personnel. The guest speaker was Bill Spadea, Media Personality and Entrepreneur. In the largest gathering of award recipients I have ever seen, there were 45 awards with the majority being given for selfless devotion to duty during hurricane IDA.
- Attended the Bridgewater second quarter 2022 Emergency Planning meeting. According to OEM head Sgt. James Edwards they are beginning the planning for a township-wide tabletop exercise activity for next year.
- Attended the monthly Municipal Alliance meeting were a significant portion of the meeting was used to discuss school safety.
- Attended along with Council President Kurdyla the Memorial Day recognition with the Martinsville VFW veterans. Sadly, their ranks have dwindled over the years to the point where, according to organized Jack Dille, that may have been their last event.

#### Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended the Somerset Chamber of Commerce ELC launch a couple of weeks ago.
- Marched in the Bradley Garden’s American Legion post parade and attended the events afterwards where he had the honor of placing Bridgewater’s wreath in memory of those that have passed in service to our Country.

#### Councilman Ring:

- Attended the 200 Club of Somerset County annual award ceremony for Police, Fire and EMS personnel. In addition to the large number of awards given out related to hurricane Ida, there were five first responders or children of first responders from Bridgewater who received \$1500 in scholarships.
- Attended the LEPC meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the last bulky trash day on May 21<sup>st</sup> and had the opportunity to speak to several residents.
- Bridgewater lost a resident tragically to a motor vehicle accident who earlier this year was recognized by our police department and received a valor award for his heroic actions. He was a single parent who left behind two children. His oldest son has been a first responder in Bridgewater and is scheduled to graduate high school in two weeks. Councilman Ring sent his condolences to the family and offered if anyone is interested, a GoFundMe has been set up for this family on social media.

#### Council President Kurdyla

- Attended along with Councilman Norgalis the Memorial Day ceremony at the Martinsville VFW

#### Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench noting that members of the Administration had a meeting with members of the school district and senior staff a few weeks ago. Subsequent to that, Mayor Moench had sent a letter to the school board regarding school safety.

#### 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 Kirsh, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

Robert Brennan, 151 Sycamore Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Explained his house is being lit up by his neighbors, adding that spot lights from his neighbor's property resonate through his home. Mr. Brennan questioned whether there was anything Council could do to mediate this situation.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator explained he has been made aware of Mr. Brennan's situation and as such spent a considerable amount of time looking at existing ordinances that may address this matter. There is one ordinance that

Public  
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Ordinances

does not really empower us to enforce it but there is some general reference that indicates the Township Engineer might have some jurisdiction. In that regard, William Burr, Township Engineer has written letters to Mr. Brennan's neighbor as well as another property but unfortunately, we lack the ability to enforce. The neighbors have not taken any action thus far and at this time, there is nothing that allows us to enforce this.

Council was in consensus that township attorney Corsini will review this matter and present a lighting ordinance for the Council to review and approve.

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

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$989,150 FOR THE STREAM BANK RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE TOWNSHIP, AT WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD, CARTERET ROAD, LONG ROAD AND VALLEY VIEW ROAD, DUE TO FLOODING RESULTING FROM HURRICANE IDA, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$939,692 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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 [#22-09](#) WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-06-09-156](#) is appended to the official minutes

**CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-**

45.14)

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

**ORDINANCE [#22-05](#) WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-06-09-157](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Introduction  
of  
Ordinances**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 175 (SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL) IMPLEMENTING REVISED SEWER FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Township Administrator Pappas stated administration has proposed an annual sewer fee change from \$399 to \$472 to meet the financial needs of the utility. This Ordinance further proposes that the sewer users have the option to make two annual payments. Township Administrator Pappas explained the amount being proposed is important for the financial health and vitality of the sewer utility as sewer fees have not been increased in 14-years. There are major repairs and improvements that have been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken which is a significant service that the township provides and one that is needing additional finances to cover these expenses.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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

**THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.**

A copy of resolution [#22-06-09-158](#) 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 9th day of June, 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**

**APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER LOUGHRAN TO THE PARK BOARD FOR SAID TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024**

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 [#22-06-09-159](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO FORECLOSE CERTAIN PROPERTIES FOR DELINQUENT TAXES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER**

Township Administrator Pappas stated delinquent bills were sent to the home owners and six months have lapsed since the notices went out. Administration continues to pursue options regarding these foreclosed properties, some of which have been foreclosed for years.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#22-06-09-160](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BRIDGEMARK HOSPITALITY, LLC, GREYMARK BUILDINGS, LLC, AND BRIDGEMARK DEVELOPMENT, LLC**

Township Administrator Pappas explained the Township of Bridgewater is currently engaged in litigation with Bridgemark Hospitality, LLC, Greymark Buildings, LLC, and Bridgemark Development, LLC, regarding drainage issues. The Township desires to resolve this matter by way of Settlement Agreement

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 [#22-06-09-167](#) is appended to the official minutes

**APPROVING THE 2022 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,378.00.**

Councilman Ring explained this grant will accommodate e-tickets. It will allow the Police to print tickets from the computers in their cars for the court, motor vehicle etc. In the long run, this will allow us to free up administrative time within the law enforcement as it relates to tickets.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Council President 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 [#22-06-09-169](#) is appended to the official minutes

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT MOTION.**

**AUTHORIZING THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR 2022 CALENDAR YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, c. 72**

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW GIACOBBE, ESQ., OF THE LAW FIRM OF CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI & JACOBS, LLC, AS LABOR COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PAVE-RITE, INC. (40 RADEL AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807) FOR THE 2022-1 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF NEWBERRY STREET, RADEL AVENUE, AND RAMSEY STREET, IN THE SUM OF \$601,865.50, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VNL, INC. (107 MAIN STREET, WHITEHOUSE STATION, NJ 08889) FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO MIDDLEBROOK SANITARY SEWER PUMPING STATION - PHASE I, IN THE SUM OF \$312,500.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL SEWER FUND**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR CAMP CROMWELL TO APPALACHIA HYDROGEOLOGIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, LLC, 678 ROUTE 202/206 NORTH, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,140.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE OPEN SPACE FUND**

**AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT WITH TLP CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC. OF 400 RIKE DRIVE, MILLSTONE, NEW JERSEY 08510 FOR QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE TO THE HVAC FROM \$46,110.00 NOT TO EXCEED \$71,110.00**

**ACKNOWLEDGING AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF 2020-2022 URBAN COUNTY COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN SOMERSET COUNTY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**



On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolution [#22-06-09-161 thru 22-06-09-165](#) and [#22-06-09-168](#) are 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 contract negotiations, litigation and public safety/personnel.

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 Ring, seconded by Council President Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:40 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-06-09-170](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:36 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Allen Kurdyla  
Council President