

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JUNE 29, 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 29, 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 POSTED 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: 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

JUNE 8, 2023 - REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the June 8, 2023, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

JUNE 8, 2023- CLOSED SESSIONS

The June 8, 2023, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

Council Reports

Councilman Kurdyla

- Attended the Open Space meeting on June 12th. The focus of the meeting was to set priorities for the Open Space Committee for 2023. Councilman

Kurdyla further reported that the Stempien property has officially closed, adding that one of the benefits of the Stempien property closing is that it will provide the long-awaited access to the Wemple property.

- Congratulated all graduates from middle school, high school and college. He also congratulated all the parents who have walked side by side with the graduates throughout the years and wished everyone all life's joys.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Had the honor of being a guest speaker at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Society in celebration of the International Day of Yoga. One of the other speakers was Dr. Varun Jeph Deputy Consul General of India. He took time from his meeting in Washington DC with the Indian Prime Minister and our President to share some thoughts about cooperation between India and the USA. Unbeknownst to Councilman Norgalis, Niren Choudhury from the Temple saved the Proclamation that Council gave the Temple last year and had arranged with Deputy Consul Jeph for him to represent the proclamation to Consul Jeph who would take it to Washington and have it displayed there.
- Councilman Norgalis reported there were eleven (11) Yoga organizations participating in the full-day program at the Hindu Temple with each displaying its unique Yoga abilities. The most dramatic was Mallakhamb which involved young boys and girls performing complex maneuvers while climbing a 10 ft free-standing teak pole.
- Attended the annual picnic at the Center Bridge Senior Citizen complex which is located by the post office. Center Bridge is the oldest senior living facility in our town and is owned by the township. He, as well as Councilman Pedroso are members of the boards of directors for each of the two buildings. The township is justifiably proud of the part they play in the lives of these active senior citizens.
- Councilman Norgalis reported that both he and Councilman Kurdyla had grandchildren graduating from Bridgewater Raritan High School this year. Unfortunately, the ceremony was moved inside just 90 minutes before it was scheduled to begin due to a rain threat. Inside seating meant reduced ticket opportunities so, due to their large families, both of them got to watch the 2023 graduating class on YouTube. Councilman Norgalis Congratulated all the graduates and their families and sent best wishes as they move to the next season of their lives.

- For those who are fathers or fill in for others, who for one reason or another cannot fulfill that role, Councilman Norgalis wished all a happy belated Father's Day.
- Councilman Norgalis stated that a somewhat hazy and smoky Spring is here. He asked all to be mindful of the air quality alerts and to wear a mask when appropriate for their health situation.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Councilman Pedroso read a statement as follows:

I have recently been informed that some teenage girls under the age of 18 while working for a retail store within the Bridgewater Commons Mall were exposed to conduct from a manager that was highly inappropriate, constituted harassment and involved sexual undertones. It appears that this manager was previously fired for inappropriate behavior and rehired by the same employer. The Bridgewater Commons is a popular place for Bridgewater teenagers to seek summer employment and part-time jobs throughout the school year. According to the National Retail Federation, nearly a third of all Americans identify retail as their first job. In the United States, one in four teenagers work in retail. My presumption is that in Bridgewater, that number is even higher due to our close proximity to the Bridgewater Commons. And reflecting upon this issue, I've become increasingly aware of the lack of knowledge and awareness among teenagers, especially young women, when it comes to recognizing and responding to inappropriate workplace conduct.

As a representative of Bridgewater Township, I believe we have an inherent responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents and neighbors employed at the Commons. With such a significant portion of our teenagers working within its walls, it is imperative that we take proactive measures to protect our community's children. To that end, I have personally reached out to Mr. Troy Fisher, the General Manager of the Bridgewater Commons, sharing the details of this distressing incident. I have proposed that the Bridgewater Commons consider including a provision in their lease agreements for new or renewing tenants, mandating that mall tenants provide sexual harassment training for their management and employees.

This type of training is now inexpensive and readily accessible through online courses, posing no significant burden on the thriving businesses we all cherish at the Commons. Additionally, I have suggested that new and renewing tenants be required to prominently display notices in private employee areas, clearly outlining the reporting procedures for any form of inappropriate conduct to senior staff within the store. These recommendations, rooted in the pursuit of safe work environments devoid of intimidation and sexual harassment, place

practically no hardship on the businesses we value. They serve as a testament to our commitment to upholding the principles of fairness, respect, and protection for our youth.

Although I appreciate that Mr. Fisher responded to my letter 42 minutes after its receipt, I was deeply disturbed that instead of sharing a mutual concern for our youth within the walls of the Bridgewater Commons, the response feels more like a diversion and a refusal to give this matter any attention, stating “Myself or Bridgewater Commons cannot and should not even address this matter in any way with the noted limitations by employment law and the involvement of minors. What I can and will tell you is all of the leases require each and every tenant to comply with all local, state, and federal regulations” I feel this response is insufficient. I was not asking the Bridgewater Commons to address the specific harassment matter, but instead proposing how to make the Commons a better workplace environment in the future. The Bridgewater Commons has a responsibility and quite frankly, a vested interest to ensure that all its tenants uphold the highest standards of safe and proper work environments, aligning with good business practices for the benefit of their brand reputation and the collective success of their tenants.

I hope and believe that the Bridgewater Commons has within its rights the ability to include a lease term for all future tenants and those wishing to renew that would mandate a sexual harassment training requirement. That, plus the poster paper notice on the wall is simply all I ask for the Bridgewater Commons to consider. The purpose of my letter to the Bridgewater Commons was not to cast blame or seek retribution against the store, but instead focused on what can be done to avoid these incidences from happening in the future. In the response, I am deeply disappointed that the management of the Bridgewater Commons seems to lack the concern necessary to protect the thousands of minors employed within its premises by various stores. It should be clear, I personally am not a fan or supporter of excessive regulation and placing obstacles on businesses, just the opposite. But we cannot as a society and as a government overlook the duty to protect the children. My proposal, which seeks to enhance awareness of workplace harassment, while imposing minimal expenses on the businesses, strikes a balance between protecting our teenagers and supporting our local businesses that are so vital to our local economy.

Finally, I'd like to take this moment to remind parents and encourage parents to speak to their teenagers when they are seeking their first jobs about workplace sexual harassment. Explain to them the broad definition of what it means to be sexually harassed at work, that they should not tolerate it, and that they should properly inform mom or dad about what is happening. Parents, you may think that your teenager is mature and gets it, but many sexual harassment incidents

go unreported. The best way is to talk about this topic at home and make your child comfortable enough to talk to you if something should happen.

Today, the need to protect the children has never been more important. Whether it's sexual harassment in the workplace or inappropriate social indoctrination in the schools, children don't always have the means nor knowledge to protect themselves. And therefore, we need to stand up for them on what is right. I will continue to pursue this issue with the Bridgewater Commons and its new ownership in the coming weeks. I have known Mr. Fisher for quite some time, and I respect his role and admire his commitment to the Bridgewater Commons. I remain optimistic that we can find common ground in ways to better safeguard the mall's youth employees, and I will report back. Thank you.

- Councilman Pedroso wished everyone a happy 4th of July

Councilman Ring:

- Shared an email received from Mary Jane Stempien:
My sister Catherine Harnett and I are very pleased that our five-acre Bridgewater property is now preserved for public enjoyment. We wish to thank the Bridgewater Township Council and the Open Space Committee for supporting this outcome. This historically important land can hopefully now be combined with and provide access to the Vaucher Revolutionary Preserve at Steele's Gap. All of this acreage was part of the original Wemple Estate. We are grateful to everyone who worked to make this happen. For their encouragement and support, I'd like to acknowledge Council President Kirsch, Councilman Kurdyla, Open Space Committee Chair Weidelli, Linda Meade, President and CEO of DNR Greenway Land Trust. Regards, Mary Jane Stempien.

- Councilman Ring stated he was fortunate enough to attend the inaugural class of the Civilian Police Academy graduation. He offered it was very nice to attend and hear a lot of the accolades from members of our community that participated and got to experience some of the things that a police officer goes through in their day-to-day activity. The Civilian Police Academy class got together and presented two plaques to the Police Department in recognition of all their efforts in putting the program together. Councilman Ring commended Chief Mitzak and his team for their efforts with the Academy.
- The Zoning Board of Adjustment met earlier this week. They had a simple land use application for a residential property. They also had an interesting case on their agenda from T-Mobile, which was approved in March of 2021 for a temporary cell tower off Washington Valley Road in

conjunction with the PSE&G Tower upgrades. That temporary tower, based upon the approval, was scheduled to come down in March of 2023. They applied for an extension which prevented the town from taking any further action. While their new tower is scheduled to go live in two weeks, they appeared at the Zoning Board meeting earlier this week requesting to leave the old tower up for an additional year, until June of 2024. The Zoning Board did provide a relief until August of 2023 as the applicant could not provide any justification why it should be up for another full year. The comments received from residents expressed great appreciation for the Zoning Board for their efforts with this.

- The Zoning Board meeting scheduled for July 11th has been canceled and is being replaced with a special meeting of the Planning Board. The Planning Board at their most recent meeting was on what is formerly known as the COE, now the Petersbrook Innovation Center.
- The Planning Board at a prior meeting approved the M&M warehouse proposal on Route 206. There were a lot of concerns and discussions around traffic. Being a state highway, the township has little authority over traffic on the highway. In addition to the traffic expert that the applicant hired, the township hired their own traffic expert to review everything. The applicant did agree to allow the township's traffic consultant to participate in all meetings with the State as they move forward on the traffic plan for the highway. This is important because it gives the township a seat at the table in those traffic discussions with the State Department of Transportation.
- Councilman Ring echoed Councilman Kurdyla and Councilman Norgalis' comments in congratulating everyone who graduated, whether it was from a high school, college, or moving up from one school to another and wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

Council President Kirsh

- President Kirsh advised there will be no discussion related to the catalyst project, adding Planning Board review is required before the Governing Body can act on it. He further advised we will follow all appropriate scheduling notifications for consideration of the catalyst project.
- Also attended the Civilian Police Academy graduation on June 10th and offered it was a very successful program and a pleasant celebration for our community.

- President Kirsh stated he had the pleasure of visiting People Care Center, and was hosted by Cheryl Guss, Executive Director. He explained that the People Care Center is an incubator for nonprofit organizations as it provides a place for them to do business, at a very reasonable rent. He expressed his intent is to make sure that our community is aware there are a sizable number of success stories going on there every day and the wonderful work that happens there.
- President Kirsh acknowledged and congratulated all the various graduations and move up ceremonies and wished everyone a great summer.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 20th. Although there was a bit of a deviation during the month of June from our usual pattern, meetings will resume our regular schedule on July 20th. For that July 20th meeting, we can expect a new broadcast mechanism as we now can access broadcast capabilities that will be much more cost-effective for us. That information will be communicated in time for the July 20th meeting.
- President Kirsh acknowledged we are at the halfway point of the year and further acknowledged the great work and cooperation that has already occurred. He thanked Township Clerk Linda Doyle and her staff for their support, and the Office of Constituent Relations for helping to broadcast Council meetings in cooperation with Mayor Moench, and the Administration. He also thanked Township Attorney Corsini and the Council for their hard work and diligence.

Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench:

- Mayor Moench sent a letter to the new owner of Bridgewater Commons Mall advising there will be no support for apartments.
- There were recent repairs to the Senior Center parking lot.
- The installation of the audio-visual system in the courtroom will be completed in about a week.

Presentation FLOOD HAZARD PERMIT APPLICATION

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

On March 2, 2023, I made a presentation to the Council on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) compliant Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

FEMA reviewed the New Jersey model flood damage prevention ordinance and

recommended that the NJDEP revise it to ensure that all 553 participating community ordinances are compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program. As an outcome of this audit, FEMA directed that the new model ordinances be developed which incorporate the higher state standards found in the Flood Hazard Area Control Act and the Uniform Construction Code.

The purpose and objectives of these regulations are to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific flood hazard areas through the establishment of comprehensive regulations for management of flood hazard areas.

The Council adopted Ordinance # 23-02 titled “Ordinance for Adoption of The Floodplain Management Regulations of The Township of Bridgewater” on April 20, 2023. This Ordinance adopted a new Article XXXIX, Specific Floodplain Requirements, Sections 126-289.101 to 126-299 of the Township Code.

This Ordinance complies with the NJDEP, NFIP and FEMA.

Section 126.289.104 titled Permits, requires any person, owner or authorized agent who intends to conduct any development in a flood hazard area shall first make application to the floodplain administrator and shall obtain the required permit.

The proposed amendment to Chapter 94 (Fees) is to establish a reasonable fee to cover the Township expenses in processing Flood Hazard Area Development Permits.

Therefore, I am proposing an Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Bridgewater Township Code Entitled “Fees” To Create A Flood Hazard Area Development Permit Fee of \$250.

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

“WRECKERS” ORDINANCE

Township attorney Corsini explained proposed changes to the Wreckers Ordinance including:

- Adding language as to the online record software that the department uses
- Criteria for prior negative experience with certain records
- It increases the Mayor's role in evaluation of applications.
- It replaces the entire fee section with a new language that defers to the State and the State's fee schedule.
- It upgrades various penalties for failure to comply.

Chief Mitzak added the proposed Ordinance will address the fee schedule and the appeal process when penalties are imposed. He further stated that although the Wreckers Ordinance was addressed about a year ago, it had very limited input from the owners of the tow companies. In that regard, Chief Mitzak and his team met with all the owners of the tow companies, along with the township council and Deputy Administrator Winegar, and they came up with the newly revised Ordinance.

**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.

Daniel Zolinski, 715 Chimney Rock Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Expressed concern over the increase in salaries for township employees noting the percentage increases are well over the common cap merit increases of three to five percent.

Adam Alb, 2002 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Expressed his opposition to the two-minute allowance for public comment and opined residents should be allowed at least five-minutes. Mr. Alb further expressed he felt harassed and offered the township has continued to prevent him from building on his property at Long Road and further indicated there was recently a suspicious fire that destroyed his property and belongings of 35 years.

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

**Introduction
of
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 ENTITLED "PERSONNEL POLICIES", ARTICLE 32, SICK LEAVE, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

Township Administrator Pappas explained that a number of years ago, the State issued a directive that sick leave be provided to both full time and part-time employees. The township began to implement that, but recently realized that it had not been codified in an ordinance amendment, and that's what the proposed Ordinance accomplishes.

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#23-06-29-192](#) 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 20th day of July, 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 AMENDING ORD. NO. 22-33 (SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CERTAIN OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 374 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1985; N.J.S.A. 2A:809; N.J.S.A. 2A:8-13; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-165; N.J.S.A.40A:9-135; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146, AND CHAPTER 95 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1996) TO AMEND THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Township Administrator Pappas explained that in 2022, the Council approved the Salary and Wage Ordinance in December. In March of 2022, Judge Kelleher retired and Judge Howes was appointed the Municipal Court Judge. At the time Judge Howes was presented, she indicated she had no interest in the health benefits that Judge Kelleher had received as a Municipal Court Judge. With the expectation of the increased level of activity in our Court and the backlog that we had had, the Mayor and the Administration negotiated a \$110,000 compensation for Judge Howes for her services.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#23-06-29-193](#) 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 20th day of July, 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 TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CERTAIN OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 374 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1985; N.J.S.A. 2A:809; N.J.S.A. 2A:8-13; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-165; N.J.S.A.40A:9-135; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146, AND CHAPTER 95 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1996

Township Administrator Pappas explained the Tax Assessor's compensation was increased because the Assessor's office had had the assistance of a consultant who unfortunately passed away suddenly. Mr. DiRado offered a few options, one of which was to hire another consulting firm. The most inexpensive proposal that he received was over \$30,000. Mr. DiRado then indicated he was willing to spend additional time carrying out the consultant's function for \$15,000. The Mayor agreed to the concept and that was reflected in the salary and wage ordinance for Mr. DiRado.

Approximately one year ago, the Human Resources Manager retired and the director of Human Services was asked to assume an additional responsibility and carry out the duties of the Human Resources Manager. We had an employee that was making just over \$100,000 as the Human Resources Manager and the director of Human Services agreed to carry out the additional function for an additional \$28,000 which was a significant savings to the township as we didn't have to pay another individual health benefits as well as significant savings in the compensation levels.

In other instances, there's a recognition by the Administration and the Governing Body that there are numerous municipalities throughout New Jersey that have to fill key positions and the number of people that have the credentials that are required in many instances by State Law to carry out functions are limited and the competition among municipalities to fill key positions can be very challenging. We have had to advertise on numerous occasions to try and find the most qualified individual to fulfill key positions and the market demands different levels for different positions. The Administration tries to put forth figures and amounts to compensate people properly for the responsibilities that they are expected to carry out.

Councilman Ring asked that this statement be added to the Ordinance:

***The municipal court judge shall not participate in Bridgewater Township's employee group health benefit policy.**

On motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing Ordinance was proposed, as amended. 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 **[#23-06-29-194](#)** 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 20th day of July, 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

AWARD OF SECOND YEAR RENEWAL OPTION FOR THE POLICE UNIFORMS TO ATLANTIC TACTICAL OF 763 CORPORATE CIRCLE, NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 07070 FOR POLICE UNIFORMS AND GEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00

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 [#23-06-29-195](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TLP CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC., 400 RIKE DRIVE, MILLSTONE, NEW JERSEY 08510 FOR HVAC REPAIRS TO VARIOUS TOWNSHIP HVAC SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,705.00, REPAIRS MADE FOR THE VARIABLE AIR VOLUME CONTROLS IN THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,189.22, AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS (IF NEEDED) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$156,894.22 COVERING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2023 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2024, FUNDED THROUGH THE CURRENT FUND

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 [#23-06-29-196](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (PO BOX 6030, SOMERSET, NJ 08875) FOR THE 2023-5 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF HERITAGE COURT, HILLSIDE AVENUE, MARLIN STREET, ORCHARD STREET, PROSPECT AVENUE (TWO SECTIONS), RAMBLER DRIVE (TWO SECTIONS), STONEHENGE LANE, AND WARREN AVENUE, IN THE SUM OF \$959,035.37, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

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	Abstain
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-06-29-197](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND PREPARATION OF “AS-BUILT” DRAWINGS CONTRACT FOR THE CAMP CROMWELL DAM DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT TO VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, LLC (32 BROWER LANE, HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,760.00 FUNDED THROUGH THE OPEN SPACE CAPITAL FUND

Township Administrator Pappas explained the previous Administration had begun this project but there had been the omission of funds for inspection services related to the decommissioning of the dam. He added the decommissioning of the dam is critically important in moving forward with the Camp Cromwell project.

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 [#23-06-29-198](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO EARTHWORKS, INC. (13 MORELLO COURT, FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727) FOR THE BRIDGEWATER STREAM BANK STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT (USDA-NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM) IN THE SUM OF \$585,651.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE STREAMBANK ORDINANCE

Township Administrator Pappas explained that after Hurricane IDA, numerous significant drainage issues came to our attention. We began an exhaustive search for funding in order to mitigate these issues. Township Officials spent a considerable amount of time taking USDA folks around town, visiting each of these sites plus others that we had hoped that we would be able to get some funding for. The third whereas clause specifies restoration along the Chambers Brook tributary, West Branch, Middle Brook tributary, and East Branch, Middle Brook tributary and those are the specific areas that will be restored.

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 [#23-06-29-199](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CME ASSOCIATES, 3141 BORDENTOWN AVE, PARLIN, NJ 08859 FOR THE 2023 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MASTER PLAN REVIEW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,911.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 OPEN SPACE FUND

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 [#23-06-29-200](#) is appended to the official minutes

CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER AGREEMENT BETWEEN GCP BRIDGEWATER, LP, AND NJGRP I, LLC PURSUANT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT

Township Administrator Pappas explained the Council, a number of months ago, approved an ordinance change that permitted the rezoning of what's known as

the Hyatt House to allow for 40 of those units to become affordable housing units. The governing body approved the appropriate ordinance amendments. And this is now an important step in consenting that Township does have a role.

Councilman Pedroso offered that consistent with his “no” vote when this matter initially came before the Council, he will again vote “no” because he doesn’t support the building of apartments and doesn’t believe Bridgewater Township should be subsidizing the building of apartments.

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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 [#23-06-29-202](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO ENTER INTO A TAX AGREEMENT WITH NJGRP I, LLC PURSUANT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT

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	Nay
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-06-29-201](#) is appended to the official minutes

ISSUANCE, BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE NEW JERSEY, OF A NEW PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE TO BHAVATH SINGH KETHARAJU OF BRIDGEWATER WINES, LLC TRADE NAME LIQUOR CAVE, 674 US HIGHWAY 202/206, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$451,000.00

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is the bid that we received for the new license reflected in our increase in population over the 45,000 mark. He further acknowledged Township Clerk Doyle as she is the one that brought it to his attention the fact that population had increased and the Township was able to move forward with this.

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 [#23-06-29-203](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, 747 STATE ROUTE 28, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY ON SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023 (RAIN DATE 7-9-23)

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 [#23-06-29-204](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$430.00 AND THE SPECIAL EVENT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00 FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$530.00 AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION, 355 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ ON TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023 (RAIN DATE: 7-5-23)

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#23-06-29-205](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60 FOR THE BRIDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 651 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807, IN CONNECTION WITH OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS ON WEDNESDAYS, FIRE PERMIT SERVICES JULY 7, 19 AND 26th FROM 7-8 PM AND AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER YOUTH FELLOWSHIP EVENTS ONE DAY PER MONTH (TBD) BETWEEN 6:30 AND 9 PM

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 [#23-06-29-206](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Consent
Agenda**

2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-33-019-004, A. PEARL, INC. LOCATED AT 600 EAST MAIN STREET, BRIDGEWATER WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVALS FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024

2023-2024 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE 1806-33-014-011 MEGA LAND HOLDINGS, LLC, CURRENTLY HELD IN INACTIVE STATUS

2023-2024 RENEWAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE FOR GERALD ABREGO POST #327 AMERICAN LEGION, 77 OLD YORK ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, 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 [#23-06-29-207 thru #23-06-29-209](#) are appended to the official minutes.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Michael Kirsh
Council President