

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 1, 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, August 1, 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 (absent)

Also Present: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor
Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

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

Minutes

**JUNE 9, 2022 - REGULAR SESSION
MAY 2, 2022- CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the June 9, 2022 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Norgalis:

- Bridgewater Police Chief Paul Payne has notified the Council, Mayor and Administration that his previous filing with the NJ State Pension Board to retire in September has been withdrawn. He intends to remain on active

duty for the foreseeable future.

- PSE&G is the owner and occupant of a large property on the South side of Route 22. It is used as an administration complex. When site development was before the Planning Board several years ago, PSE&G had requested a one lane emergency entrance on Sebring Ave, an adjacent residential cul-de-sac. (Tax Map Sheet 93). Their request was rejected after a significant public negative reaction. PSE&G has now again returned to the Planning Board requesting a conceptual review of a revised plan for a permanent two-lane private road onto Sebring Ave. We can expect to hear more on this issue in the future.
- Reminder about National Night Out sponsored by the Bridgewater Police Department tomorrow. More from the Mayor in a few minutes
- Somerset County 4-H Fair returns for its 74th Year. Aug 10th to Aug 12th at North Branch Park

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended the Somerset County Regional Center meeting.

Councilman Ring:

- Reminded everyone that National Night Out is scheduled for tomorrow night here at the Municipal complex. The public is encouraged to attend.
- Earlier this evening, had the opportunity to be interviewed by a local scout from troop 46 who needed to interview a public official as part of his merit badge and on his path to Eagle. As a long-term Eagle himself, Councilman Ring stated he thoroughly enjoyed that opportunity.
- There is a Board of Adjustment meeting tomorrow night that is a small application involving a swimming pool, looking for about 1.5-foot relief.
- The last Planning Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of business, the next meeting is scheduled a week from tomorrow night. There is a concept plan review by PSE&G to add a secondary driveway. A concept plan review is not an application before the Planning Board that would require a vote but rather a presentation by PSE&G to the Board to gather their thoughts on the proposed plan. This may or may not lead to a formal application being filed. The applicant is not required to provide notification to the public/adjacent property owners for concept reviews. In addition, Council has limited involvement in the concept plan review.

Acting President Kirsh

- On Saturday morning, Councilman Kirsh stated he had the privilege, on behalf of the Mayor, Council and our community to welcome participants to Divisions and Pathways 5-K Walk and Run held at Duke Island Park. The weather was cooperative following the overnight rainstorm. Visions and Pathways is an organization based in the Bradley Gardens neighborhood of Bridgewater with a mission to assist abused, neglected, homeless and at-risk youth. They provide a critical and necessary part of the social safety net throughout Somerset County as well as the surrounding areas. They had a very successful event, in person, for the first time since COVID-19.
- The National Night Out event is particularly important as it will be returning in person for the first time following a few years hiatus due to COVID-19.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- With regard to the up and coming PSE&G conceptual plan that is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Board, Mayor Moench stated that he and the governing body will listen to what the public has to say about this matter but cannot comment on it. He noted, however, that they are very familiar with the history of this application and the sentiments of the public concerning this matter. The appropriate time for Council and administration to comment is after PSE&G has made presentation before the Planning Board.
- Mayor Moench invited everyone to attend the National Night Out as it will be a great opportunity to support our Police Department and interact with our Police officers.

Proclamation **HONORING JESSIE L HAVENS**

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation noting that Jessie has been diligent in trying to preserve Bridgewater history and teach us about Bridgewater.

WHEREAS, Jessie L. Havens, known by many as the "unofficial historian" of Somerset County, is being honored and saluted by her friends and colleagues in grateful celebration of her remarkable record of research, volunteerism, and accomplishments on Saturday, August 13th; and,

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years Jessie L. Havens chronicled the history of Somerville and Somerset County through her weekly column, "Hindsight," in the Somerset Messenger-Gazette newspaper; and,

WHEREAS, Jessie L. Havens is the respected author of Historic Somerville: Pillars of the Community from George to Ruth; Somerset County: Three Centuries of Progress; Remembering Somerville, New Jersey; and numerous pamphlets; and,

WHEREAS, Jessie L. Havens has been a student of Somerset County history for many decades and has plumbed the depths of microfilm archives in many libraries; and,

WHEREAS, Jessie's historical research, constant pressure, and faithful advocacy motivated her colleagues to assure that Somerset County's part in the American Revolution would be included in the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area; and,

WHEREAS, it was Jessie's perseverance and research that saved the historic Van Home House despite plans to put a road at its doorstep; and,

WHEREAS, for a program about the Hall-Mills trial, Jessie secured a viewing of some of the evidence in the trial; and,

WHEREAS, Jessie has shared our county's Revolutionary War history during the annual Fourth of July celebration at the Washington Camp Ground here in Bridgewater; and,

WHEREAS, Jessie has been instrumental in creating public history tours for the Heritage Trail Association, Inc., including the Five Generals Tour, which showcases the headquarters of Washington and his generals in Somerset County; and,

WHEREAS, within all the spheres of her life, Jessie L. Havens has established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Matthew C. Moench and the Bridgewater Township Council do hereby proclaim their appreciation for Jessie L. Havens' dedication to our shared Somerset county history and congratulate her on this well-earned honor.

Presentation

SEWER UPDATES

Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services was present and made presentation as follows:

Currently there are several Sewer Utility projects that I have been working on

with our Team since the start of 2020. The ultimate goal is to operate the Utility efficiently while keeping a close eye on revenues and expenditures. This will enable the Sewer Utility to operate at the highest level. The Sewers and Sewage Disposal Ordinance was several decades old and went through a very thorough review. I came before this Council with sections of the ordinance as opposed to one amendment for the entire ordinance.

The first proposed amendment was ordinance 22-06 to update the Connection Fees to collect the actual cost.

The second proposed amendment was ordinance 22-08 to establish Pass-through Billing for Bridgewater properties served by a neighboring Towns Sewer collection system. This amendment also restricted water-based billing options. This amendment enabled users the option to install a sewer meter for flows of more than 3000 gallons a day.

The third proposed amendment was ordinance 22-10 to implement revised Sewer Fees and payment schedule. Section 1 B of the amended ordinance read “The rate and charge per unit user and the rate charge per metered volume user effective January 1, 2022, as follows” Section I B. (a): \$472.00 per year for each unit or major fraction of a unit over one unit”

Ordinance 22-10 inadvertently left the volume charge for metered users at the old unit rate

The proposed ordinance amends Section I B. (3) the volume charge for metered users to the correct rates based on the new unit rate of \$472 which is \$4,311 per year for each million gallons per year, metered, prorated on the basis of \$431.05 for each major fraction of 100,000 gallons per year.

MIDDLE BROOK PUMP STATION UPDATE:

Phase I: Bypass install - The contractor has provided shop drawings and is waiting for the materials. Work should commence in 4-weeks.

Phase II - Design Proposal on Station Renovation should be completed by end of week out to bid shortly thereafter.

We will be implementing a system wide metering program with the goal of identifying areas of the Township system which experiences excessive Infiltration and inflow (including the sewers tributary to the Middlebrook Pump Station). Infiltration and inflow (I/I) is excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater.

Following the presentation, Mr. Genova fielded questions from the governing body.

**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.

Christine Rose, 1725 Woodfield Rd, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Ms. Rose stated she has known Jessie since she was a reporter for the Messenger Gazette, right out of college. They both served on the cemetery board and have worked together on a number of things. Ms. Rose also expressed ways in which Jessie has been helpful, including getting things on the national register, and assisting Friends of Bridgewater History with getting monies for preservation. She added Jessie Havens has been an advocate for preservation and making us all aware of the important parts of our history, not only in Bridgewater but also in the County. Former Councilwoman Christine Rose thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation.

Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Stated she is a former Bridgewater teacher and co-planner of the Middlebrook symposium that was held here. As a student of American Revolution, she asked that the township consider using one of the buildings at Camp Cromwell as a museum for Middlebrook. Ms. Barth stated she would be happy to help seek grants to make this a museum before the County's 250th anniversary.

Nancy Yuzuik, 894 Sebring Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ms. Yuzik stated she has become aware that PSE&G is intending to submit a concept plan to the Planning Board on August 9th to build a second entrance exit to the Sebring Avenue cul-de-sac. Ms. Yuzuik expressed she represents many of her neighbors that are against this proposal noting it is not necessary, will cause truck traffic and negatively affect their neighborhood and the value of their homes.

Karen Wisniewski, 267 Park Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ms. Wisniewski stated her backyard backs into the PSE&G property. When they proposed building their current facility in 2016, they told the neighborhood they wanted to be good neighbors. When approval was granted, they followed through on the things they promised including mediating noise and light pollution. The current conceptual plan to have a back-door entrance to their facility was the most contentious part of their original plan and was dropped following the strenuous objection of the neighbors in order to gain their earlier

approval. They have returned and want to increase traffic and noise in a quiet cul-de-sac neighborhood. Ms. Wisniewski stated the current proposal is not about safety, not about access during the floods but about convenience; they want to sacrifice the safety and quiet of the neighborhood for their convenience which is not being a good neighbor.

Anna Xarhoulakos & Mariana Xarhoulakos, 757 Park Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Expressed opposition to PSE&G's conceptual plan for safety reasons.

Erica Caughron, 860 Sebring Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ms. Caughron stated when she looked at the audience, she saw so many faces of people she has known for many years. People move into their neighborhood and they stay because it is a wonderful old-time family-friendly neighborhood that you cannot find everywhere because it is a hidden gem; they are not only neighbors but friends. Ms. Caughron opined that opening this up for PSE&G's convenience will ruin it for everybody.

Caroline Pritchard, 266 Nagle Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ms. Pritchard expressed concern over PSE&G's concept plan review noting they had this in place several years ago and have now waited for a new Mayor, new Planning Board and want to test the waters. She asked that Council find a way to keep them out of their neighborhood.

Victor Campos, 258 Part Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mr. Campos stated he agreed with prior comments. Between 238 Park Avenue and Sebring Avenue, there are 12 children and one of the biggest concerns is safety. Being they have no sidewalks, they would have to worry about the traffic going back and forth. He added he would hate to see their neighborhood ruined.

Kathryn Brower, 827 Thomae Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Ms. Browner stated Thomae Avenue is the closest and most direct route to the Circle from Shepherd. Between Shepherd Avenue and the corner, there are nine (9) children who ride their bikes, play etc. and a neighbor who is a paraplegic. One of the beautiful things about this neighborhood is that it is multigenerational and they all walk on the street as there are no sidewalks. Life would be different for them if the PSE&G conceptual plan was approved.

Jim Fieseler, 867 Sebring Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mr. Fieseler thanked the council for their focus and attention in managing land use as judiciously as possible. He offered there is a lot of concern about the concept plan adding the best time to have this meeting is not now when residents are busy with summer. He requested that the concept meeting be

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

pushed back to the September time frame when we can be certain the neighborhood is properly represented and residents can express their concern over traffic and drop in property value.

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

Mayor Moench explained the law provides guidelines as far as when public hearings are scheduled for applicants and as such was uncertain about the possibility of pushing the hearing to September. He however stated that this will be looked into.

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. BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION. THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER EXECUTED A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR THE PROVISION OF GRANT FUNDS TO COVER THE PROJECT COST IN FULL

Mayor Moench explained this is a grant which requires us to put up the money upfront but is reimbursed within the course of 12-months.

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	Absent

[ORDINANCE #22-14 WAS ADOPTED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#22-08-01-214](#)** is appended to the official minutes

Introduction
of
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 175 (SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL) REVISING THE VOLUME CHARGE FOR METERED USERS FROM \$3644 TO \$4311 PER MILLION GALLONS.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, 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	Absent

[THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#22-08-01-215](#)** 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 15th 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.

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

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

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 22-07-18-211, ADOPTED BY COUNCIL JULY 18, 2022, IN AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$400.00, FOR 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 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$62,400.00 FOR THE CONTRACT PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2022 THROUGH JULY 31, 2023

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ATLANTIC TACTICAL OF 772 CORPORATE CIRCLE, NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070 FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE UNIFORMS, SHOES AND LEATHER GEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FOXCROFT ROAD AND SPRING VALLEY DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDER THEIR 2023 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$564,270.00

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE 2022-5 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF HAELIG COURT, HODGE DRIVE, KALE DRIVE, LINBERGER DRIVE, MERCER STREET, RICHARD STREET, AND SUSSEX AVENUE AND ALTERNATE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF BRIAN DRIVE, LOGAN ROAD, AND A PORTION OF LINVALE LANE, IN THE SUM OF \$976,845.54, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2019, 2020 AND 2021 CAPITAL ROAD FUNDS

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO BLACK ROCK ENTERPRISES, LLC (1316 ENGLISHTOWN ROAD, OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857) FOR THE 2022-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF MIDDLEBROOK ROAD, WASHINGTON AVENUE, WASHINGTON ROAD, AND WOODLAND TERRACE (WASHINGTON ROAD TO MIDDLEBROOK ROAD) AND ALTERNATE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF LEXINGTON AVENUE, LIEDL AVENUE, AND VOSSELLER AVENUE (HILLCREST ROAD TO CEDARCREST ROAD), IN THE SUM OF \$1,900,000.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 AND 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUNDS

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PERMIT FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$840.00 FROM THE FIRE OFFICIAL AND AN ADDITIONAL \$4,620.00 FROM THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$5,460.00 FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H FAIR AT NORTH BRANCH PARK LOCATED AT 310 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER ON AUGUST 10, 11 & 12, 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	Absent

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#22-08-01-216 thru #22-08-01-221](#) 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 Public Safety.

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 8:54 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-08-01-222](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:07 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen Kurdyla
Council President