

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8, 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, September 8, 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.

There was a moment of silence to remember the Bridgewater victims of Hurricane Ida (2021) and COVID-19 (2020-2021) and the victims of 9-11 (2001). There was also a moment of silence for John Hedin, a long-term commissioner for the SRVSA, Dave Whitesell, Fire Service and for Queen Elizabeth.

Minutes

JUNE 23, 2022 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the June 23, 2022 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. Councilman Pedroso abstained.

JULY 7, 2022 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the July 7, 2022 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. Councilman Kirsh abstained.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

- Complimented Council President Kurdyla on his comments regarding remembrance
- Had the privilege of attending the Macedonia Baptist Church 100th anniversary celebration where he read and presented a proclamation from the Mayor and Council. He was joined by Councilman Ring and Acting Chief Mitzak who were warmly welcomed by that audience. There was open acknowledgement by the Church community and the broader Hobbstown neighborhood that they value the relationship they have with the Police and want to see it continue
- Councilman Kirsh stated he was not able to attend Former Chief Payne's walk out as he was out of town but did have the opportunity to attend the ceremony where we welcomed five (5) new officers. This is an important representation of how our Police Department is changing over time
- Had the opportunity to participate in the Audio-Visual equipment conversion in the courtroom and is pleased with how that is going. Councilman Kirsh stated he is hopeful it will be less than one year before we see improvements which will allow for a more comfortable experience in the Courtroom and also allow enhancements for hearing and participating with those joining us virtually.

Councilman Norgalis:

- We just celebrated Labor Day as the practical end of summer although Fall does not begin until Friday, 23 September 2022
- I Participated in the Council initiated assessment to upgrade the Audio-Visual equipment in the Council Chamber. The system in use today has not seen a real improvement in ten years and is sadly in need of work. The Administration has selected Visual Sound of Broomall PA as the vendor under NJ State contract. This is just the first step in what may be a yearlong project
- I am saddened to report the passing of John Hedin. John spent ten years representing Bridgewater as one of two township Commissioners to the

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority. His BS from NJIT in Chemical engineering was put to good use in guiding the authority on our behalf

- Bulky trash dates for the Fall cleanup are Sept. 17 and 24 at the Polhemus Lane location. Times are 8am to 2pm.
- Attended the Bridgewater Senior Center “Red Carpet Event”. Over 120 participants took part under the very able direction of Jennifer Osterberg who was assisted by Judith Cosentino who transferred from the Township Human Resources department
- Speaking of people moves the Clerk’s Office under Linda Doyle is finally back to full strength after the transfer of Alyson Gust from Public Works. Welcome Ally! She along with Juliana Coelho are the true faces of the Council as far as the public is concerned.
- Took part, along with Councilman Ring, in the Quarterly Emergency OEM Planning Meeting chaired by Police Sgt. Jamie Edwards.
- The quarterly Municipal Alliance meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Has been away on vacation the past couple of weeks
- Held a special animal shelter meeting to make a minor tweak to the budget. He is pleased to report the animal shelter budget continues to be a balanced budget for the coming calendar year
- Was regrettably not able to attend the Macedonia Baptist Church Centennial event and Chief Payne’s walk out
- Travelled various places in Florida but did make a stop at the Kennedy Space Center. Councilman Pedroso stated he was able to convince his wife to wake up in the middle of the night and watch the launch of that rocket. They made their way to a beautiful spot of the beach but the launch was corrupt. Hopefully NASA will succeed at some point in getting that rocket off.
- Thanked Council President Kurdyla for the comments and the remembrances of various individuals and events that have occurred
- Wished everyone a happy and healthy school year

Councilman Ring:

- Attended an emergency management council meeting hosted by our county office of emergency management
- Attended, along with Council President Kurdyla, the Green Knoll Volunteer Fire Department 75th anniversary celebration on August 20th. They delivered a Mayor and Council proclamation to them and installed their officers
- The Planning Board met on August 23rd. There was an application for a small conforming subdivision off Woodlawn Avenue. Due to a family conflict, he recused himself but learnt there was a lot of discussion regarding stormwater runoff and drainage related to that application prior to it being approved
- Attended the Macedonia Baptist Church 100th anniversary celebration on August 28th.
- Attended Chief Payne's walk out retirement ceremony in August. Councilman Ring represented the Council and spoke at that event
- Attended a Zoning Board meeting last night. Hearings were scheduled for two (2) small applications both of which were carried to a future meeting
- The township will be hosting the September 11th memorial ceremony here at the municipal complex beginning at 11am
- September 17th and 24th are bulky trash days

Council President Kurdyla

- Attended a meeting regarding the audio/visual equipment for the courtroom
- Attended the ceremony to swear in five new Police Officers
- Spent a few hours with the Clerk and our new hire Aly in reference to procedures related to records management
- Attended the 75th anniversary of the Green Knoll Fire Company

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Stated although school is back, we have not reached an agreement with the Board of Education with regard to school security. The township

offered to the school district that we would provide a police officer for every school to ensure each school is covered every day. The only thing we asked of the school district is that if they decided to hire their own private security, that they not be armed. The concern administration had is that we have two separate organizational forces all operating separately under two different chains of command. The school district turned that down. Our Class III Police Officers dedicated to school security are currently in a reduced capacity under Acting Chief Mitzak's authority.

- Mayor Moench stated other town and school districts were able to reach an agreement and in almost all those instances, the school district was footing a large portion of the bill. Bridgewater township is the only township he is aware of that took the affirmative step of saying we think this is so important that we will foot that bill. More information will follow
- With regard to lunches at the school districts there are concerns about overcrowding in the lunch room. We will continue to keep an eye on that situation and have our appropriate professionals work with the school district if necessary to address that
- Mayor Moench thanked Chief Paul Payne for all his years of service noting he was away as well and unable to attend the walk out ceremony. Mayor Moench wished him well on his retirement and thanked him for his years of dedicated service
- Mayor Moench stated he was extremely pleased to be part of the swearing in of our new police officers noting he takes this seriously because these are the people that protect all our families and there aren't enough ways of saying "thank you"
- Recognized the fire fighters that were present and thanked them for their service adding it takes a lot of dedication to do what they do as they dedicate a large portion of their lives to the service of our community
- Recognized Sergeant Jamie Edwards, OEM coordinator who was present for a different matter. He noted that COVID happened two (2) months after he took on that role. Mayor Moench stated he stepped up and has really excelled in that position
- Bridgewater Community Day is Sunday, September 18th.

Proclamation OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Moench stated Sergeant Edwards's wife had a heroic battle with ovarian cancer several years ago and during that time ensured our community was educated on ovarian cancer including the signs and early detection. Several years in a row, we had the "Turn the town Teal" campaign that she headed and we still continue to keep that tradition alive.

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the leading cause of gynecological cancer death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is known as the "subtle disease" because its symptoms are often difficult to detect, and can mimic those of other diseases and disorders; and

WHEREAS, there is no early detection test for ovarian cancer and recognition of the warning signs are essential to the early detection and effective treatment of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of ovarian cancer include abdominal and pelvic pain, difficulty eating and frequent urination; and,

WHEREAS, because early symptoms of ovarian cancer are commonly overlooked, increased awareness and knowledge of the disease, its risk factors and its subtle symptoms SAVES women's lives and are essential in getting a diagnosis and advantageous treatment for the disease; and

WHEREAS, September has been designated National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Together Teal campaign is dedicated foremost to the proactive awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the Together Teal campaign was built on the vision of Renee Edwards, who launched it in the Township of Bridgewater in 2014 during her battle with ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, teal ribbons will be prominently displayed at the Township Municipal complex in an effort to raise awareness about ovarian cancer and its early symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Bridgewater Township strongly encourages all residents to learn more about ovarian cancer and to spread knowledge of and resources to combat it to

their families, friends, and neighbors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Matthew C. Moench and the Bridgewater Township Council do hereby recognize and proclaim the month of September as NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH and urge all of the citizens of the Township to recognize the critical impact of the Together Teal Campaign and to offer support to those whose lives have been touched and impacted by Ovarian Cancer and participate fittingly in this commemorative event.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID P. WHITESELL,
FORMER CHIEF OF THE BRADLEY GARDENS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**
Council President Kurdyla read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, David Whitesell was born on August 1st, 1957 in Raritan Township, NJ, and resided in Bridgewater for 65 years; and

WHEREAS, David's wife, Cynthia Collins Whitesell, and daughter, Ruby Ann Whitesell, meant the world to him; and

WHEREAS, David devoted 47 years of his life as a volunteer with the Bradley Gardens Volunteer Fire Company, and also served as a Fire Commissioner for Bridgewater Fire District 2, always working to keep Bridgewater safe; and

WHEREAS, David's dedication to his community led him to become Fire Chief, Fire District President, and President of the Bradley Gardens Volunteer Fire Company, he most recently served as Vice President of the Bradley Gardens Volunteer Fire Company, a role he held until his time of passing; and

WHEREAS, David's dedication to the Fire Service extended to assisting members in need of all Bridgewater Township Fire Companies including serving over 20 years of service as Head Trustee to the Bridgewater Township Firemen's Relief Association, a division of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, a role he held until his time of passing; and

WHEREAS, David's service to our surrounding communities extended beyond his contributions in fire safety; in recent years he found his calling as a bus driver for Readington Township School District, a job he truly loved, where he was affectionately known as "Mr. Dave" by the students he drove; and

WHEREAS, David was a faithful and honorable man and a hero to his hometown and people who knew him; and

WHEREAS, to the regret and sorrow of all of Bridgewater, David Whitesell sadly passed away on August 27th 2022, we honor him for serving his community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Matthew C. Moench, Council President Allen Kurdyla, Council Vice President Michael Kirsh, Councilman Howard Norgalis, Councilman Filipe Pedroso, and Councilman Timothy Ring express, in their individual capacities and on behalf of all residents of the Township of Bridgewater, past, present, and future, their gratitude and deepest sympathy to the Whitesell Family and the Bradley Gardens Volunteer Fire Company, and join them in celebrating the life and achievements of one of Bridgewater Township's finest residents.

Presentation

JOE BELL, ESQ, AMENDING CHAPTER 124 - QUARRY FEES

Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney recused himself and left the dais.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated the Council, about a year ago considered a proposed set of amendments to the Ordinance dealing with the Quarry licensing and while that was not acted upon, it prompted the professional staff to meet with representatives from the Quarry in January and a series of subsequent meetings over the course of the year. Mr. Bell was engaged as special counsel to advise the township on issues related to the Quarry. The first step is centered upon the fee structure.

The proposed Ordinance would amend the existing quarry fee ordinance, 124-7 to:

- Increase the fee under the current ordinance from \$300 t \$3,000 and eliminate the \$750.00 inspection deposit
- Establish three separate fees as follows:
 - A flat fee of \$3,000 to cover time and costs for processing, review and analysis of licensing application
 - An annual escrow deposit of \$10,000 to cover costs for the reclamation plan compliance and review, which would be chargeable based on actual time and with any unexpected funds carrying over from year to year
 - An escrow deposit of \$7,500 to cover inspection, compliance and enforcement, which is also chargeable on actual expended and would carry over from year to year
- Clarify and delineate the specific cost items for which the fees are imposed

Administrator Pappas stated this is an initial step towards a more comprehensive modification of Chapter 124.

Attorney Bell explained licensing fees are not a revenue producing mechanism; it is required to be a reasonable reflection of actual costs. He added it is a dollar for dollar accounting of the cost incurred by the municipalities broken down by the estimated time for the various personnel and professionals involved along with the salaries that would be based upon.

The proposed amendment of the fee structure entails a comprehensive survey of other Quarry licensing Ordinances throughout the State. The proposal is well within what is typical and customary throughout the state. He added the current licensing fees have been in existence since 1985 approximately and are well under the actual cost that the municipality incurs for the licensing enforcement that goes with the Quarry.

Following the presentation, Attorney Bell fielded questions from the governing body.

Council offered they would like a copy of this proposal to be provided to the quarry for their review and comment. Council further asked that there is a requirement for insurance. This is something that will be handled as part of the more comprehensive Ordinance amendment and as part of the reclamation obligations

**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.

Anna Granger, 1056 Dellwood Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Ms. Granger stated that the neighbors bordering Warren and Martinsville are very upset because of the recent burglaries and car thefts. Two weeks ago, a woman on Mayflower experienced a burglary at 6pm by masked robbers and as such, everyone is scared of living up there. Ms. Granger stated the neighborhood is initiating a neighborhood watch and needs assistance from the police to monitor and secure the area.

Council President Kurdyla stated this matter is now on record and a conversation will be had with the Police Department to address the issue and initiate corporation with Warren Township.

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

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52 OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", SECTION 52-9, PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES AUTHORIZING A SIXTH PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE PERMITTED DUE TO POPULATION GROWTH

It was noted that based upon the recent decennial census and current population, Bridgewater is entitled to up to six Plenary Retail Distribution Licenses to exist in the Township. In that regard, this ordinance amends chapter 52 to authorize a sixth plenary retail distribution license.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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	Aye

ORDINANCE #22-16 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-238](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-84 (CHIEF OF POLICE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO AMEND THE COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION PROVISION

Township Administrator Pappas stated the proposed amendment permits the township to increase the number of SRO's to three and Class III Officers from three to ten (10). The language does not obligate us to hire these number of officers but allows us flexibility to do so.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

Council was in consensus to vote on this matter after the closed session that is scheduled later this evening.

Councilman Kirsh made motion to amend the agenda and vote on this after the closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pedroso and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Introduction
of
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 566, LOT 6 ON ST. ANTONIA AVENUE (A PAPER STREET) ON THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TAX MAP FOR THE ASSESSED SUM OF THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,200.00) PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 567, LOT 16 ON BROAD STREET (A PAPER STREET) ON THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TAX MAP FOR THE ASSESSED SUM OF TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,600.00) PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5

Councilman Ring made motion to remove the above referenced Ordinances from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kirsh and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNUSED BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IN BLOCK 548, LOT 2, HIGHLAND AVENUE, TO BE SOLD, AS IS, TO THE ADJACENT LANDOWNER(S) AS PERMITTED BY STATE LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)

It was confirmed this Ordinance restricts the sale of property to adjacent land owners and if this doesn't work, we would have to devise other means to dispose-off the property. This is the first step in the ability to sell.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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 Aye

THE ORDINANCE #22-21 WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-239](#) 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 3rd day of October, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNUSED BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IN BLOCK 517 LOT 4, MONMOUTH AVENUE, TO BE SOLD, AS IS, TO THE ADJACENT LANDOWNER(S) AS PERMITTED BY STATE LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)

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 #22-22 WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-240](#) 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 3rd day of October, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNUSED BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IN BLOCK 243 LOT 7.01, WALTER STREET, TO BE SOLD, AS IS, TO THE ADJACENT LANDOWNER(S) AS PERMITTED BY STATE LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)

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

[THE ORDINANCE # 22-23 WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-241](#) 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 3rd day of October, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNUSED BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IN BLOCK 154 LOT 12.01, MAPLE STREET, WILL BE BID PURSUANT TO LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDING LAW AS PERMITTED BY STATE LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a)

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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	Aye

THE ORDINANCE #22-24 WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-242](#) 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 3rd day of October, 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-82 (DEPARTMENT CONTINUED) AND SECTION 4-83 (PROMOTIONS), AND SECTION 4-84 (CHIEF OF POLICE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY CERTAIN PROCEDURES AND CODE PROVISIONS

Township Attorney Corsini advised he conducted a consistency review of the entire Police Ordinance after consulting with both the administration and Acting Chief Mitzak and identified eight (8) sections that needed updating. Those edits consist of simple language edits, the addition of sections where the code was silent on specific administration or personnel issues and further edits as suggested by Acting Chief Mitzak.

Councilman Pedroso asked whether the Superior Officers Association (SOA) was involved in the preparation of this ordinance. Township Attorney Corsini stated none of the amendments have anything to do with the union and as such the SOA was not involved. This is purely housekeeping. Councilman Pedroso asked that this Ordinance be provided to the SOA as a courtesy.

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

THE ORDINANCE #22-25 WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-243](#) 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 8th day of September, 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 JAMES TUMMINELLI TO THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council President Kurdyla stated Mr. Tumminelli has served on the Open Space Committee (OSC) in the past and a request was made by James Weideli, Chair of the OSC to consider adding Mr. Tumminelli to the vacant position. This is to fill the unexpired term of David Stompier who passed away unexpectedly and only runs through the end of 2022.

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 [#22-09-08-244](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (“SRO”) WITH BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION (“BOARD”) LOCATED AT 836 NEWMANS LANE, P.O. BOX 6030, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Councilman Ring made motion to amend the agenda and vote on this after the closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Norgalis and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (“SRO”) WITH BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION (“BOARD”) LOCATED AT 836 NEWMANS LANE, P.O. BOX 6030, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Township Administrator Pappas stated Mr. Giacobbe, our labor attorney provided a memo that outlines a handful of points that are covered in this MOA that is a revision to the contract with the SOA that runs through the end of this year. It primarily addresses the change in health benefits and adjustment to the vacation payout.

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 [#22-09-08-245](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE VALORI GROUP, LLC, 6 TIDEWATER COURT, HAINESPORT, NJ 08036 AS SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-83(A)(2) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000

It was confirmed the Valori group will be hired as a professional consultant to facilitate the evaluation process for the selection of the Chief of Police and to serve on the assessment panel.

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 [#22-09-08-246](#) is appended to the official minutes

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE BILLIAN STREET, KLINE PLACE AND MORTON STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN (DBA MASER CONSULTING) 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$119,160.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2016 SEWER BOND

Mayor Moench explained this has been ongoing since 2016 as there have been many challenges. This resolution will allow us to move the process forward to get this roadwork done. This project was originally combined to address the sewer assessment/sewer lining and the road repair. These two were separated in an effort to expedite and reduce the costs which have been excessively high.

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 [#22-09-08-247](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PAVE-RITE, INC. (40 RADEL AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807) FOR THE EAGLES DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND BRIDGEMARK HOSPITALITY, LLC, GREYMARK BUILDINGS, LLC & BRIDGEMARK DEVELOPMENT, LLC., IN THE SUM OF \$65,000.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2016 VARIOUS SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Township Administrator Pappas explained the township did approve a settlement between the owners of the Greymark property. This resolution engages Paveright to remove the drainage structure that infringed upon this property and the Eagles has approved the construction of a drainage structure on their property that would be the final act in the settlement. This is funded through the 2016 budget as the original work was done in 2016, in the wrong location. Administrator Pappas added we are correcting mistakes made six years ago.

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 [#22-09-08-248](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING DISBURSAL OF \$40,000 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSES OWNED BY COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION, 2 LINDBERGH AVENUE, WARREN, NEW JERSEY A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney recused himself from this matter. Councilman Norgalis stated that he worked for Cooperative housing at one point but did not feel in any way conflicted.

Second paragraph was amended to state as follows:

WHEREAS, the Property is deed restricted for affordable housing for temporarily disabled qualified residents; and

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, 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 [#22-09-08-249](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60.00 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER SENIORS COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH A HINDU NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 FROM 3 PM TO 10 PM AT THE BRIDGEWATER/RARITAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Council agreed that organizations should provide proof of their tax-exempt status as part of the packet to request for waiver. Council was in consensus to move this matter to the October 3rd Council meeting.

Councilman Norgalis made motion to table this resolution. Councilman Ring seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**Closed
Session**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss:

Contract negotiations:

- Municipal Building
- Shared Service Agreement

And Public Safety:

- School Resource Officers

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. At the conclusion of the closed session, action may be taken.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:35 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-250](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 11:00 p.m.

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-84 (CHIEF OF POLICE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO AMEND THE COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION PROVISION

Mayor Moench explained the proposed amendment permits the township to increase the number of SRO's to three and Class III Officers from three to ten (10). The language does not obligate us to hire these number of officers but allows us flexibility if the school board changes their position.

Councilman Pedroso stated he invited Steven Singer of the Board of Education and Robert Beers, the superintendent of schools to participate in our meeting but both advised they were unable to attend. The Mayor and Council have gone out of their way to prioritize school safety and provide law enforcement officers to the schools at no cost but there has been no participation from the Board of Education. Councilman Pedroso opined the Board of Education should be the one to make that request which he would support but without that does not see the purpose for this ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Korsh, 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 #22-18 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-251](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (“SRO”) WITH BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION (“BOARD”) LOCATED AT 836 NEWMANS LANE, P.O. BOX 6030, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Council was in consensus to amend the resolution as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, hereby approves the attached Police Services Agreement and agrees to the following:

1. The Township agrees to provide to provide two (2) School Resource Officers (SROs) to the Bridgewater-Raritan School District during the hours that school is in session from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or as mutually agreed by both the Chief of Police and Superintendent of Schools with costs associates with this deployment to be allocated between the parties

in the manner herein described.

2. The total cost to be allocated amongst the Parties for this deployment plan is estimated to be \$198,736.78.
3. The Township shall fund the equivalent of one (1) SROs and associated supervisory costs in the estimated amount of \$99,368.39.
4. The Board shall reimburse the Township a total of \$99,368.39 in consideration of the costs of one (1) SRO.

Councilman Pedroso stated while he supports this initiative, he would like to hear from the Board of Education.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#22-09-08-252](#) is appended to the official minutes

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen Kurdyla
Council President