

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
July 07, 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, July 07, 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 (absent)
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
 Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

Council President Kurdyla led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of Silence for former and first elected Mayor of Bridgewater, Al Griffith.

Minutes

MAY 2 & 16, 2022 - REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 21, 2022 - CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the May 2nd ad May 16th, 2022 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Norgalis:

- Happy Fourth of July. I hope everyone had a safe and healthy enjoyment of our Nation's birthday.
- I was contacted by representatives of Dream Works LLC, a Bridgewater based company, seeking help with development of some property they own on Pearl St. I referred them to Planner Scarlett Doyle who will work with them on determining what changes are allowed under existing ordinances.
- My thanks to Dan Ahern of our OCR Group for his work with a family on Foothill Rd. who are impacted by some stalled development on the adjacent property.
- I was saddened to learn of the passing of former Mayor Al Griffith. Al was my neighbor, only three houses away, when I first moved to Bridgewater in 1975. He was a nice man and a good neighbor.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Sent his condolences to the family of Former Mayor Al Griffith.

Councilman Ring:

- On June 28, the Planning Board met and reviewed the proposed ordinance changes related to the RSEED zone at the Center of Excellence. They also heard an application from the Center of Excellence to extend the approval that was issued back in December, 2019. While the extension was approved, it is important to note that this does not mean the hotel, supermarket and apartments are being built; approving the extension was a formality included in the settlement agreement. Over the next couple of months, Advance Realty will be submitting a new application to the Planning Board for the Life Science Center as previously announced. Assuming that new application is approved, the approval previously issued under the old application becomes null and void.
- This past Monday, I was honored to attend the Washington Campground Association 4th of July Service. For those not familiar with this event, it is held on the Washington Campground property off of Middlebrook Road here in Bridgewater every year. It commemorates the encampment of the fledging American Army in the area from May 28 to July 2, 1777 and again from December 1778 to June 1779. Most think it was the first place where the first official American flag (a 13-star flag designed by Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence) was flown in 1777. Through a special act of Congress, the Hopkinson flag is

allowed to be flown here 24 hours a day without lighting. Each year, on Independence Day, the flag is changed and the Declaration of Independence is read.

- Earlier today, I was asked by the administration to participate in a meeting with some folks from the 4H Fair. It is important for our residents to note that after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid, the 4H Fair will be back in Bridgewater in Milltown Road at the Fair grounds from August 10th to the 12th
- Lastly, 47 years ago this past Friday, the Township of Bridgewater held what was called an “Organization Day Meeting”, during which Alfred Griffith was sworn in as the first mayor elected by the residents of Bridgewater, under the then new Faulkner Act form of government. In addition to having previously served on the Town Council and as the Mayor under the old form of Township Committee, Mayor Griffith was also a History Teacher at Bridgewater Raritan High School West. Mayor Griffith will forever have the distinction in the history books as being the first Mayor of Bridgewater elected by the residents of the Township. The honor and responsibility of this was not lost on Mayor Griffith. From what was referred to as the ‘Mayor’s Statement’ in the July 1, 1975 meeting minutes:

I am thrilled, excited, and humbled by the honor and responsibility that has been given to me by my friends and neighbors as Bridgewater’s first elected Mayor. Much of the tremendous pressure and anxiety within me over the past two months are about to be released as we assume office knowing that our written reorganization is about complete. We have worked with good legal advice cooperatively and persistently at creating an organization that not only complies with the framework of the Faulkner Act but also seem to be well suited for the unique qualities of our fine community. We admit that we might make some mistakes, but our decisions have been made in good faith and are subject to change if they don’t meet our expectations.

- In the interest of time, I am not going to read his full speech, but did find some interesting comments about how Bridgewater was run back in 1975: The Bridgewater Colonial Color Guard presented the colors. The Mayor had a management team of seven directors and an Executive Secretary (Shirley Kline). That team did not include a Director of Public Safety, Director of Planning and Development or a Business Administrator, as those three positions still had to be hired. Along with the Mayor, five council members were also sworn in at that meeting following which, a

drawing was held to pick two council members to serve a four-year term and three council members to serve a two-year term. We thank Mayor Griffith for his service to Bridgewater Township and may he rest in peace.

Council President Kurdyla

- Appreciated the work of former Mayor Al Griffith. He was a wonderful servant to Bridgewater Township and a gracious leader.
- Last weekend, he along with the Open Space committee walked a property. A report and recommendation with regard to same is being put together. Councilman Kurdyla added he will be presenting a name to appoint a person to the Open Space committee who has served on this committee in the past and will be a welcome addition.

Presentation SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator was present and made presentation as follows:

Last year around this time, we were awarded the CDBG grant by Somerset County for improvements to the senior center. Funding for this came from the CARES act where we were originally awarded \$220,000 to make COVID resilient improvements to the Senior center. These included touchless bathroom fixtures, toilets, urinals, touchless light fixtures, an outdoor deck area that would replace the court that is currently in disrepair and some new touchless doors. There will also be HVAC UV filters to clean the air inside the senior center. We have gone out for an RFP, received some responses and are ready to move forward with this project. The total award was for \$254,778.42 of which we will fund upfront then receive quarterly reimbursements until the entire amount is fully reimbursed in 12 months. The CFO has recommended a short term note in order to fund this project and move forward. All the reimbursements will go directly to paying back the note.

Council was in consensus that the proposal is in good order.

Proclamation NONE

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

John Arcoleo, 1110 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

Stated in reviewing the budget, the interest on debt had gone up significantly and wondered how administration will handle additional debt service. Mr. Arcoleo was advised in an attempt to reduce the debt, we are making higher debt payments than is required.

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

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING SECTION 126-321.6 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER'S ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "R-SEED REDEVELOPMENT SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT (R-SEED) DISTRICT ZONE," TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE SET OF PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND RELATED PROVISIONS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT AREA DESIGNATED ON LOTS 17,18 AND 19 IN BLOCK 483 ON THE TOWNSHIP'S TAX MAP, FRONTING ON ROUTE 206 WITH THE NEAREST ROADS TO THE NORTH (NOT ADJACENT) CEDARBROOK ROAD AND OLD FARM ROAD AND TO THE SOUTH (NOT ADJACENT) MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE AND BYRD AVENUE AS REFLECTED IN NEW SECTION 126-321.7, ENTITLED "ALTERNATIVE R- SEED DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS"

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

Brian Begman, 18 Heather Hill Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Attended many of the meetings pertaining to the Center of Excellence in the past and was happy to see there has been a reduction in the size and scale of the project. He wondered whether there would be any additional traffic studies conducted in that area noting it is dangerous. Mr. Begman was advised this project still needs to go before the Planning Board for site plan approval and traffic matters will be addressed at that time.

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

ORDINANCE #22-11 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-196](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-83 (PROMOTION) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO ELIMINATE THE TIME IN GRADE REQUIREMENT

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, 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	Absent
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

ORDINANCE #22-12 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-197](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-83 (PROMOTIONS) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO PERMIT TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS OF THE PROMOTION ELIGIBILITY LIST ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

It was confirmed that this Ordinance change will not affect the number of

officers.

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

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

ORDINANCE #22-13 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-198](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

RESOLUTION COMBINING BONDS AGGREGATING THE PRINCIPAL SUM OF NOT TO EXCEED \$21,930,000 AUTHORIZED BY FIVE BOND ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST OF VARIOUS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY INTO ONE CONSOLIDATED ISSUE OF BONDS AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, MATURITIES AND OTHER DETAILS OF SAID CONSOLIDATED ISSUE.

Bond Counsel John Drakovitz, Esq. was present for the discussion. He explained that Council adopted five ordinances authorizing bonds in the amount of \$21,930,000 to finance part of the cost of various general improvements. It has been deemed advisable and in the best interest of the Township, to combine the bonds authorized under those five ordinances into one consolidated issue by taking advantage of and locking in the low interest rates.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-202](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIED SERVICES TO THE RODGERS GROUP OF 2611 INTERNET BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, FRISCO, TEXAS 75034 TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATED TO POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,000

FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.1 ET SEQ.

Township Administrator Pappas explained administration is recommending that this firm be engaged by the township to provide an enhanced training program for our police department. The attorney general's office has extensive training requirements for all police officers and as such, it has been the practice with the Bridgewater Police Department to exceed the training that our officers undertake. This is a well-known firm that has been utilized by the State police, various prosecutors' officers and other agencies.

Training will be conducted virtually. A unique feature of this program is that if a police officer takes advantage of this training and goes through the entire program, the Fairleigh Dickinson University has endorsed giving 3-college credits to those officers.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-203](#) is appended to the official minutes

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE AND THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT MOTION:

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (PO BOX 6030, SOMERSET, NJ 08875) FOR THE 2022-2 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF CHESTNUT STREET, MCGOVERN COURT, TRACI ROAD, WALTERS BROOK DRIVE NORTH AND ALTERNATE BID FOR SECTIONS OF MAPLE STREET AND OAK STREET (ARDMAER DRIVE TO OLD YORK), IN THE SUM OF \$775,065.38, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (PO BOX 6030, SOMERSET, NJ 08875) FOR THE 2022-4 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR ENTIRE LENGTH OF ROSEMARY DRIVE, WALCUTT DRIVE, HAMILTON LANE, HICKORY DRIVE AND EVERGREEN DRIVE

(ROSEMARY DRIVE TO WALCUTT DRIVE) AND ALTERNATE BID FOR HAMILTON LANE IN THE SUM OF \$501,954.85, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2/FINAL ORDER DECREASING THE AMENDED CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,172,663.33 TO \$1,107,664.07 WHICH IS A 5.54% DECREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF (\$64,999.26), AND FINAL PAYMENT TO CAPITAL PAVING AND CONTRACTING, LLC (1225 ROUTE 31 SOUTH, BUILDING A SUITE 124, LEBANON, NJ 08833), AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE TWIN OAKS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE I (FOOTHILL ROAD TO MORNINGSIDE DRIVE) PHASE II TWIN OAKS ROAD (MORNINGSIDE DRIVE TO STEELE GAP ROAD) AND STEELE GAP ROAD (TWIN OAKS ROAD TO NEWMANS LANE) FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#22-07-07-199 thru #22-07-07-201](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**2022-2023
LIQUOR
LICENSE
RENEWALS
WITH
CONSENT
AGENDA**

RENEWAL OF INACTIVE PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-33-011-008, RUBY TUESDAY, INC. WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023 FORMERLY LOCATED AT ROUTE 202 - TOWNE CENTRE, BRIDGEWATER

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-204](#) is appended to the official minutes

RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE CHIMNEY ROCK, LQR LLC, NO. 1806-33-017-007 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-205](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Public
Comment**

It was noted that resident Brookner arrived late to the meeting and was afforded the courtesy of making his public comment at this time.

Jeffrey Brookner, 60 Nicole Terrace, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Expressed concern over the Center of Excellence project noting that although he finds the revisions proposed acceptable, the unknowns pertaining to the permitted warehouse use are concerning. He offered we could end up with a huge warehouse and an increased amount of truck traffic and as such suggested that the township would be better served by holding off on approving a redevelopment ordinance until plans are further along. The ordinance can then be tailored to permit the actual plan under consideration.

**Closed
Session**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss litigation, personnel, public safety, EMS 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 Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council

convened in closed session at approximately 8:35 p.m. It was noted that action may be taken once Council resumes open session.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-07-206](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:15 p.m. No further action was taken.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen Kurdyla
Council President