

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 21, 2024 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Ring 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 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**

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

Councilman Michael Kirsh  
Councilman Allen Kurdyla (absent)  
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis  
Councilman Filipe Pedroso (arrived at 7:45pm)  
Council President Timothy Ring

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

Councilman Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

**MARCH 7, 2024 - REGULAR SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the March 7, 2024, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

**MARCH 7, 2024 - CLOSED SESSIONS**

The March 7, 2024, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh:

- On March 12, 2024, the Zoning Board met to discuss Starbucks's drive-thru application.
  
- On March 19, 2024, the Planning Board heard a courtesy review

application regarding the Bridgewater-Raritan High School Field House upgrades and improvements, including the long-awaited permanent restroom structure. Action was taken on the extension of the AR Bridgewater II preliminary and major site plan with bulk variances application. Furthermore, Dr. Bradley McAdam appeared before the board seeking an amendment to the terms of his 1999 approval concerning the use of square footage on his property.

Councilman Norgalis: (*verbatim*)

- Happy SPRING everyone, it arrived with cold temps and biting winds.
- Our Muslim friends are celebrating the Holy month of RAMADIN. Daily fasting is broken at sundown generally with dates and milk, followed by a fuller meal after the evening prayers. In addition to the five daily prayers a very important optional practice is to gather for an additional communal prayer after the night prayer each night of the month.
- The Crescent Moon lighting at the township municipal building originally scheduled for Mar. 10th to commemorate RAMADIN had to be postponed due to a shipping delay in obtaining the display.
- We had a fire scare at one of the two township owned senior citizen high rises by the post office. A new tenant, unaccustomed to an electric range top, placed a takeout food container on a hot stove top causing a smoke condition. When he left his front door open to clear the smoke it set off the hall smoke alarm which triggered an automatic fire department response. There was no damage and no injury. The issue is being used by the staff as a teaching moment.
- Work continues on the engineering and design for the relocation of the large 54" township owned sewer pipe under the Raritan River in Duke Island Park. This is part of the Headgates Dam removal project that Tom Genova discussed with the council in January of last year. It is hoped that the construction work can be bid out later this year.

Council President Ring:

- Attended a portion of a meeting where retired-planner, Scarlett Doyle, gave the newly appointed staff a historical perspective on Bridgewater and how it got to where it is currently. Council President Ring extended his appreciation to Ms. Doyle for donating her time to make the meeting possible.
- There are limited applications still being accepted for the Bridgewater

Police Department Citizen's Academy where residents can gain a better understanding of the department and how it operates. Deadline for registration is March 29, 2024. The program begins on April 4, 2024.

- Somerset County communicated that a fire was recently started in a recycling truck due to lithium batteries being recycled. Council President Ring reminded residents that lithium batteries should be disposed of through hazardous waste.
- On behalf of Mayor Moench, Council President Ring reported that the township received final approval for a four (4) million dollar grant to upgrade Camp Cromwell. He stated that the office of Congressman Thomas Kean assisted in obtaining the grant. Council President Ring stated he looks forward to restoring this property and opening it up to the public.

**Mayor's Reports**

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- Township Administrator Pappas stated that there will be a Public Input Workshop on April 11, 2024 at 7pm to discuss the township's Master Plan. Since last summer, members of the Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and key staff members have been reviewing the existing Master Plan and making proposed revisions. It is his hope that the final draft will be presented to the Planning Board in late spring, early summer during an official public meeting to conclude the process.

**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 Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

No one wished to be heard.

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

**Resolutions**

**AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION RESERVES TRANSFERS**

It was noted the law allows for appropriation transfers during the first (3) months of any fiscal year when it has been determined necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Absent |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-100](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR SEWER FUND \$2,804,414.00 FOR A TOTAL \$6,273,272.98**

Councilman Kirsh stated that it is a priority to work diligently so that a permanent budget can be adopted.

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

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye     |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent  |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye     |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Abstain |
| Council President Ring | Aye     |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-101](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF BLOCK 411, LOT 39 AND BLOCK 408, LOT 67 PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ.) FOR CLASSIFICATION AS AN “AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT” AND DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP’S REDEVELOPMENT PLANNER TO PREPARE A STUDY INVESTIGATING WHETHER BLOCK 411, LOT 39 ALSO KNOWN AS 555 ROUTE 22 AND BLOCK 408, LOT 67 LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF ROUTE 22 AND COUNTRY CLUB ROAD CONSTITUTE AN “AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT”**

Township Administrator Pappas offered this resolution will direct the Planning Board to conduct a preliminary investigation and public hearing of Block 411, Lot 39 and Block 408, Lot 67 to determine whether it is an area of in need of

development. Upon the completion of the preliminary investigation and public hearing, the Planning Board shall provide recommendations to the Township Council as to its investigation of said properties.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-102](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**CHANGE OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PETTY CASH FUND CUSTODIAN TO WILLIAM PANDOS, CFO, AND LOCATION TO FINANCE DEPARTMENT AT 100 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807**

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-103](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ACTIVE DISPOSAL, INC., 10 POLHEMUS LANE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 FOR DUMPSTER RENTAL AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL REFUSE AT VARIOUS TOWNSHIP LOCATIONS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$48,510.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 22, 2024 - MARCH 21, 2025 TO BE FUNDED FROM STREETS & ROADS- REFUSE COLLECTION ACCOUNT**

Council President Ring stated that this contract went out to bid and Active Disposal came in significantly lower than the other bids.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-104](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VERIZON CONNECT, 5055 NORTH POINT PARKWAY, ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA, 30022 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,468.20 ANNUALLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF GPS TRACKING SOFTWARE FOR ALL TOWNSHIP-OWNED AND LEASED VEHICLES TO BE FUNDED FROM THE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE-MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES ACCOUNT**

Township Administrator Pappas offered that the cost of Verizon Connect is less than the township's existing contract. He also stated that the devices that are now in the vehicles will be removed by the new vendor, without cost, and returned to the current vendor.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-105](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AIR SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE, INC, 718 JEFFERSON AVENUE, KENILWORTH, NJ 07033 FOR HVAC QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO VARIOUS TOWNSHIP LOCATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,900.00 FOR QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE, AND IF NEEDED, NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00 FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,900.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 22, 2024 - FEBRUARY 28, 2025 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING ACCOUNT**

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-106](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AUTHORIZING THE SALE BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND A QUALIFIED BUYER FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED AT BLOCK 164.06, LOT 1108 ALSO KNOWN AS 1108 PINHORN DRIVE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807**

Township Administrator Pappas stated that the township purchased this property through a Sheriff’s sale for \$49,000.00 months ago. The township had to remove the extensive personal belongings that were left in the home by the previous owner. With the approval of this resolution, the township will gain a profit of approximately \$40,000.00 which will be deposited into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The new buyer will be purchasing the home “as is” and will be responsible for any necessary repairs.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-107](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,680.00, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, BLOCK 601, LOT 107 - ROUTE 202/206 JUST NORTH OF THE NORTHERLY END OF SKY HILL ROAD**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,103,785.40 TO \$940,559.37 A DECREASE OF 14.8% OR \$163,226.03, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT 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, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 CAPITAL ROAD FUND**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$585,651.00 TO \$584,024.00 A DECREASE OF 0.28% OR \$1,627.00, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO EARTHWORKS, INC. (13 MORELLO COURT, FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727) FOR THE BRIDGEWATER STREAM BANK STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT (USDA-NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM), FUNDED THROUGH THE STREAMBANK ORDINANCE**

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#24-03-21-108 thru #24-03-21-110](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MUNICIPAL PARTICIPATION IN THE UPDATE OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Council President Ring stated that the township must designate, through a resolution, who will be its representatives.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Aye    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |



**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-111](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND FROM \$18,679,843.80 TO A TOTAL OF \$18,692,270.47**

Council President Ring stated that this increase in budget was due to the township's need to upgrade its postage machines as they have become unreliable. Instead of repairing them, the funds will be used to replace them which was already scheduled to happen in July/August. Township Administrator Pappas added that with the new machines, we will be able to track the postage for each department and division.

Councilman Pedroso expressed concern over adding additional funds to the budget when it is already over eighteen (18) million dollars. He asked why the funds for the postage machines could not be taken from another line item in the current budget and was advised this may go against purchasing/finance regulations.

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Kirsh       | Aye    |
| Councilman Kurdyla     | Absent |
| Councilman Norgalis    | Aye    |
| Councilman Pedroso     | Nay    |
| Council President Ring | Aye    |

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-112](#) 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 contract negotiations including Warren Township Sewer Agreement, Yard Waste Site, Shared Municipal Court, and an area in need of redevelopment - Block 411, Lot 39.

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 Council President Ring,

Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:20 p.m.  
A copy of resolution [#24-03-21-113](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 8:45 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Council President Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Timothy Ring  
Council President