

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**July 18, 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, July 18, 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 (absent)  
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.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh

- Councilman Kirsh stated he has been an advocate to ensure we pursue all appropriate reimbursements from the Federal and State government for IDA related expenses. Administration has moved forward with ensuring that letters have gone out to our various representatives who can financially advocate for our needs.
  
- There has been some follow-up conversation with Somerset County concerning recycling. The takeaway includes a reinvestigation of the number of units that we will be billed for and that moving forward, for

the 2023 year and beyond, that information will be accurate. Additionally, we anticipate our recycling bill will be on hand either late 2022 or very early 2023 so that we are well advised of our financial obligations in good time.

- The S&P Ratings Firm has confirmed the township achieved a positive bond rating which is noteworthy in the challenging and uncertain times that we faced. Councilman Kirsh stated we have had to make very difficult decisions and do things we did not want to do in the face of considerably reduced revenue and other challenges. The positive bond rating reinforces that the actions Council has taken have been the right ones.

#### Councilman Norgalis:

- Last Saturday, Somerset County held a secure shred event at their North Garage site which is located in our town on Chimney Rock Road. For a 9am start, County residents started lining up at 8:30am. Numerous shred trucks were there and once opened, things moved smoothly.
- Millions of Muslims worldwide this month celebrated Eid al-Adha, an Islamic religious festival commemorating Prophet Abraham's faithfulness to God after being tested with the unfulfilled command to sacrifice his son. The holiday also marks the end of the yearly Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

#### Councilman Ring:

- Attended the wake of former Martinsville Rescue Squad Chief Debbie Manna who unfortunately passed away after a long illness.
- This past Tuesday, the Planning Board held a regular meeting where they considered one small application related to a previously approved older home that will be rehabilitated into a subdivision for a second home. This applicant is requesting an extension on previously granted approvals.
- As a follow up to our last Council meeting, Councilman Ring stated he received some communication from the daughter of former late Mayor Al Griffith who was very appreciative of the comments offered at the last Council meeting and asked for copies of his full speech when he took over as the first Mayor under the Falkner Act.

#### Council President Kurdyla

- Nothing new to report.

**Mayor's  
Reports**

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Nothing new to report.

**Proclamation**

**HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER MARTINSVILLE RESCUE SQUAD  
CHIEF DEBBIE MANNA AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO BRIDGEWATER**

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, Debbie Manna was born in Passaic, New Jersey and was raised in Old Bridge, New Jersey, before moving to Martinsville with her family in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Debbie and her husband of 42 years, Jerry, raised their two daughters, Faith and Lauren, both of whom now have families of their own; and

**WHEREAS**, Debbie spent 36 years at Johnson & Johnson working as their Chief Environmental Health and Safety Officer before retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Debbie was passionate about helping others, devoting her last 15 years serving her community by volunteering with the Martinsville Rescue Squad; and

**WHEREAS**, Debbie's dedication to the Martinsville Rescue Squad and its mission led to Debbie becoming the first and only female Chief in Martinsville Rescue Squad's history, serving as such for 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Debbie always put the needs of her community first and foremost, and was a shining example of a true local hero; and

**WHEREAS**, to the regret and sorrow of all who knew her, Debbie Manna sadly passed away on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, after a long and brave battle with cancer; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor Matthew C. Moench and the Bridgewater Township Council express on behalf of all residents of the Township of Bridgewater, past, present, and future, their gratitude and deepest sympathy to the Manna Family and join them in celebrating the life and achievements of one of Bridgewater Township's finest residents.

**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.

*Jennifer Loughran, 716 Falcon Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807*

Thanked Mayor Moench for his attendance at the skating for the Raritan Food Pantry.

In light of the efforts to move forward and discuss the Master Plan, Ms. Loughran discussed Brown Park noting the history of the Park is pretty cool. In the early 1800s, William Bradley was buying up all the land that is now Bradley Gardens but there was one farmer, Alfred Brown who refused to sell to him. It was through a partnership with Anna Studdiford and her son that the farmland was preserved. After Mr. Brown and later, Mrs. Studdiford passed on, her son Walter went on to ensure that his life long neighbor and friend's land would be preserved as Alfred Brown Park. It is a beautiful and active park that is Central to Bradley Gardens and is adjacent to Bradley Gardens Elementary School. Ms. Loughran however noted that the park is in desperate need of remediation that is beyond the hard work and diligence of the Department of Public Works. The old hockey rink is awful, the parking lot is a mess, there is no lighting, the pads are not great and the tennis courts are rapidly declining. In the short term, it would also be great to have some shade on the tennis courts as they are barely usable in the summer for about 3 to 4-hours during the day. Ms. Loughran also suggested that administration tap into the community to promote volunteerism and cultivate stewardship. People are willing to help because this park is a landmark to be proud of as it represents the essence of good neighbors and is a legacy as one of the earliest wins against over development in Bridgewater.

**Steve Wise, 84 Village Circle, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Stated he was present in support of his neighbors regarding the Green Knoll Grille (GKG) noting concern over excessive noise pollution and lack of parking. He offered he has made several complaints because GKG customers take up all the parking and he has in the past had to park farther down from his home.

***Victor Caliman, 79 Village Circle, Bridgewater, NJ 08807***

Mr. Caliman stated he was concerned about reading his prepared speech because it was taken out of context by a member of the press at the last Council meeting. He added he was present as one of 30-families who have concerns about the Green Knoll Grille (GKG) and not as an individual with a personal vendetta. He further stated GKG has a right to operate but reiterated the noise concerns emanating from that establishment. The Patch published an article that was very imbalanced and that made mention of just his family and as such was fearful for himself, his family and his property. In that regard, Mr. Caliman stated on the record that he is not against the ability of the GKG to operate. He added he cares about our community and wants to be good neighbors to GKG but also wants them to be good neighbors in return.

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

Introduction  
of  
Ordinances

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$254,778.42 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER COVID-19 RESILIENCY PROJECT, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$242,040.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.**

Mayor Moench stated this bonding will be covered by a grant and will provide improvements to the senior center including installation of several touchless features throughout the Center, including but not limited to bathroom fixtures, entry doors and lighting and also the construction of an outdoor deck space. It was confirmed that the township will be reimbursed for these expenses on a quarterly basis for a period of 12-months.

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

**[THE ORDINANCE 22-14 WAS INTRODUCED.](#)**

A copy of resolution [#22-07-18-207](#) 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 1st day of August 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**, Joseph Sarno, Chief Finance Officer on behalf of Holman Frenia Allison, P.C., 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**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNI PETERSON AS INTERIM MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR BEGINNING JULY 18, 2022 AND ENDING JULY 17, 2023**

**AUTHORIZING BRIDGEWATER TAX COLLECTOR DARROW MURDOCK TO CONDUCT THE 2022 ELECTRONIC TAX SALE**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO BEST CLEANING SERVICES INC., 1121 EDGEWATER AVE, #21 RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY, 07657 FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, POLICE BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS AND THE SENIOR CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,000.00 FOR THE CONTRACT PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2022 THROUGH JULY 31, 2023**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE 2022-3 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF DARBY PLACE, FOX RUN, ROLLING KNOLLS WAY, AND WINDING BROOK WAY, IN THE SUM OF \$1,011,429.51, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING, ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OVERSIGHT FOR THE USDA-NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION - DRAINAGE CHANNEL STABILIZATION PROJECT TO COLLIER ENGINEERING & DESIGN (DBA MASER CONSULTING) (53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$105,000.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE STREAMBANK ORDINANCE #22-09, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, 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 resolutions [#22-07-18-208 thru #22-07-18-212](#) 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.

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 Councilman Norgalis, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:05 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-07-18-213](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis Council reconvened to open session at 9:21 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Allen Kurdyla  
Council President