

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 16, 2023 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Kirsh 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 10 2023, WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE BREEZE POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND FILING WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Councilman Allen Kurdyla
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Filipe Pedroso (arrived at 7:33pm)
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council President Michael Kirsh

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

Councilman Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

JANUARY 5, REORGANIZATION SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the January 15, 2023 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

JANUARY 19, 2023 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the January 19, 2023 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

FEBRUARY 2, 2023 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the

February 2, 2023 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

JANUARY 19, 2023 & FEBRUARY 2, 2023 - CLOSED SESSIONS

The January 19, 2023 and February 2, 2023 closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla

- We have our Fire Districts' Elections this coming Saturday. Councilman Kurdyla urged our residents to participate. He asked that they review the budgets and support them because in doing so, they will be supporting the volunteers in our township who provide excellent service by protecting our families and properties.
- Will be joining Councilman Norgalis and administration on Friday at 9am to discuss the township's finances.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended the Somerset County Governing Officials meeting where the guest speaker was Robert Swisher, Managing Partner with Suplee Clooney who talked about collecting food to supply food pantries. Bob has been active in food drives for years and is hoping to create some good-natured rivalry between towns in the form of food collections by weight to see which town can collect the most stuff. County Administrator Colleen Mahr was in attendance and indicated that in the past, Fanwood population 7700 (her home town) and Garwood population 4400 had such a contest and Colleen expected to win handily. What she did not anticipate was for one highly motivated Garwood lady to literally go door to door in that small-town seeking food donations. Long story short, Garwood won big time. Bob Swisher is seeking a Bridgewater volunteer to facilitate a Bridgewater campaign. If anyone is interested, Councilman Norgalis asked that they contact him and he will pass on their name.
- Brown Road has had short term flooding in the area of Papen Road during very heavy rain. This has been an issue for the local residents for a few years. Over the past several days, they were glad to see our DPW staff using large equipment to clear storm debris from several of the drainage ditches.
- Sherlin Dr is one street Councilman Norgalis has touched on several times. The project has three components including Drainage, Curbing and Paving. Drainage is essentially complete. The curb work is awaiting the end of the winter season because of concrete work. Paving is the last

step. Weather permitting, Councilman Norgalis stated he hoped to report by midyear that street is done.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended the Somerset County Regional Partnership meeting last week.
- Watched the Superbowl; it was a great football game.
- Was sad to announce Councilman Russell Heller was shot and killed in Milford Township, Hunterdon County. Councilman Pedroso sent his condolences to Mr. Heller's family.

Councilman Ring:

- Attended the jointly sponsored Lunar New Year Celebration at the Senior Citizens Center on February 5, 2023. Councilman Ring expressed his appreciation to the organizers for a well-planned event
- This coming Saturday is the Fire Districts Elections in Bridgewater. There is a piece that was printed by our County Clerk's office on January 26th offering three ways to return your ballot. This included mailing it, using the Ballot Drop Box and bringing it to the County Clerk in person before 8p.m. on Election Day. Unfortunately, the Fire Elections' ballots cannot be returned to the Drop Box because the County Clerk instructed the Municipal Clerks not to open the Drop Boxes for fire elections but that following the fire elections, the Clerks should open the Drop Boxes for the School Board's Special Election. Councilman Ring offered that if we want people to vote by mail, we should have one consistent set of policies for the Drop Boxes noting we shouldn't be opening the Drop Boxes for certain elections and not for others
- The Zoning Board meeting scheduled for February 21st has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda. Their next meeting will be on March 7th to hear the application for Signature Acquisitions which is a proposal to demolish four (4) office buildings on Route 22 and replace them with two (2) large warehouses.
- The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for March 17th. Their last meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Council President Kirsh

- There is a likelihood of confusion when there is no consistency with regard to Ballot Drop Box and concurred with Councilman Ring the rules should remain consistent throughout all elections.

- Attended and spoke at Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in coordination with the Bridgewater Chinese American Association held on February 5. He offered particular appreciation to Henry Wang, President of BCAA for coordinating the highly successful event
- The Bridgewater Raritan School District is having its referendum on March 14th. Community forums to discuss the referendum are scheduled as follows:
 - February 21st at 6:00 p.m. - BRRHS (Community Forum)
 - February 24th at 6:00 p.m. - Somerville Elks (Education Foundation)
- Letter of commendation was written for Robert Petrelli, student in Branchburg, signed by Mayor Moench, Council President Kirsh, and Chief Mitzak. This young man found a sizeable amount of money at Wegman's and reported it so it could be returned to its rightful owner.
- Council President Kirsh offered his condolences following the untimely death of Borough of Milford (Hunterdon County) Councilman Russell Heller. It was noted this is the 2nd murder of a New Jersey elected official within a 1-week span.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Welcomed Bill Savo, Esq. who was standing in for Township Attorney Corsini.
- Met with the owner of Barry's Appliance which is down in the Finderne Area. They discussed the challenges and successes this business has had in Bridgewater.
- Thanked the Board of Education President Steve Singer and Vice President Barry Walker who had reached out to him to talk about a number of issues. Mayor Moench stated he appreciated the opportunity to speak with them.
- Had the opportunity to swear in many of the new line officers and other leaders of our various fire departments and rescue squads during their reorganization meetings. Mayor Moench stated those are always fun occasions and he wished all of them the best in 2023 as they answer to various calls for service in Bridgewater
- Had the opportunity to join the ribbon cutting for Mana Power Yoga in

Martinsville. A young couple in Bridgewater opened this store, Mayor Moench wished them well

- We officially launched the BridgewaterSHIELD program. Its purpose will be to take tangible, productive steps to strengthen and expand the ties between the Bridgewater Police Department and the community it serves. There are ten sessions prepared for residents interested in understanding what it means to do policing in 2023 and especially in the Bridgewater Police Department.
- We have a virtual reality training which is a training technology for the Police Department where officers can put themselves in different stressful situations to assimilate it as much as possible, have training with it and then re-watch how they respond and learn what they can do better in their responses in as close to real life situations as technology can generate. This is being made available to the public so that if they want to understand how this works and want to try it out, they can sign up and go through that experience.
- The last part of BridgewaterSHIELD is coffee with Police Command Staff. This will be opportunities for residents to sit down with our Chief and some of the officers and chat about whatever it is they would like to chat about. This effort is aimed at getting our officers to interact with the community as much as we can.

Proclamation PROCLAMATION

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, throughout Black History Month, we acknowledge the irreplaceable and unquantifiable contributions of African Americans to our nation's history, culture and progress;

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, scholar and a child of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson started the first Black History Week in February of 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, which aligns with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, Black History Week

was expanded and became Black History Month, and is now recognized and celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, former slaves migrated from the South and settled in communities all over the United States to include Bridgewater Township; and

WHEREAS, Hobbstown was founded in 1920 by Reverend Amos, General and Robert Hobbs that they might live in peace and dignity and build a foundation to pass on to their children;

WHEREAS, in the century since its founding within Bridgewater, Hobbstown has been a critical pillar of our historical and cultural community, the legacy of which we are fortunate to be able to treasure to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbstown founder's-built homes, businesses, recreational areas and the Macedonia Baptist Church—all tangible signs of their indelible legacy passed down through the generations to our current moment; and

WHEREAS, we remain eternally grateful that that legacy will be preserved for our entire community, but more specifically that it will be bequeathed to the next generation of Hobbstown families, who will always remain integral members of our Bridgewater community; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, and the Township Council do hereby proclaim February 2023; BLACK HISTORY MONTH As a reminder to all Bridgewater residents to reflect and learn about the role that the African American community has had in the development and progress in our society nationally and right here in our community

Reverend Hobbs and Dameon M. Stackhouse were present to receive the proclamation.

**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 Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

No one wished to be heard

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

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$8,000,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FULTON AVENUE, HANCOCK AVENUE, DUVAL STREET, FARMER ROAD, JUNIPER LANE, BIRCH DRIVE, EVERGREEN DRIVE, HILLSIDE AVENUE, ORCHARD STREET, LOFT DRIVE AND EASTBROOK ROAD, INCLUDING CURBING, MILLING, PAVING, DRAINAGE, SEWER AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND VARIOUS ROAD OVERLAYS THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,600,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Mayor Moench stated we are thrilled to continue year #3 of our five-year road program. The roads noted are not necessarily the total list of roads but a sampling of them. By going out to bid early, we can expect to get better pricing. This bond proposal has been discussed with our finance team so they understand the impact this will have on the budget. Mayor Moench added that if we come out underbudget, we may have an opportunity to work on additional roads.

Councilman Pedroso made a statement as follows:

Today, this governing body is voting to place our fellow Bridgewater residents into an additional \$8M dollars in debt and although I strongly support the vision of the road plan and admire the steadfastness of Mayor Moench's leadership and having the foresight and determination to improve our township roads, I disagree procedurally in the way this governing body is proceeding today. In order to properly manage the debt, it is basic knowledge that one needs to have a grasp of how much money is coming in to determine how much money there is to spend. As of this moment, we have not received the budget for 2023 from the administration and therefore I do not know the state of our township's finances for calendar year 2023. Without knowing the details of our 2023 budget, I cannot blindly support increasing the debt of our township by \$8M. Of course, I am not blinded by the fact that our township needs road repairs. As I said in the beginning, I strongly support investing into much needed road repairs. Certainly, we should invest as much as we can in fixing our township roads but as much 'as we can' can only be determined when we know how much we can and right now I simply don't have that answer so I feel it would be irresponsible of me to support spending \$8M without knowing the details of our 2023 budget. Had I been presented with a budget prior to or simultaneously with this Ordinance and had the access to the financial information needed to make a responsible decision, it may very well be that I would be strongly supporting this Ordinance today and being its biggest advocate. However, I am being asked to place my fellow Bridgewater tax payer resident into a debt when I simply have no knowledge of the township's financial soundness. This is the debt that ultimately belongs to the Bridgewater taxpayer. We should know whether \$8M is

the right number or whether a tweaked lower number is more financially responsible after having a complete picture of our 2023 budget. Therefore, I will vote “no” on this ordinance not because I do not support the road plan but simply because it was presented prior to the 2023 budget.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE #23-01 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-062](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES), ARTICLE V (HOURS), SECTION 52-16 (“HOURS OF BUSINESS”) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO AMEND THE HOURS OF OPERATION TO PERMIT SALES AT 9 AM

Councilman Ring stated that every fall for many years, this governing body has entertained a resolution to allow four (4) of our township’s liquor licensed establishments to sell liquor earlier on Sundays around thanksgiving and Christmas. This is driven by one particular retailer. If we are going to allow an exception every year, then we should look at the law itself and change it.

Councilman Ring offered the State allows municipalities to govern the hours that establishments open to sell alcohol. Our existing ordinance does not specify hours on Saturday. While addressing the Sunday issue, we decided to also address and provide clarity to the Saturday issue.

Some of our neighboring towns such as Warren regulate the hours you cannot sell alcohol. Councilman Ring offered we are hurting ourselves by restricting the

hours in which we allow restaurants to serve alcohol adding we need to help them to become successful.

Councilman Norgalis opined the rules we currently have in place are adequate and as such he will not be supporting this Ordinance.

Councilman Pedroso offered he will not be supporting this Ordinance not because he has a problem with people consuming alcohol but offered he cannot ignore the scientific data that exists. Studies show that increasing alcohol sales, as little as 2 hours, has a direct impact in the crime the community faces. Councilman Pedroso stated his priority is in keeping Bridgewater safe and he does not want to do anything that will increase the burden on the law enforcement or decrease the safety of our residents.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-063](#) is appended to the official minutes

Council President Kirsh 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 2nd day of March, 2023, 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 TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO RENEW A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING YOUTH CENTER OF SOMERVILLE MANOR, INC. FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER BLOCK 515 LOT 4 (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 4430 LOTS

532, 533 AND 542 THROUGH 548) KNOWN AS 1298 PRINCE RODGERS AVENUE FOR FIVE YEARS (FROM MARCH 1, 2023 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2028) AT AN ANNUAL RENTAL OF \$1.00 PER YEAR

Mayor Moench stated this is a continuation of a lease we have had with the Martin Luther King Youth Center for a number of years. Mayor Moench stated he was able to attend a celebration they recently held which was a phenomenal experience. He offered this is a great center that does great work and we are pleased to continue the arrangement we have with them.

Councilman Norgalis stated, and it was agreed, that MLKC shall comply with the following provision in the Ordinance:

The Tenant shall annually submit to the Business Administrator a report setting out the use to which the leasehold was put each year, the activities of the Lease undertaken in furtherance of the public purpose for which the leasehold was granted, the approximate value or cost, if any, of such activities in furtherance of such purpose, and an affirmation of the continued tax-exempt status of the non-profit corporation pursuant to both State and Federal law.

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

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

[THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.](#)

A copy of resolution **[#23-02-16-064](#)** is appended to the official minutes

Council President Kirsh 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 2nd day of March, 2023, 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

ADOPTION OF REFRESHED BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP EMBLEM

Council President Kirsh stated in 1976, a contest to design the Bridgewater Township Emblem was held and thirty individuals submitted entries into that contest. Barbara Kuzio’s design was selected. Ms. Kuzio is aware of the proposal to refresh our township emblem.

Council President Kirsh stated there have always been a few aspects of the emblem that needed to be better defined and this was an opportunity to bring a refresh design that would continue to incorporate the important symbols that are in our current emblem but with a modern look to it. The geographic outline of Bridgewater, trees representing our scenic nature, George Washington, representing our historic nature and a revolutionary war hero flag will remain. Ms. Kuzio’s design has served us exceptionally well for over 46 years and will live on through this refreshed work.

Councilman Pedroso offered a statement which is attached to the minutes as [\(Schedule A\)](#)

Council was in consensus the proposed emblem is a refresh that better defines what currently exists and captures all the pieces that currently exist.

Mayor Moench thanked Council President Kirsh for his work on this. He added the seal of the township of Bridgewater will remain the same, the efforts being discussed here are for refreshing the township logo.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-065](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND \$ 400,000.00

Mayor Moench stated this resolution will allow us to begin moving forward with the road plan as it will take care of the down payment for the \$8M bond.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-066](#) is appended to the official minutes

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND \$113,404.00

Mayor Moench explained this resolution will take care of our contract with Middlebrook Health Commission, the organization that offers us Public Health Services.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-067](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT FUND \$ 295,000.00

Mayor Moench explained this resolution will take care of our recycling contract.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-068](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2023 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$113,404 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 26:3-1, ET SEQ.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-069](#) is appended to the official minutes

SOMERSET REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT-TONI HOFFMAN, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE

It was confirmed Ms. Hoffman has previous experience with the SRAS Board.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-070](#) is appended to the official minutes

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ALTERNATE MEMBER #4 - CLAUDIO VESCIO

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye

Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-071](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP PROSECUTOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-76 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO SEAN KEAN, ESQ. OF THE LAW FIRM OF CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI & JACOBS LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00 (\$600.00 PER SESSION) FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-072](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE 2022 RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL 140 HOUSEHOLDS WITH AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$3,738 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED AGREEMENT AMOUNT OF \$452,031

Township Administrator Pappas explained the tax assessor has clarified what had been some persistent errors with regard to the number of households. An additional 140 households have since been identified for service.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-073](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR 2023 RECYCLING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$452,405 BASED ON A FEE OF \$26.70 FOR SERVICES FOR UP TO 16,944 HOUSEHOLDS FUNDED FROM VARIOUS ACCOUNTS FROM 2022 and 2023

It was confirmed the total households to be serviced is up to 16,944. The collection fee remains the same as last year at \$26.70.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-074](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF SECOND YEAR RENEWAL OPTION FOR THE HVAC CONTRACT TO TLP CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC. OF 400 RIKE DRIVE, MILLSTONE, NEW JERSEY 08510 FOR PLANNED SERVICE AND REPAIR TO VARIOUS TOWNSHIP HVAC SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,610.00 FOR QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE AND \$10,000.00 FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR IF NEEDED FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$48,610.00 IN A PERIOD BEGINNING ON MARCH 1, 2023 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Township Administrator Pappas explained TLP is a new contractor we engaged last year because the contractor that had been engaged before was unable to fulfil the requirements we needed in a timely manner. Administration has observed TLP's plan of action and work and are very satisfied.

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

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye

Council President Kirsh Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-075](#) is appended to the official minutes

APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$32,400.00

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-076](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY PROJECTS

The township had received a \$962,000.00 grant from the Safe Routes to School Program for the 2022 Adamsville School Pedestrian Safety project. This project will be administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-077](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION APPROVING FINAL LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGEWATER FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUADS WHO QUALIFY FOR

CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE TOWNSHIP LOSAP PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET

This item was removed from the agenda.

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC LOCATED AT 128 VAN CLEEF ROAD SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR SPRING TENNIS INSTRUCTION, SUMMER TENNIS MINI-CAMP, AND FALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR BOTH YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS. SOMERSET HILLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION, LLC WILL PROVIDE ALL TENNIS INSTRUCTION FOR 2023 IN AN AMOUNT TO BE PAID FROM THE RECREATION/VENDOR TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY FOR ALL REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED FROM TENNIS PROGRAMS AT NO EXPENSE TO THE TOWNSHIP

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-078](#) is 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, personnel 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 Kurdyla, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:30 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#23-02-16-079](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, Council reconvened to open session at 10:40 pm. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Michael Kirsh
Council President