

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
JUNE 8, 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, June 8, 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

Councilman Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

**MAY 18, 2023 - REGULAR SESSION**

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the May 18, 2023, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**MAY 18, 2023 - CLOSED SESSIONS**

The May 18, 2023, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla

- Met with the remaining members of the Martinsville VFW Post 6588 at Chimney Rock Park on Memorial Day. Councilman Kurdyla stated it was his

37<sup>th</sup> time meeting with this group.

- Attended an open space meeting on Monday, June 12th to begin planning for 2023-2024.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Thanked everyone for attending tonight's Council meeting and braving the poor air quality caused by the Canadian fires. Just a week ago, we generally had no knowledge of air quality measurements. Now we know under 40 is good and 400 is really bad.
- Participated, along with members of the Bridgewater Woman's Club, in working a concession stand at the Patriots Stadium. A portion of the proceeds will be returned to the Woman's Club to support their numerous missions. Councilman Norgalis stated he is an honorary member of the Woman's Club; he doesn't pay dues and doesn't get to vote.
- Was a guest of the RWJ Somerset Hospital Foundation at a small gathering at NATIRAR in Peapack. The main event was a talk by the Chief Operating Officer about the past, present, and future of the hospital.
- Attended the opening day of baseball at Patriot Stadium. Mayor Moench was one of the guest speakers along with Josh Kalifer, the co-owner of the stadium. This was to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Stadium.
- Attended the monthly Municipal Alliance meeting. There was an extensive discussion of some of the issues faced by our police SRO's. An extensive package of handouts has been developed and copies given to the SRO for their interfaces with students. One of the biggest issues in high school is vaping in the bathrooms. Some students feel vaping is safe but it is not. Other handouts covered alcohol and opiates.
- There was a JCP&L outage in the northwest section of Bridgewater that lasted about 4 ½ hours. One JCP&L spokesman said 360 customers were affected while their website said up to 1300. A squirrel chewed through an overhead wire and caused the issue.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended the Somerset Patriots' 25th season anniversary celebration. Councilman Pedroso thanked the Kalifer family for the invite noting Steve was missed, but we know he was proud.

#### Councilman Ring:

- Attended the spring carnival and greeted residents during the bulky trash dump day. Our finance committee had a few meetings, and we made excellent progress on the first responders' memorial project.
- At a recent Planning Board meeting, the Petersburg Innovation Center unveiled its land use plans. The initial phase of development was showcased, with a goal to complete the site in three to four phases. A special Planning Board meeting on June 13th will address the M&M manufacturing facility and catalyst.
- Early voting impacted a Zoning Board meeting last week, but the next meeting is still set for June 27<sup>th</sup> in the courtroom.

#### Council President Kirsh

- President Kirsh stated that tonight, we are using our brand-new audio, video, and broadcast system for the first time. The Council had allocated money for this important purpose in both 2021 and 2022. Scott Stevens, the project manager, has been working with our vendor. The administration is to be commended for the work they have done in this regard.
- The Council meetings previously scheduled for June 22nd and July 6th will be held on June 29th.
- The Planning Board is expected to hear the Catalyst application at its June 13 meeting. A final hearing on the Catalyst Application will be conducted on June 29th.
- Attended the Memorial Day parade and ceremony in the Bradley Gardens on May 29th. This event was hosted by the American Legion Post 327.
- Attended the Somerset Patriots' 25th season anniversary celebration. This was a great event hosted by the Kalifer family.
- A special thanks to Linda Doyle and her staff for their great work on the primary elections. The elections have evolved, we now have early voting, new machines, and new procedures. Overall, it was certainly a success.

#### Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- On behalf of the administration, Administrator Pappas thanked Scott Stevens and others who made the transition to the new AV system possible and successful. The new system has two screens on the side that

can be swung to the side, depending on the size of the crowd, to give viewers a slightly better view.

- In terms of the Council agenda tonight, there are two more contract awards for our 2023 Road Program. Administrator Pappas stated we anticipate a very efficient road construction program this year, weather permitting.

## Budget

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT**

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

Councilman Norgalis made a motion to hold a public hearing on the 2023 municipal budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ring and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

A copy of resolution [#23-06-08-172](#) is appended to the official minutes

### **ADOPTION OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AS AMENDED**

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, 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 [#23-06-08-173](#) is appended to the official minutes

Council President Kirsh stated a municipal budget reflects the values of the community we represent as elected officials. No budget is perfect, especially in

tough economic times; expenses are not always predictable. The budget that is presented is extremely prudent and responsible. We have been able to lower the tax rate and were able to spend \$47,214,775.68 for municipal operations and \$11,678,201 for sewer. Special recognition to Joe Sarno in his role as our Chief Financial Officer. It was he who presented a budget that we are now adopting.

Councilman Ring stated when this budget process started, there were four different opinions on what the budget should or should not look like. Overall, there were many compromises and this budget should serve the community very well.

Councilman Norgalis voiced that planning a budget is an arduous process, time-consuming, and very frustrating.

Councilman Pedroso stated he had served on the Budget and Finance Committee for many years noting that budgeting can be time-consuming. He offered, however, that he will continue to vote “no” on the budget because the amount that is being raised through taxation is beyond his comfort level. Councilman Pedroso stated that at this time, he would prefer to see more cuts in spending and also in non-essential services.

Administrator Pappas, on behalf of the Mayor and the administration, thanked the Council, as well as the Council Finance Committee for their tireless efforts. He also thanked CFO Sarno and our department heads who have been very patient during this process.

Council was in consensus in appreciating the work that went into preparing this budget and commended all involved in the process including the Mayor, Administrator, Finance, CFO, Budget Committee, and Council.

**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.

**Maxine Mastoperto, 30 Fairmount Avenue**

- Ms. Mastropietro expressed her dissatisfaction with a grant she received through Rehabco. Council President Kirsh provided a response to the concerns raised and directed MS. Mastoperto to leave her contact information so that administration can contact her.

Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
Ordinances

**Jennifer Loughran, 716 Falcon Court**

- Praised the community policing course and the ongoing relationships built with police officers. She reported that BK Skates is proud to support the 2nd annual Bike Rodeo event on June 24 with the Bridgewater Police Department. Council President Kirsh thanked Ms. Loughran for her participation.

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126 (LAND USE), ARTICLE XXX (DESIGN STANDARDS), SECTION 126-241 (“STREET DESIGN STANDARDS”), SUBSECTION H (“NAMES”) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO CLARIFY STREET NAMING PROCEDURES**

Councilman Ring stated that there have been discussions and inquiries about the township’s street names, and a review of the township Ordinances. The town is divided into seven zones, and if someone wants to name a new street, they are given a list of street names by the town that are pre-approved and have some sort of historical significance. This ordinance revision will make our Ordinances consistent with the Master Plan, where any of those requests for approval would now come to the Council.

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 Ring, 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

**ORDINANCE #23-11 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-06-08-174](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**Resolutions**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,056.00, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, FOR V.F.V. PROPERTIES, INC., BLOCK 140, LOT 5 & 5.01 - 31 & 33 ARDMAER DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ**

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,754.80, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, FOR V.F.V. PROPERTIES, INC., BLOCK 458, LOT 23 - 799 GARFIELD AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#23-06-08-175](#) and [#23-06-08-176](#) are appended to the official minutes

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE 2023-4 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF ARNOLD PLACE, BIRCH DRIVE, MAGNOLIA DRIVE, EVERGREEN DRIVE, DONNA COURT, SKY HIGH TERRACE, AND TIMBERLINE DRIVE, IN THE SUM OF \$1,103,785.40, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE 2023-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF APRIL DRIVE, EASTBROOK ROAD, MAYFLOWER COURT, LOFT DRIVE, AND WEEMAC ROAD, IN THE SUM OF \$1,014,857.97, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

Township Administrator Pappas explained that these titles are very descriptive. We received quotes from a number of contractors, and are delighted with this specific contractor's work because they operate with great efficiency and provide outstanding work.

Councilman Ring stated that, in comparison with previous years, we are early. As the year progresses, we will have encouraging developments to share with our residents and "shovels in the ground."

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, 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 RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#23-06-08-177](#) and [#23-06-08-178](#) are appended to the official minutes

**REIMBURSEMENT OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100 FOR SSL PLAYGROUND GROUP, INC. 1015 N SHORE DRIVE, BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920 IN CONNECTION WITH A FUNDRAISING BEER FESTIVAL AT SUNSET LAKE ON SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 FROM 3 PM TO 7 PM**

Township Administrator Pappas explained this request was not able to be placed on Council's agenda prior to May 12.

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	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-06-08-179](#) is appended to the official minutes

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
2023-2024  
LIQUOR  
LICENSE  
RENEWALS**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSES**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING: SQUIRES CORNER LIQUORS, INC. T/A SPIRITS OF THE VALLEY, KRISHA BEVERAGE T/A BRIDGEWATER WINE & SPIRITS, WEGMANS**



**FOOD MARKETS, INC. AND RAMARAM, INC., T/A BUY BEST WINE & LIQUORS**

**2023-2024-RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION FOR THE HYATT HOUSE OF BRIDGEWATER, HILTON GARDEN INN, HAMPTON INN AND SUITES AND AC MARRIOTT BRIDGEWATER**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE CAFÉ EMILIA, INC. WITH CONDITION**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION MARRIOTT HOTEL SERVICES, INC WITH CONDITIONS**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-021-009, FOR MISH-J.O. INVESTMENT CORP. T/A GREEN KNOLL GRILLE WITH CONDITIONS**

**RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE SOLO BRIDGEWATER, LLC, NO. 1806-32-003-006 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024**

**RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE CHIMNEY ROCK, LQR LLC, NO. 1806-33-017-007 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024**

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-33-011-009, FOGO DE CHAO CHURRASCARIA (BRIDGEWATER) LLC, t/a FOGO DE CHAO FOR PREMISES LOCATED AT BRIDGEWATER COMMONS MALL, 400 COMMONS WAY, SPACE 2690, BRIDGEWATER CURRENTLY HELD IN INACTIVE STATUS**

**RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-44-044-003 FOR WINE OUTLET BRIDGEWATER, LLC, 120 EMILY PLACE, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 CURRENTLY HELD IN INACTIVE STATUS**

Council President Kirsh read the following statement sent by David Cassidy, Esq. of Vlasik & Shmaruk, LLC representing Green Knoll Grill.

“For purposes of Thursday's renewal, please accept this statement of objection to any conditions on the Green Knoll Grill's liquor license. For the reasons set forth in our appeal of the 2022 special conditions and the fact that the Green Knoll Grill has been a law-abiding citizen for the past several years without

incident of any significance, all conditions should be removed as inappropriate, burdensome, and unnecessary. These are not lifelong conditions but reviewed annually, and our client does not consent to continued special conditions on its liquor license, and we request removal. Certainly, there are town-wide noise ordinances and other municipal regulations and state laws that would govern our client that make the special conditions inappropriate, burdensome, and unnecessary.”

Councilman Ring stated that was Mr. Cassidy's statement and confirmed that he was not present. He provided Council with a letter providing his opinion, but Council was not given a chance to ask him any questions regarding his statement.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#23-06-08-180](#); [#23-06-08-181](#), [#23-06-08-183 thru #23-06-08-190](#) are appended to the official minutes

**2023-2024 RENEWAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER CLUB LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING: SOMERSET AERIE #2137 FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, SOMERVILLE LODGE OF ELKS POST #1068, RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB**

Councilman Ring abstained from this vote, as he is a member of the Elks.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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	Abstain
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-06-08-182](#) 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 personnel, litigation, 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 Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:26 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#23-06-08-191](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:36 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Michael Kirsh  
Council President