

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
APRIL 20, 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, April 20, 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
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council President Michael Kirsh

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

Girl Scout Troop 60135 led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Police Officers

Police Chief Mitzak was present for the swearing in ceremony and welcomed the incoming Police Officers. Mayor Matthew C. Moench extended his appreciation to the police force and swore in the following officers:

- Nicholas Bradshaw
- Nick McLaren
- Joshua Sherman

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla

- Attended some budget presentations and was pleased to have had input on the budget and to also have had a healthy debate related to the budget.

- While we acted on the Stempien property about a month ago, everything is moving along quite well. The family has been holding up their end of the bargain as far as cleaning it up. Township attorney Savo is working on the contract regarding same.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended the Hobby Show at the Senior Citizen's Center and realized that many of our senior folks have tremendous talent especially in the arts. That's coming from a guy who can hardly draw a straight line with a ruler.
- While ours is a very active senior center, it is readily apparent that the facility, especially the kitchen, needs a serious overhaul. Mayor Moench has committed to a review by all of our code groups so the large grant discussed in Council earlier this year can be used to best advantage.
- Attended the Somerset County Shred day last Saturday. This was an opportunity for all County residents to securely dispose of important personal papers. Councilman Norgalis stated he made the mistake of going on the first of nine scheduled dates in 2023 and it was extremely busy with four shred trucks. Residents are encouraged to stay in their vehicle so if you go, keep your papers in boxes rather than paper or plastic bags which are emptied by the county employees. Boxes are easier to handle and dump.
- This Saturday April 1st is Opening Day for Bridgewater Baseball Inc. also known as BBI. The ceremony starts at Prince Rogers Field at 10am weather permitting and introduces all the teams that will play.
- For those following the Yankee Career of Anthony Volpe, at 21, the youngest Yankee shortstop ever is a local boy coming from Watchung. Council President Kirsh can probably quote all of his stats from his Patriot career.
- Received an invitation from the Henkel Corporation located on Finderne Avenue offering a guided tour of their Customer Experience Center in our town. The offer was extended to state and local elected officials to tour the facility with senior Henkel executives and become educated about Henkel's business globally and in New Jersey. Henkel is a manufacturer of adhesives, sealants and coatings. Unfortunately, he will not be able to take the tour because of a conflict with a 200 Club meeting.
- Attended the breaking of the fast at the Al-Falah Center on 202/206 as a part of the Islamic month of Ramadan where congregants completed a

month of fasting from sunrise to sunset. This was an Interfaith gathering with representatives from all walks of Bridgewater life. Council president Kirsh spoke on behalf of the township.

- Attended a budget hearing as part of the ongoing 2023 budget preparation process. Attendees included Councilman Ring, who is member of the Finance Committee, CFO Sarno, Administrator Pappas and Scott Stephens. More to follow.
- Bradley Gardens Little Loop baseball first pitch is this Saturday from 9am at Ardmeer Park on Old York Rd.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Appreciated and acknowledged the girl scouts.
- Thanked the new police officers for joining the Bridgewater police force and extended his appreciation to the Police Department for keeping our community safe
- Acknowledged Mayor Moench for bringing the swearing in of the police ceremonies to the Council meetings.
- Councilman Pedroso reminded residents the deadline for filing their tax appeal is May 1st.

Councilman Ring:

- On April 2, I joined my fellow council members at the Bridgewater Baseball and Softball Opening Day Ceremonies at Prince Rogers Field. It was great to see all of the young kids excited for the season. Mayor Moench had the honor of throwing out the first pitch.
- On April 5, I along with Councilman Norgalis attended a Functional Exercise that the Bridgewater Township Office of Emergency Management participated in, in conjunction with the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management. The exercise focused on Emergency Operations Center operations and communications between the town and county during an actual incident.
- In the State of NJ, emergencies are managed at the local level, meaning we, Bridgewater Township, are responsible for managing the incident. The County Office of Emergency Management provides the assistance and support that we may request.

- April 7 was Opening Day at the Somerset Patriots and I was honored to join the Mayor in helping the Patriots kick off their 2023 season.
- Yesterday I, along with Christine Madrid, Director of Human Services attended a presentation by the New Jersey Health Insurance Fund, who operates the Southern Skyland Regional HIF, Perma Risk Management and the Township's consultant, Round Hill Risk Partners on HIFs, which operate like JIFs, but for Health Insurance Coverage. While we are looking at over a 20% increase in premiums this year with the NJ State Health Benefits Program, the Southern Skyland Regional HIF renewal this year was with a rate increase of 0.67%. 5-year average rate increase is running at 5.54%. This certainly sounds like something that merits further evaluation.
- Last night, I was honored to be invited to participate, on behalf of the township, in a presentation hosted by the Friends of Bridgewater History entitled "Bridgewater History, Then and Now". The presentation reflected on the eastern part of the township and showed buildings of the past and what they look like today. There were also presentations on the history of the Middlebrook Encampment and Northover Camp, AKA Camp Cromwell. I spoke on the township's efforts on the Lane Voorhees house, Camp Cromwell, Vaucher Revolutionary War Preserve and the Hancock property. There was also some discussion about the open space tax and about how streets are named in Bridgewater.
- Attending the event were two former staff members of Northover Camp, now known as Camp Cromwell. They suggested that the Township should refer to the property as Northover Camp again, in recognition of the historical significance of the property.
- On land use matters, as some may have heard, the township has been verbally informed of Signature Acquisition's intent to withdraw their application for warehouse on Route 22. As of 4:00PM this afternoon, the town is still waiting to receive the letter. Until such time as the applicant formally withdraws the application in writing, the matter will remain on the Zoning Board schedule for May 9, 2023.
- The Planning Board has a very full calendar coming up on April 25 with the M&M Manufacturing site, a small sub division in Bradley Gardens, GCP aka Hyatt House and Catalyst. Any applications that are not completed, will be carried to a special meeting on May 2, 2023.
- Last fall, when we were discussing EMS and the SASSA RFP, we made the

decision to move away from a paid consultant to lead the RFP. With that, we talked about creating an EMS Advisory Committee to help with oversight of the contract, as well as start thinking about the future of EMS in Bridgewater. Deputy Administrator Winegar has drafted an ordinance, which a copy had been provided to each Council member. The intent is to introduce this ordinance at the next council meeting. If anyone has any feedback on the proposal, please reach out to Wells.

- Lastly, at the direction of the Council President, I also anticipate an ordinance introduction at the next meeting to address the conflicting language on street naming.

Council President Kirsh

- Thanked Girl Scout Troop 60135 for leading us in the pledge of allegiance.
- Bridgewater Baseball and Softball Opening Day was April 1st.
- Council President Kirsh stated a considerable amount of time has been spent on the budget noting it is a very important priority for the community. Same will be presented later this evening.
- Attended the Ramadhan Celebration last night and was pleased to be a part of that event. Council President Kirsh stated he had an opportunity to speak and made brief remarks about the diversity/rich tapestry of cultures and religions in Bridgewater, how that is such a strength to our community and how our celebrating together, regardless of faith, is something we can hopefully continue to do moving forward.
- Council President Kirsh remarked he is wearing his Devils tie and hopes to wear it into May and June.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Mayor Moench stated he was presented, on behalf of the Township, with a Championship ring by Somerset Patriots. He further stated it was a nice ceremony and thanked Somerset Patriots for all they do for our community and for being here in Bridgewater.
- Mayor Moench expressed he is pleased with The Citizens Police Academy that is now in Bridgewater and thanked all that put it together noting he hopes it remains engaging and beneficial to everybody.
- Mayor Moench thanked the Planning and Zoning Boards which continue to do a fantastic job in the township by protecting our quality of life. He

further stated he is confident the Zoning Board will continue to ask tough questions to ensure the applicants who come forward meet the burdens of proof if they are seeking a variance from our land use laws. When it comes to warehouses, Mayor Moench appreciated the Council's efforts earlier this year to prohibit warehouses throughout the township which has given us a lot more leeway in making sure that if applications come forward, we can hold them accountable.

- Mayor Moench discussed the monument application noting he is pleased to see that it will soon be coming to the Planning Board. He added there has been a lot of misinformation out there and clarified that the three signs that were on private property have been withdrawn but the proposal for the sign on the municipal building property still proceeds. Mayor Moench stated this sign will not require removal of any trees by Kid Street. He further stated the administration would like to allocate the \$1M incoming for this project into parks/recreation projects that will last us for decades to come as opposed to putting it in a one-time budget benefit.

Presentation GIRL SCOUT TROOP 60135

Girl Scouts Reiley, Kaitlyn, Aly, Whitney, Alliana, Alexandra, Jessica, and Mary Ella, were present to present their bronze award project "Paws for a Cause". They chose this project not only because they love animals but also wanted to help our local shelter provide these lonely animals a loving home. They offered that a large part of their project is educating the community as to why it is important to adopt from a shelter and the benefits of adopting. They also would like to inform the community that shelters not only have cats and dogs that are put out for adoption, but that on occasion, you can adopt other animals such as rabbits or guinea pigs.

As part of the self-sustaining portion of their project, this Girls Scout troop created a pamphlet for the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter. This pamphlet will be available to the community at the entrance of the shelter and will advise on the many ways to help our local shelter. The girl scouts also discussed the benefits of adopting an animal and some of the ways to help the local shelter without adopting a foster pet and ways to raise animal adoption awareness.

Girl Scouts Troop 60135 welcomed everyone to join them at the Kid Street Playground on April 29th between 12pm and 3:30pm at which time they will be accepting donations to aid the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter.

Mayor and Council congratulated the Girl Scouts for an excellent project in support of the animal shelter. A resolution showing full support and

endorsement will be prepared by legal counsel.

Councilman Norgalis made a motion to endorse the resolution supporting the efforts of Girl Scouts Troop 60135. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ring and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

CHIEF MITZAK, SHIELD PROGRAM UPDATE

Police Chief Mitzak was present for the presentation. He stated that SHIELD stands for Security, Honesty, Integrity, Experience, Loyalty and Discipline. The first three phases of the SHEILD program were “Coffee with the Command Staff”, “Virtual Reality Training”, “The Citizens Police Academy”.

Coffee with the Command Staff was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at the Rock Deli on Route 28 in FINDERNE from 9am-10:30am. Twenty residents responded.

Virtual Reality Training was held on Wednesday, March 29. They tried to keep attendance low in order to accomplish much. The intent was to demonstrate what police can and cannot do as this opens the participants eyes as to the three second decisions that officers have to make. Two people were recruited from that training to our police Academy.

The Citizens Police Academy started on April 6 and we are now onto our third week. We currently have over 20 participants in that Academy. On the first night of the Academy, the participants were instructed on Law Enforcement, The Constitution and The Bill of Rights. They also went over the oath of office that every officer takes. The course is designed to give law-enforcement, at every level, a deeper knowledge and appreciation for The Constitution that we are sworn to support and defend.

Police Chief Mitzak stated the SHIELDS Program is truly bringing the Police Department and the community together. He added his expectations were high when we started, but they have been clearly exceeded. This is just the beginning. We need to follow through with the energy, resources and commitment to ensure that we are pursuing and implementing the best practices of contemporary law-enforcement in our community. Chief Mitzak stated he looks forwards to working with the Mayor and the Council to continue moving us in the right direction.

Proclamation NATIONAL PARKS WEEK - APRIL 22-28, 2023

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, National Parks Week is a time to celebrate the natural wonders that

exist in our country, and to recognize the importance of preserving these precious resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2023, the National Parks Service celebrates the first day of National Parks Week by waiving the entrance fees to many of our renowned National Parks; and

WHEREAS, the National Parks System provides endless opportunities for people to experience the beauty of the great outdoors, to engage in physical activity, and to connect with the natural world in meaningful ways; and

WHEREAS, Bridgewater Township is home to a robust parks system, from the Middlebrook Trail, to the fields of Chimney Rock, to the fountains at Ardmaer, all which provide numerous opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor activities, to relax in green spaces, and to learn about the natural world; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the countless benefits that come from spending time in nature, including improved physical and mental health, increased community engagement, and a deeper appreciation for the environment; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the dedication and diligence of our municipal employees, volunteers, community organizers, Boy and Girl Scouts, and local leaders who work tirelessly to preserve, protect, and maintain our parks for the enjoyment and benefit of our residents;

Therefore, I, Matthew Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, do hereby proclaim National Parks Week as a time to celebrate the beauty and wonder of our national parks system and the local parks system in our own community. We encourage all residents and visitors to take advantage of the many opportunities available to explore our parks, to engage with nature, and to appreciate the importance of preserving these natural resources for generations to come.

**2023
Municipal
Budget**

CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Mayor Moench stated the cap bank is something we do every year. By law, we can increase the budget up to a certain amount but if you increase it less than what you are allowed, you can bank it in the future. Mayor Moench explained this is an accounting issue for purposes of local finance law.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#23-04-20-134](#) 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 18th day of May, 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, the Township Clerk, Linda J. Doyle 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.

INTRODUCTION OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Moench thanked the Council, the budget sub-committee including Council President Kirsh and Council Vice President Ring for their input and for the work they put into this budget in working with Mayor, Administration and Finance Staff.

Mayor Moench explained the actual tax rate will be slightly lower this year. In the past couple of years, we have kept a flat tax rate. This means that if your house is valued the same as it was last year, you will pay less municipal taxes than you did last year. The adverse is true; if the value of your house has gone up, your municipal taxes will go up this year depending on the increase of your home value. It is important to make sure that the tax rate is stable both for this budget and for future budgets.

Mayor Moench further explained the budget is \$500,000 less in spending than it was last year. This means we have decreased the overall spending of the budget. Additionally, Mayor Moench stated we anticipate \$7 million in surplus in this budget.

This budget continues to provide for our priorities. We have additional police

officers that we want to bring in for community policing. We also want to provide additional IT support to make sure that government is running more efficiently with both the police department and administration. We continue to look at increasing services in code enforcement, the tax collector's office, surveyor, zoning, planning, clerk, and the senior center. It is crucial for us to ensure that we run government by providing the resources to our employees, and to all of our departments to make sure that that stuff gets done. Our sewer is operating at a \$350,000 surplus which means the sewer utility is operating in a healthy financial way.

Moench stated that he is proud of the budget and thanked the Council for its input and looks forward to receiving any additional input throughout the next couple of weeks.

Council President Kirsh stated that the past three weeks have been spent combing through the budget, trying to think outside the box and taking a very sharp pencil to the budget. He offered this was a collaborative effort and process and what is being introduced tonight is a spending plan of \$47,219,457.38. Of that amount, the amount to be raised by taxation is 24,398,195.90. The remainder of the monies will come from other sources.

Councilman Ring stated that back in January, he mapped out a timeline for the 2023 budget in consultation with the administration and that included introducing a budget tonight on April 20 and he is happy to report that we were able to follow that timeline. Councilman Ring explained working on the budget commenced over sixty days ago and they were faced with many challenges including inflation and reassessments changing on the residential side due to a strong market. In that time, we have been able to deliver a budget that can best be described as a compromise. We did not receive everything we envisioned in the budget, but there was an act of many discussions in order to come to something that everyone can be comfortable with. Councilman Ring offered he is pleased that we will continue to deliver the services that our residents accustomed to.

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the following report:

WHEREAS, the Municipal budget synopsis will be advertised in the Courier Newspaper at least 10-days prior to the public hearing as required by law;

WHEREAS, that the 2023 Municipal Budget be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute fixing the 18th day of May, 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, the Township Clerk, Linda Doyle will provide a copy of the introduced budget at no charge upon request to members of the public.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the 2022 Municipal Budget was introduced and the public hearing was set. 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 [#23-04-20-135](#) is appended to the official minutes

2023 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND \$3,029,044.65 AND SEWER FUND \$867,313.27

Mayor Moench stated that under the Municipal Finance Law, we have to do quarterly budgets at a rate of 26.5% of the prior year's budget until a budget is passed. This resolution will allow us to continue to operate government until such time as the Council passes the final 2023 budget.

On motion of Councilman Ring, 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 [#23-04-20-136](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Public
Comment**

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak unless there are unusual circumstances.

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

Jennifer Loughran, 716 Falcon Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Spoke in recognition of Earth Day
- In honor of National Volunteer Day, she recognized EMS and Fire
- Invited everyone to the April 22nd Earth Day “Can you Dig it Event” at 1pm at Chimney Rock Park. They will plant some flowers and have a “Seed Bomb Station” which is a mixture of pollinator seeds and sunflower seeds that you pack with dirt then throw out in order to grow plants or so that birds can pick up and drop off elsewhere
- Thanked the department of public works for being really supportive of this project and for their work in general

Joseph Kirk, 60 Overlook Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Expressed his opposition to the proposed Monument/Billboard noting concern with data collection and public safety. He also questioned what future arrangements have been made after 10-11 years which is how long bill boards last

Mike Goedken, 1746 Mountaintop Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Expressed he opposes the Monument/Billboard noting damage to community and lifestyle. He referenced a British Broadcast (BBC) article that public income from advertising is minimal and dwarfed by the long-term costs. He offered billboards are a road hazard and are associated with highways and large cities and that high-income areas are protected from this type of advertising which is more prominent in low income areas

Patty Selikoff, 16 Gibson Terrace, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Expressed opposition to the Monument/Billboard
- Pleased with the Zoning Board for having high standards and asked that the Council do the same as far as the proposed monument. She stated concern with long term light pollution and future implications and adverse effects to the character of Bridgewater

Justin Carlton, Esq. Present on behalf of his client Johnathan Baczewski who resides at 21 Vones Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- The property in question is a 2-lot subdivision with a unique subdivision line, One in Raritan / One in Bridgewater at Edgewater Place. Raritan controls the property as far as land use and taxes. His client would like to permission for the use and improvements to the right of way. He added his client is happy to undertake ongoing maintenance and responsibility for that right of way and wondered how this can be effectuated. Following completion of improvements, they would also like to terminate the joint services agreement which would return authority back to Bridgewater, discussions have already been initiated with Raritan.

- Councilman Norgalis offered the appropriate avenue to make negotiations is with the Administrator Pappas and Township Planner Doyle

Jane Gandolfe, 2000 Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Thanked Councilman Ring for attending the History Event last week and invited him to attend one of their presentations to learn more about their program
- Requested that the budget line include Historic Preservation
- Thanked Chief Mitzak and the Command Staff for the “Coffee with Command Staff” event held with community at the Martinsville Center

Al Ramsay, 27 Linvale Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Expressed opposition to the Monument noting proposed location is a dangerous intersection. He further expressed concern over the effect this will have on the character of the neighborhood

Jill Gladstone, 25 Linvale Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Congratulated new Police Officers adding she appreciates the Swearing In during Council sessions
- Requested that the introduced Budget be made available on the township website and expressed disappointed that the budget doesn’t have details for the public
- Stated a petition will be submitted on May 4th in opposition to the Monument noting safety concerns with distracted drivers and personal trauma associated. MS. Gladstone read some comments from residents who are opposed to the proposed monument

Kathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Offered the budget should link to website and/or shared with the public
- Questioned who the public should relay budgetary questions to
- Expressed she does not support the Monument/Billboard
- Acknowledged the Zoning Board for their stringent questions to other billboard applicants
- Questioned why is the Planning Board is doing a courtesy review and not going through a site plan review process for the proposed monument
- Questioned why Community input has not been sought with regard to the monument
- Questioned what due diligence has been considered for Catalyst to ensure they will be around for the life of the agreement

Virginia Schrom, 126 Morton Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

- Spoke in opposition to the Electronic Billboard noting the CVS application was not permitted to have this type of signage

- Questioned what is the outstanding debt in the budget. Mayor Moench replied the debt payments in this year's budget for the debt we already have are essentially equal from last year.

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

Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances

ORDINANCE AWARDING A LEASE TO CONSTRUCT A MONUMENT DISPLAY ON A PORTION OF TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER NEW JERSEY, AND IDENTIFIED AS LOT 42, BLOCK 411.01 OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP TAX MAP TO 100 COMMONS L BRIDGEWATER LH, LLC (3400 WEST CHESTER PIKE NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073) HAVING SUBMITTED THE ONLY BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 ONE-TIME FEE AND \$12,000 ANNUALLY

Council President Kirsh stated the public hearing for this Ordinance has been carried to May 4, 2023

AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL ARTICLE XXXIX, SPECIFIC FLOODPLAIN REQUIREMENTS, SECTIONS 126-289 TO 126-299; TO ADOPT A NEW ARTICLE XXXIX, SPECIFIC FLOODPLAIN REQUIREMENTS, SECTIONS 126-289.101, ET SEQ.; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Ring stated this Ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Board at their last meeting. A memo was provided by Township Planner Doyle expressing the Planning Board's endorsement of it. He added this is something Council has to take action on in order for our residents to be eligible for FEMA in the event of flooding.

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

ORDINANCE #23-02 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-04-20-137](#) is appended to the official minutes

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE TOWNSHIP’S AUTHORITY AND CONTROL OVER A PORTION OF VALLEY VIEW ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE #23-08 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-04-20-138](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

SOMERSET REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT - TONI HOFFMAN

Council President Kirsh stated Toni Hoffman is being moved from an alternate position to a full member. Council expressed appreciation for Councilman Pedroso’s work on the animal shelter board during a period of uncertainty with the animal shelter.

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 [#23-04-20-139](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING BRIDGEWATER TAX COLLECTOR DARROW MURDOCK TO CONDUCT AN ELECTRONIC TAX SALE

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 [#23-04-20-140](#) is appended to the official minutes

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER TO THE BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR ANTICIPATED REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE COLLECTION OF SENIOR PROGRAM FEES AS REQUIRED BY THE N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29, ET SEQ.

It was confirmed fees are dependent on activity.

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 [#23-04-20-141](#) is appended to the official minutes

AMENDING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR RESOLUTION NO. 23-03-30-125, TO REIVAX CONTRACTING CORP. (165 RIVER ROAD, FLEMINGTON, NJ 08822) AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE BILLIAN, MORTON & KLINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, IN THE BASE BID SUM OF \$1,140,734.91, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 & 2018 CAPITAL SEWER FUND. ONE BID FROM ADG CONTRACTING WAS REJECTED ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL DUE TO MISSING SUBCONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE

It was confirmed that the difference in price from the approved bid and the rejected bid is about \$10,000.00. Mayor Moench expressed the Administration is very pleased to move forward with this project.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#23-04-20-142](#) is appended to the official minutes

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE SALE OF BLOCK 154, LOT 12.01 ON MAPLE STREET, BLOCK 548, LOT 2 ON HIGHLAND AVENUE, AND BLOCK 517, LOT 4 ON MONMOUTH AVENUE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a) AND (b)(5) AND AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY CORSINI TO PREPARE ALL CLOSING DOCUMENTS

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 [#23-04-20-143](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$604,936.80 TO \$541,886.72 A DECREASE OF 10.4%

OR \$63,050.08, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO ADG CONTRACTING CORP. T/A CROSSROADS PAVING (386 SOUTH STREET, SUITE 169, NEWARK, NJ 07105) FOR THE 2021-1 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ENTIRE LENGTHS OF FIELD STREET, GRAND BOULEVARD, MANVILLE BOULEVARD, RIHA STREET, AND WOODROW AVENUE, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,119,062.80 TO \$890,589.55 A DECREASE OF 20.42% OR \$228,473.25, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO ADG CONTRACTING CORP. T/A CROSSROADS PAVING (386 SOUTH STREET, SUITE 169, NEWARK, NJ 07105) FOR THE 2021-3 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ENTIRE LENGTHS OF BURNING BUSH ROAD, CAMELOT DRIVE, FALCON COURT, MOUNTAINVIEW AVENUE, RED LION WAY, ST. GEORGE ROAD, AND VICTOR STREET (MOUNTAINVIEW AVENUE TO BYRD AVENUE), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE BY THE SUM OF \$110,424.89 FOR THE STONY BROOK DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SECTIONS I & II WITH ADG CONTRACTING CORP. T/A CROSSROADS PAVING (386 SOUTH STREET, SUITE 169, NEWARK, NJ 07105) FROM THE CONTRACT PRICE OF \$1,067,014.92 TO \$1,177,439.81 FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL BOND

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolutions were 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.

Copies of resolution [#23-04-20-144 thru #23-04-20-146](#) 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 litigation.

When and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made

known to the public at that time.

The public is excluded from said meeting and further notice thereof is dispensed with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:46 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#23-04-20-147](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:21 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Michael Kirsh
Council President