

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 9, 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, November 9, 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. A SUBSEQUENT NOTICE WITH REVISED LIVESTREAM INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON AUGUST 15, 2023.**

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

Councilman Allen Kurdyla  
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis  
Councilman Filipe Pedroso (Absent)  
Councilman Timothy Ring  
Council President Michael Kirsh

Also Present: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator  
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney  
Linda Doyle, Township Clerk  
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

Councilman Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 & SEPTEMBER 21, 2023- REGULAR SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the September 7, 2023, and September 21, 2023, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023- CLOSED SESSIONS**

The September 21, 2023, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla

- Congratulated Mayor Moench, Council President Kirsh, and Councilman

Ring on their re-election.

- The project related to township emergency services aims to address major changes to county communications that will significantly impact the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and potentially the Police Department. The project is expected to cost around 2.5 million dollars, and those involved are currently reaching out to the county with their concerns and seeking financial support if possible.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Congratulated Mayor Moench and Councilmen Kirsh and Ring on their very successful re-election. While they prevailed at the polls, he was sad to see and hear purposely misleading statements being uttered by their opponents. One prime example is the completely unfounded statement posted on a Martinsville local citizen website that Mayor Moench was supportive of a PSE&G driveway from Route 22 Administrative Center into Sebring Ave. This was a total fabrication.
- Hearty congratulations to our Municipal Clerk, Linda, on her pending retirement. He expressed that she will be missed.
- Thanked Director Tom Genova, DPW Superintendent Richard Shimp, and Lead Sewer Operative, Anthony Crawford for the personally guided tour of the Middlebrook Sewerage Pumping Station, located in the industrial complex off Chimney Rock Rd. This station, built in 1985, has almost reached its expiration date. Plans are underway for a complete rebuild over the next 18 months. While not as visible or glamorous as a road project it is, nonetheless, vital to our well-being.
- Attended a meeting with Administrator Pappas and Police Chief Mitzak to discuss resident concerns about speeding on local streets.
- Attended the Quarterly Bridgewater Emergency Services meeting where Police Sgt. Edwards discussed the status of FEMA reimbursement, as well as plans for a tabletop exercise with Branchburg.
- Attended the Diwali activity at the Senior Center sponsored jointly by the Hindu Temple, Cultural Society and Bridgewater Township. It was a delightful time featuring extensive song and dance entertainment to a packed audience.
- Thanks to the Bridgewater Post Office Postmaster. In visiting the Post Office one night, due to burnt out or missing light bulbs, it was very dark

around the outside access area as well as the two blue collection boxes. A request was placed with the Postmaster to fix the issues, which were completed within weeks.

#### Councilman Ring:

- The Planning Board meeting was canceled due to the courtroom being used for early voting. However, the zoning board will be holding a meeting next week to review an application for an office building located at 1661 Route 22. The application includes several variances to demolish the existing office building and construct a self-storage facility in its place.
- Attended the Township Halloween event co-sponsored by Bridgewater Commons Mall.
- Attended the DIWALI Festival at the Senior Center sponsored jointly by the Hindu Temple, Cultural Society, and Bridgewater Township.
- The Master Plan's Monday video portion has been completed and the township is now actively seeking feedback from residents. Details on how to provide feedback can be found on our social media pages and township website.
- Councilman Ring thanked everyone for their support and words of encouragement this past week and added he looks forward to continuing to serve our community.

#### Council President Kirsh

- On October 7, the world changed with hostilities in the Middle East. Council President Kirsh stated he had the privilege of attending an event on October 10th at the Chabad in Basking Ridge and was a speaker on behalf of Bridgewater Residents. The following day, on October 11th, there was a previously scheduled call to action associated with antisemitism in the schools. On October 12th, the Somerset prayer service was held at the Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough. It was heartening to see a wide range of people from all walks of faith in attendance, as well as several elected officials, who were present to show their support.
- Attended the Martinsville Fire open house on October 14th. Due to inclement weather it was moved indoors.
- Attended the Friends of Somerset Regional Animal Shelter "Walk With Your Dog" fundraiser on October 15th at Duke Island Park.

- Attended the Township Halloween celebration at Bridgewater Commons Mall.
- Attended the DIWALI Festival at the Senior Center on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A special thank you to the Township Clerk and her staff for their hard work on election day on November 7<sup>th</sup>. It was not by chance that the elections went smoothly, but rather due to their considerable effort in ensuring that poll workers were supplied with everything they needed. Council President Kirsh gave special recognition to Linda, Grace, Juliana, and Aly, who worked together to ensure that everything ran effortlessly. Although there were a few minor issues, which is expected in any election, the 36 districts functioned well. Additionally, we held early voting in our courtroom. President Kirsh thanked everyone who came out to vote and congratulated Councilman Ring and Mayor Moench on their re-election noting it is great to see that the community has shown confidence in the leadership of Bridgewater Township.
- The Recreation Department, in coordination with the soccer program, had planned to conduct a food drive in October/November. However, due to some sourcing issues, the bags arrived late. As a result, they have decided to hold on to the bags and use them in the spring.

## Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- During the meeting, Administrator Pappas discussed several items on the agenda. The first item was Resolution 12a, which involved the appointment of Ana Silva as the Township Treasurer. Ana has been working in the Finance Department for over a year.
- Administrator Pappas clarified that the township has been authorized to apply for a grant with the NJ Department of Transportation for the "Safe Routes to School" program. The township had previously received a grant for this program approximately a year ago, which was successful in improving the sidewalks around Adamsville School. The goal is to extend and improve the sidewalks adjacent to the high school on Garretson Rd.
- Lastly there were updates regarding the road program. Resolutions 12G, 12H, and 12I are the final change orders for three of the contracts related to the program. These resolutions include closeouts and some decreases in the final closeout of the road programs. Resolution 12G reflects a decrease of 14.13% or \$70,917.73, while Resolution 12H shows an increase of 1.24% or \$4,236. Lastly, Resolution 12I reflects a decrease of 18.06% or

\$111,701.90. Administrator Pappas appreciated the diligence of our Municipal Services and Engineering officials, who have supervised and monitored these large programs and as such, significant decreases have taken place.

**Proclamation LINDA DOYLE**

Council President Kirsh read the following proclamation:

**Honoring the Service of Bridgewater Township Municipal Clerk Linda Doyle**

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle, a dedicated member of the Bridgewater community, has admirably served the Township for twenty-five years, showcasing her unwavering commitment, exceptional professionalism, and uncompromising integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle, a resident of Bridgewater for the last thirty-six years, has been an integral part of the Township's growth, contributing significantly to its administration and growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle has exemplified remarkable devotion and leadership in her roles, progressing from Secretary in 1998, to the Deputy Municipal Clerk in 2001, to the esteemed position of Municipal Clerk in 2003, serving the Township diligently until her retirement in 2023; and,

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle has served Bridgewater Township with nothing but the highest degree of work ethic and personal excellence, known throughout the Municipal building for her attention to detail, generous spirit, and wise words; and,

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle has not only left an indelible mark on the Township administration but has also fostered a legacy of commitment and dedication to in her personal life, being a devoted wife to Brian Doyle, a loving mother to Michael and Colleen, and a doting grandmother to Gianna, Mason, Nora, Quinn, Willa, and Mackenzie with her angel wings; and,

**WHEREAS**, Linda Doyle, alongside her family, has embraced the community, sharing warmth and care, extending beyond her professional duties to contribute positively to the lives of Bridgewater residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Bridgewater recognizes and honors Linda Doyle for her outstanding service, immeasurable contributions, and tenacious passion, and extends its deepest gratitude for her years of dedicated service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township of Bridgewater wishes Linda Doyle a joyous and fulfilling retirement, filled with moments of serenity and joy, and acknowledges her irreplaceable imprint on the Township's history and future.

Presented and adopted this day, November 9th, 2023, in sincere appreciation and recognition of Linda Doyle's exceptional tenure and heartfelt dedication to the Township of Bridgewater.

The council and administration showed their gratitude and commended Linda on her 25 years of excellence with Bridgewater Township.

**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.

**Cathy Franco, 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Franco congratulated Linda Doyle on her retirement and recognized her for her service, professionalism, and dedication to the residents. She also congratulated Mayor Moench, Councilman Ring and Councilman Kirsh on a successful re-election.

**Jennifer Loughran, 716 Falcon Ct, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Loughran congratulated Mayor Moench, Councilman Ring and Councilman on their re-election. She also thanked Linda for her service.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Loughran attended a training session with the Green Knoll Rescue Squad, which she found essential and appreciated their efforts.

There will be a free skate park concert on Saturday at 11am to raise funds for the Animal Shelter. Ms. Loughran expressed her gratitude to the township and Recreation Department for facilitating this event.

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

**Resolutions**

**APPOINTING ANA SILVA AS TOWNSHIP TREASURER PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-37 ET SEQ OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER**

Township Administrator Pappas stated Ms. Silva has been the Assistant Treasurer for over a year. The governing body is required by statute to make the appointment official.

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-271](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI AND JACOBS LLC AND O'TOOLE SCIVO, LLC AS QUALIFIED FIRMS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2024**

Township Administrator Pappas explained that there have been times when special legal advice is required by an outside scope other than the Municipal Attorney's Office. These two firms have done work for the Township in the past.

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-272](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO G.O. KELLER, INC., 1201 SOUTH AVE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY FOR THE 2024 DRY CLEANING OF POLICE UNIFORMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,305.00**

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-273](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT AND THE APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING TO MAKE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE WALKING AND BIKING ENVIRONMENT FOR BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN HIGH SCHOOL, VAN HOLTEN SCHOOL, EISENHOWER SCHOOL AND MILLTOWN SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Township Administrator Pappas stated the township has been successful in getting a significant grant of \$962,000 for the Adamsville School area. The area we are seeking to improve and expand is primarily the sidewalks around the high school.

Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services, explained that the grant is called "Safe Routes to School". Funding will be used to construct pedestrian safety improvements for Bridgewater-Raritan High School, Van Holten School, Eisenhower School and Milltown School Students.

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-274](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR COMMON MAINTENANCE EXPENSES OF 1108 PINHORN DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY, ALSO KNOWN AS BLOCK 164.06, LOT 1108, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000) TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND**

Township Administrator Pappas stated this property was foreclosed on by the township. The funds being requested will be designated to any physical improvements to the structure in order to re-sell the property.

Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services, stated that he plans to get the property ready within 60 days.

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-275](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$501,954.85 TO \$431,037.12 A DECREASE OF 14.13% OR \$70,917.73, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (PO BOX 6030, SOMERSET, NJ 08875) FOR THE 2022-4 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ENTIRE LENGTH OF ROSEMARY DRIVE, WALCUTT DRIVE, HAMILTON LANE, HICKORY DRIVE AND EVERGREEN DRIVE (ROSEMARY DRIVE TO WALCUTT DRIVE) AND ALTERNATE BID FOR HAMILTON LANE, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2022 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$340,426.62 TO \$344,662.62 AN INCREASE OF 1.24% OR \$4,236.00, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO CCM CONTRACTING, INC. (336 ROUTE 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812) FOR THE WOODLAND TERRACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, (WASHINGTON ROAD TO MOUNTAIN AVENUE), FUNDED THROUGH THE 2019 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$618,381.50 TO \$506,679.61 A DECREASE OF 18.06% OR \$111,701.90, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND**

**FINAL PAYMENT TO CCM CONTRACTING, INC. (336 ROUTE 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812) FOR THE 2021-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ENTIRE LENGTHS OF AMUR ROAD, CEDARCREST ROAD, DIAMOND PLACE, OPAL WAY, AND REDWOOD ROAD, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2021 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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-276 THRU #23-11-09-278](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE 2024 FIREWORKS DISPLAY SCHEDULE FOR SOMERSET PATRIOTS STADIUM AS FOLLOWS: FRIDAY, APRIL 5 (RAIN DATE 4-6), SATURDAY, APRIL 20 (RAIN DATE 4-19), FRIDAY, MAY 3 (RAIN DATE 5-4), SATURDAY, MAY 18 (RAIN DATE 5-16), FRIDAY, MAY 31 (RAIN DATE 5-17), FRIDAY, JUNE 7 (RAIN DATE 6-1), SATURDAY, JUNE 8 (RAIN DATE 6-30), THURSDAY, JUNE 20 (RAIN DATE 6-18), SATURDAY, JUNE 22 (RAIN DATE 6-19), TUESDAY, JULY 2 (RAIN DATE 6-21), WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 (RAIN DATE 7-1), FRIDAY, JULY 19 (RAIN DATE 7-26), SATURDAY, JULY 20 (RAIN DATE 8-7), THURSDAY, JULY 25 (RAIN DATE 8-9), SATURDAY, JULY 27 (RAIN DATE 8-27), THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 (RAIN DATE 8-28), SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 (RAIN DATE 8-29), FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 (RAIN DATE 9-10), SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 (RAIN DATE 9-12) AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (RAIN DATE 9-13)**

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Kirsh	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#23-11-09-279](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC  
Deputy Township Clerk

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Michael Kirsh  
Council President