## MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL JANUARY 4, 2024 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a reorganization & regular meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex at 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Kirsh read the following announcement:

- Notice of IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT OF NEW JERSEY, Meeting ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 21, 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
- Pledge of<br/>AllegiancePRESENTATION OF COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCEBSA Troop 46 Martinsville presented the Pledge of Allegiance and Presentation of<br/>Colors.
- Invocation INVOCATIONS WERE PRESENTED BY: The invocation was presented by Rabbi Daniel Selsberg of Temple Sholom
- **Certification** Alex Fisher, Deputy Township Attorney read the following:
- of Election

A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 7, 2023, for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Township of Bridgewater.

- One (1) Four-Year Mayoral Seat The said Board does determine that Matthew C. Moench was duly elected Mayor.
- Two (2) Four-Year Township Council Seats The said Board does determine that Michael Kirsh and Timothy Ring were duly elected to the Township Council.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand the 27th day of November, 2023.
Signed: Anthony J. DeCicco, Chairman of the Board of Canvassers
Attested: Steve Peter, Somerset County Clerk

Oaths of Elected Office	OATHS OF OFFICE Mayor - Matthew C. Moench Performed by Congressman Thomas Kean, Jr.
	Councilman - Timothy Ring Performed by Honorable Elizabeth Ring
	Councilman - Michael Kirsh Performed by Honorable Judge Katherine E. Howes
	Township Clerk - Grace W. Njuguna, RMC Performed by Honorable Linda J. Doyle
	ROLL CALL Councilman Michael Kirsh Councilman Allen Kurdyla Councilman Filipe Pedroso Councilman Timothy Ring Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Selection of Council President	SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT Councilman Kirsh nominated Councilman Ring to serve as Council President for the year 2024. Councilman Pedroso seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:
	Councilman Kurdyla Aye Councilman Norgalis Aye Councilman Pedroso Aye Councilman Ring Aye Council President Kirsh Aye
	Following the selection of a new president, Councilman Kirsh stepped down and Council President Ring presided over the remainder of the meeting.
Selection of Council Vice-President	SELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT Councilman Ring nominated Councilman Norgalis to serve as Council Vice-President for the year 2024. Councilman Pedroso seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:
	Councilman Kurdyla Aye Councilman Norgalis Aye Councilman Pedroso Aye Councilman Kirsh Aye Council President Ring Aye

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Newly Elected MICHAEL KIRSH

#### Council Member

- Statements
- Thanked Rabbi Daniel Selsberg of Temple Sholom for delivering an uplifting and impactful invocation. Councilman Kirsh offered he will continue to encourage religious and cultural cooperation across our community and the broader society.
  - Thanked our Municipal Judge Katherine Howes for swearing him into office and acknowledged the bond they have created for this new term.
  - Acknowledged today is a culmination of a political process and in that regard recognized the incredible support of the Somerset County Republican Organization, Bridgewater Republican Municipal Committee and their campaign team for all they did to help run a successful election.
  - Councilman Kirsh appreciated his running mates, Mayor Moench and Councilman Ring. He then acknowledged and thanked Bridgewater residents for electing him to Council for another four (4) years. To show his appreciation for this opportunity, Councilman Kirsh stated his approach will be unchanged; working hard every day, always placing the interests of Bridgewater first and remaining available through email and home telephone number to discuss any township matter.
  - Expressed he is grateful to share this achievement with his family. He acknowledged his wife Nicole for her willingness to pick up additional responsibilities on the home front so that he can pursue his passion for public service. He also acknowledged his daughter Phoebe and son Robert who provide him with his favorite title "Proud Dad" which is a testament to the mature and successful young adults they have become and for their many achievements.
  - Councilman Kirsh closed his remarks by reading the following guiding principle which is an adaptation of the Athenian Oath taken by adults of Ancient Athens nearly 2500 years ago

"I will never bring disgrace on this our Township by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. I will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the Town both alone and with many. I will revere and obey the Township laws, and will do my best to incite a like reverence and respect. I will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this Township not only, not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

- Through the guidance of the Mayor and Council, the work of our professional staff, dedication of our volunteers, devotion of our first responders who keep us safe, and input from our community, Councilman Kirsh offered that we have successfully transmitted a greater and more beautiful Bridgewater, and was confident that our shared journey will allow us to achieve even higher during the course of this new term.
- Councilman Kirsh offered his best wishes for a happy, healthy, prosperous, and peaceful new year.

## TIMOTHY RING

- Council President Ring thanked his wife Terri and his daughters Elizabeth and Amanda who were present to show support and have been supportive of his political journey. He thanked Bridgewater residents for reelecting him and his colleagues for appointing him Council president; a testament that his hard work has been acknowledged and rewarded.
- Council President Ring thanked township employees for their efforts in ensuring Bridgewater is running smoothly. He also acknowledged the members of our boards and committees for their dedication in serving township needs. Council President Ring reiterated his commitment to continue serving the township in a manner that will embody the thoughts of his late father "a job worth doing is worth doing right!"

Mayor's Council President Ring Read the Following Appointments:

Appointments with advice & Consent

h advice & APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL PAPPAS AS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & DIRECTOR sent OF FINANCE. SALARY & WAGE TO BE SET ANNUALLY PURSUANT TO TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

STAFF

APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTINE MADRID AS DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. SALARY & WAGE TO BE SET ANNUALLY PURSUANT TO TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

ESTABLISHING THE BID THRESHOLD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(A) TO \$44,000 AND APPOINTING SARAH HOUSMAN AS THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP'S QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT (QPA)

APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT SARAH HOUSMAN AS 2024 PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (PACO)

APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS M. GENOVA AS DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES. SALARY & WAGE TO BE SET ANNUALLY PURSUANT TO TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM H. BURR IV, P.E. OF COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN AS TOWNSHIP ENGINEER FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000.00

CONFIRMING (THROUGH ADVICE AND CONSENT) THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER M. CORSINI, ESQ. AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW A/K/A THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY, UPON APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69A-43(b) AND CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION), ARTICLE X (DEPARTMENT OF LAW), SECTION 4-49 OF THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2024 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF SAVO, SCHALK, CORSINI, WARNER GILLESPIE, O'GRODNICK & FISHER, PA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$460,000.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2027

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTOPHER M. CORSINI, ESQ. AND THE LAW FIRM OF SAVO, SCHALK, CORSINI, WARNER, GILLESPIE, O'GRODNICK & FISHER, P.A., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR TAX APPEAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTOPHER M. CORSINI, ESQ. AND THE LAW FIRM OF SAVO, SCHALK, CORSINI, WARNER, GILLESPIE, O'GRODNICK & FISHER, P.A., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

AUTHORIZING CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI AND JACOBS LLC, O'TOOLE SCIVO, LLC, ANTONELLI KANTOR RIVERA, BELL, SHIVAS & BELL, AND WOOLSEN ANDERSON PEACH, AS QUALIFIED FIRMS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2024 COST TO BE DETERMINED AT TIME OF ENGAGEMENT

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO JOHN DRAIKIWICZ, ESQ., OF THE LAW FIRM OF GIBBONS, P.C. AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW GIACOBBE, ESQ., OF THE LAW FIRM OF CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI & JACOBS, LLC, AS LABOR COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR JOHN LANZA, ESQ. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO SCOTT MITZNER, ESQ. FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: FIRST ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO MEGAN A. ODUYELA, ESQ. FOR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ROUND HILL RISK PARTNERS, LLC OF 788 MORRIS TURNPIKE, SUITE 101, SHORT HILLS, NJ 07078 TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S RISK MANAGER FOR HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS AS DEFINED BY N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7 AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO NORTH AMERICAN INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (NAIM) d/b/a ACRISURE NJ PARTNERS INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC OF 1460 ROUTE 9 NORTH, SUITE 310, WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07095 TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S RISK MANAGER FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024, PURSUANT TO THE FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS AS DEFINED BY N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7 AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP

AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2024 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$115,672.00 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 26:3-1, ET SEQ.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL SULLIVAN OF THE FIRM OF CLARK CATON HINTZ PC AS REDEVELOPMENT PLANNER AND AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO REHABCO, INC. OF 44 EAST WATER STREET, TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753 TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PROVIDE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM SERVICES FOR A TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$180,000.00 PAID FROM THE TOWNSHIP'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, second of Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kirsh	Ауе
Councilman Kurdyla	Ауе
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye

## THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions <u>#24-01-04-001 thru #24-01-04-020</u> are appended to the official minutes.

## Council President Ring Read the Following Appointments:

Mayor's Appointments

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION

- with advice & Consent
- 1. Thomas M. Genova
- 2. Allen Kurdyla Council Liaison
- 3. Michael Kirsh Alternate Liaison

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE RARITAN MILLSTONE FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION

- 1. Wells Winegar Alternate
- 2. Allen Kurdyla Alternate

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

- 1. Matthew Moench
- 2. Michael Pappas
- 3. Andrew Fresco
- 4. Filipe Pedroso Council Liaison

## APPOINTMENTS TO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

- 1. James Edwards
- 2. Cherlyn Acquista
- 3. Kamal S. Afiouni
- 4. Nicky Badlani
- 5. Leisa Begley
- 6. Wayne Carter
- 7. Mahesh Chandra
- 8. Leonard Contarino
- 9. Colin Critchlow
- 10. Steven Cornella Sr.
- 11. Robin Cusamano
- 12. Joseph Cusamano II
- 13. Michael Harvis
- 14. Marybeth Englehardt
- 15. Dhiren Patel
- 16. Ed Schueler
- 17. Jason Sherrard
- 18. Pat Sullivan
- 19. Ashish Thakur
- 20. Richard Weidemann, Jr
- 21. Zuoming Zheng

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

### THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions <u>#24-01-04-021 thru #24-01-04-024</u> are appended to the official minutes.

Mayor's Council President Ring Read the Following Appointments:

Appointments without advice

## E APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- & Consent
- 1. Ankit Shah
- 2. Christine Madrid
- 3. Christopher Corsini
- 4. Howard Norgalis
- 5. James Edwards
- 6. John Mitzak
- 7. John Tillotson
- 8. Michael Voorhees
- 9. Richard Shimp
- 10. Thomas Scalera
- 11. Timothy Ring
- 12. Wayne Carter
- 13. Wells Winegar

## APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

- 1. Class I Mayor Matthew C. Moench
- 2. Class II Michael Pappas
- 3. Class IV Sonja Chartowich
- 4. Class IV Ashley Sikora
- 5. Class IV Inderpreet Banga
- 6. Alternate I Niren Choudhury
- 7. Alternate II William Atkins

## APPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Thomas M. Genova

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

- 1. Wells Winegar
- 2. Scott Stephens Alternate

## APPOINTMENTS OF NJ INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONERS

- 1. Michael Pappas
- 2. Wells Winegar Alternate

## Council Council President Ring Read the Following Appointments:

Appointments

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR - SUPLEE CLOONEY & COMPANY, 308 EAST BROAD STREET, WESTFIELD, NJ 07090-2122 IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2024

## APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER

1. William H. Burr IV, Township Engineer, P.E.

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

- 1. Alexis Tarrazi- Hutchings
- 2. Andrew Fresco
- 3. Howard Norgalis
- 4. John Mitzak
- 5. Serena Collado

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

- 1. Bruce Bongiorno Regular Member
- 2. John Gayeski Alternate 1
- 3. Claudio Vescio Alternate 4

## APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

1. Michael Kirsh

## APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER

1. Darrow Murdock

# APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

- 1. Allen Kurdyla
- 2. Howard Norgalis Alternate

## APPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 1. Howard Norgalis
- 2. Michael Kirsh Alternate

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

- 1. Robert Albano Commissioner
- 2. Howard Norgalis Council Liaison
- 3. Michael Kirsh Council Alternate

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 1. Robert Devnani
- 2. James Weideli
- 3. Toni Hoffman
- 4. Joan Flynn Alternate

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Pedroso, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

## THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions <u>#24-01-04-025 thru #24-01-04-034</u> are appended to the official minutes.

- Oaths Oaths of Office for Staff, Boards and Committees were administered By Alex Fisher Esq., Deputy Township Attorney
- **Resolutions** Council President Ring Read the Following Resolutions:

2024 GENERAL BUSINESS RESOLUTION GRANTING VARIOUS AUTHORITIES TO TOWNSHIP STAFF AND SETTING OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO VARIOUS APPLICABLE LAWS

The General Business resolution sets certain rates, designates the Courier News as the Township Official Newspaper for all legal Notices and The Breeze as the online newspaper it also names certain department heads specific authorities to operate in 2024.

## 2024 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Schedule of Meetings set the 2024 Township Council Meeting Dates throughout the year; they are also posted on the website.

# 2024 TEMPORARY BUDGET-CURRENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,371,289.65

Current Fund Temporary Budget is set not to exceed 26.25% of the 2023 year's budget to meet obligations and payments due prior to approval of the budget for 2024.

**2024 TEMPORARY BUDGET-SEWER UTILITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,468,858.98** The Sewer Fund Temporary Budget is set not exceed 26.25% of the 2022 year's budget to meet obligations and payments due prior to approval of the 2023 budget. ESTABLISHING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NAMING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

The Cash Management Plan is prepared pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A 5-14 in order to set forth the basis for deposits and investments and name certain depositories for Township funds.

AUTHORIZING BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ENGINEER WILLIAM H. BURR, IV, P.E OF THE FIRM OF COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN TO EXECUTE NJDEP, NJDOT, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND SOMERSET COUNTY PERMITS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP

It is required to name by resolution and authorizes William Burr, P.E. as Township Engineer to sign permits from NJDOT, NJDEP, State of New Jersey and Somerset County on behalf of the Township.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

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

### THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions <u>#24-01-04-035 thru #24-01-04-040</u> are appended to the official minutes.

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

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

No one wished to be heard

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

**Adjournment** On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC Municipal Clerk Timothy Ring Council President