

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 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
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Filipe Pedroso (arrived at 7:35pm)
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

OCTOBER 24, 2024 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the October 24, 2024, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh:

- On October 25th, attended the Basilone football field re-dedication.
- Councilman Kirsh helped kick-off and present awards at the Summer Strong 10K at Duke Island Park. He congratulated Township Attorney, Chris Corsini, for winning a medal in his age group on October 26, 2024.
- On October 28th, Councilman Kirsh met House Speaker Mike Johnson and acknowledged that he is the second in line of succession to the presidency.

- Attended a very successful Halloween Event and National Night Out on October 30th located at the Municipal Building. He added that it was a proud moment for Bridgewater Township.
- On November 2nd, he attended two Diwali celebrations. The celebration at the mall was very well attended. Councilman Kirsh added that we have an outstanding partnership with mall to celebrate all communities. The celebration at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center was also a special event in which he was able to participate.
- Councilman Kirsh stated that although there were a few challenges, Bridgewater had a successful operation on Election Day. Township Clerk, Grace Njuguna, provided the council with a detailed report on the day's events. He extended his appreciation to the following township employees for their assistance on Election Day: Brian Sowden, Kevin Choy, Adrian Garro, Lauren Vitti, Patti Bueno, Vilma Day, Shalini Rajamani, Kunal Dash, Grace Njuguna, Juliana Coelho, Alyson Gust, Natalie Troisi and Jamie Edwards.
- Had the privilege of representing the mayor, council and the township community at the American Legion in Bradley Gardens on Veteran's Day.
- Attended the ribbon cutting for Summit Health.
- On November 12th, there was a Zoning Board meeting that continued the application for the property adjacent to the JCC along Rt. 202/206.
- Councilman Kirsh visited the Middlebrook and Gilbride pumping stations for a tour with Councilman Norgalis and township employees. He expressed that this is a critical operation which the township puts a lot of money and effort into.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Participated in Veteran's Day programming of VFW Post 6488 of Martinsville located at Chimney Rock Park.
- Attended two emergency service meetings related to the use of drone technology for first responders.
- Councilman Kurdyla attended the dedication of Flannery Field, named after Mayor Flannery, honoring her work and service for the township.
- Attended the dedication of the new monument at John Basilone Field. He thanked the Board of Education for their efforts in honoring John Basilone.

Councilman Norgalis: (verbatim)

- Attended, along with Mayor Moench, the ribbon cutting at the new J Crew location on Chimney Rock Rd right next to Talbots.
- Also attended the ribbon cutting at the new Summit Health Center in the former Crate and Barrel building retrofitted for medical offices. Other attendees included Mayor Moench, and Councilmen Kirsch and Pedroso.
- I spoke at the rededication of the Gulf War monument on the North Lawn of the municipal building. The internal plaque was severely weathered, and it was replaced in time for Veterans Day.
- The Somerset County 200 Club meeting was held this week. The organization continues to recognize the selfless dedication of our police and volunteer fire and rescue departments.
- Strict water conservation measures were announced by the state to protect this precious resource.
- All outside burning of any nature is prohibited.
- Attended several township meetings dealing with storm water management as well as sewer utility items. It is important that the public fully understand that the Sewer Utility, which is directly billed, is a utility, just like your electric, gas, telephone, cable or garbage collection.
- Earlier today Councilman Kirsch and I, along with SRVSA Commissioners Albano and Lifarie, toured the Sewerage Utility owned Middle Brook pumping station on Chimney Rock Rd. This station, originally built in 1985, is badly in need of updating to include new pumps and electronics as well as building improvements. We also toured the 49-year-old Gilbride pumping station in Martinsville. While it has received some upgrades in the last few years it is still a work in progress.
- I attended the dedication ceremony at the RWJ Somerset Hospital for their two-floor addition for surgical and rehabilitation care. There was an announcement at the meeting that Developer Jack Morris, who is also a Bridgewater resident, donated \$1m for the effort and that Josh and Rachel Kalafer donated \$400,000 to bring the Kalafer Family total to \$3.5M. for this project.
- The 2025 Bridgewater Council Reorganization meeting will be held on Thursday Jan. 2nd at 7:00pm. Please note that this is one half earlier than our regular meeting start time of 7:30pm.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Attended the Flannery Field dedication ceremony. Councilman Pedroso stated that Mayor Flannery was the first female mayor in Bridgewater. He added that it was fitting that the field be dedicated to her, as she had the vision of the new municipal building and surrounding fields.
- Councilman Pedroso expressed his appreciation for those who have served, and continue to serve, in our military both here and abroad.
- Councilman Pedroso stated that he was a coach for a 1st grade soccer team this year. He commended the Recreation Division for managing and overseeing the well run, intricate and complex soccer program of over 1000 athletes in the township.
- Participated in the Crim School Trunk or Treat event.
- Congratulated Township Administrator Pappas and his team for a well-managed and exciting Halloween Event and National Night Out.
- Attended the Diwali event where he participated in a tour of the temple and learned more about the religion and culture. He expressed his appreciation for their hospitality.

Council President Ring:

- Attended the Grand Opening of the Liquor Cave located at the circle shopping center.
- Joined Councilman Kirsh at the American Legion in Bradley Gardens Veteran's Day celebration.
- Council President Ring attended the 5th anniversary celebration of the Bridgewater Lifestyle Magazine and presented them with a proclamation on the Administration's behalf.
- President Ring acknowledged the Clerk's office, and all involved on Election Day.

Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- Acknowledged the Recreation, Public Works and Police staff for the Halloween Event/National Night Out which was a wonderful event. It was estimated that about 3000 were in attendance.
- There will be two holiday events that the township will be sponsoring. The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on December 4th at 6pm. The

Menorah Lighting will take place on December 26th. More information will soon be forthcoming.

Proclamation BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Councilman Norgalis read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, in 2024, it is projected that more than 298,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 43,000 Americans are expected to lose their lives to breast cancer this year; and

WHEREAS, despite these heartbreaking numbers, the nation celebrates the fact that from 1989 to 2022, breast cancer mortality rates have decreased by over 43%; and

WHEREAS, this decline in deaths represents more than 431,000 women who have survived breast cancer—women who might not have made it without progress in medical science and support systems; and

WHEREAS, the lives saved are a testament to the unwavering dedication to research, improved treatments, increased awareness, and vital support systems led by organizations like Dance for the Cure; and

WHEREAS, Dance for the Cure, an entirely volunteer-driven organization, continues to assist breast cancer patients within Somerset, Hunterdon, and Middlesex counties with compassion and dedication; and

WHEREAS, to date, Dance for the Cure has contributed over \$1,000,000 in direct financial assistance to individuals in these counties in their courageous battles against breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Bridgewater resident Brooke Herbst, alongside the Bridgewater Raritan High School Cheer Team, partnered with Dance for the Cure's *Ribbons of Hope* campaign to adorn the Bridgewater Municipal Complex with pink bows; and

WHEREAS, these pink ribbons stand as enduring symbols of hope for current fighters, expressions of solidarity from the community, tributes to those we've lost, and triumphs for those who have conquered the disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, along with the Bridgewater Council, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

and call upon all residents of the Township to honor and support Dance for the Cure, as well as other critical initiatives throughout the country. Furthermore, I commend

the exceptional efforts of Brooke Herbst and the Bridgewater Raritan High School Cheer Team for raising awareness and providing vital encouragement to individuals battling breast cancer within our community and beyond.

Brooke Herbst, Dance for the Cure and the Bridgewater Raritan High School Cheer Team, were present to receive the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EMIL LOPATA

Council President Ring read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Emil Lopata passed away on June 12, 2024, and was survived by his loving wife, Bonnie, along with his two daughters and four grandchildren; and Whereas, Emil, a resident of Bridgewater for over 40 years, dedicated himself to a life of service, joining Bridgewater's Police Department's Traffic Division as a school crossing guard, serving with great devotion and compassion for nearly two decades; and

WHEREAS, Emil selflessly protected and guided our community's children, endearingly calling them "my kids," and ensuring the safe passage of countless students at Van Holten School with the vigilance, care, and kindness of a loving grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Emil's warm smile, friendly nature, and lasting bonds with families made him a beloved figure known to many as the "grandfather of Stony Brook," embodying the values of loyalty, humility, and humor that enriched the lives of those around him; and

WHEREAS, Emil's commitment to public safety inspired both the children, parents, and families of Stony Brook, who look for ways to mirror Emil's dedication and compassion in their own lives; and

WHEREAS, Emil's legacy of dedication, rooted in a deep appreciation for freedom and community, will forever remain an inspiration to Bridgewater Township; he demonstrated unwavering pride in his work, a willingness to lend a helping hand, and a love for his country and family; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, along with the Bridgewater Council, hereby proclaim the crosswalk located on Stony Brook Drive as **Emil's Crossing** in honor of his steadfast service, his exemplary character, and his positive impact on the lives of our children and community members. Emil Lopata's contributions will be cherished, and his memory will be a guiding light for all who knew him.

Emil Lopata's family was present to receive the proclamation.

**Public
Comment**

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

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

- **Deanna Nye- 671 Country Club Rd, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Nye asked if the township would consider picking up brush as residents are unable to burn them. She further expressed frustration regarding the intersection of Talamini Road and Country Club Road as she believes it presents a danger to residents.

- **Jennifer Loughran -716 Falcon Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Mrs. Loughran stated that she is also concerned about the safety of those who live and travel near the intersection as mentioned by Ms. Nye. She thanked the Bridgewater Police Department, Administration, Recreation Division, Public Works and first responders, for their efforts in the Halloween Event and National Night Out. Mrs. Loughran was excited to be included in this year's festivities and stated that many kids were taught how to ride a skateboard safely. She commended Township Clerk, Grace Njuguna and staff for their incredible efforts with this year's election.

- **Jane Gandolfe- 2000 Washington Valley Rd, Martinsville, NJ 0836**

Ms. Gandolfe thanked the township on behalf of the Martinsville Community Center for including them in the Halloween Event/National Night Out. She offered her gratitude to Township Administrator Pappas and Public Works for allowing Friends of Bridgewater History to set up their displays at the Lane-Brokaw House on Milltown Road. She added that the event was a success. Ms. Gandolfe requested an update on the status of Camp Cromwell and Administrator Pappas responded.

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

Ms. Franco stated that while she appreciated the time limit being changed to three minutes, she stated that she would keep her comments under three minutes per agenda item. Ms. Franco thanked the police department for their post about what to do if election signs were stolen from personal property. She added that the police department did a wonderful job with National Night Out. Ms. Franco thanked the Clerk's office for running a smooth early election and on election day. While the original township calendar did not reflect the days the township building was closed, it has been added. However, it did not indicate her request to add the dates that the quarterly tax bills are due.

Ms. Franco asked where the township will be taking the money from to pay for the funds needed to increase the compensation of administrative officials.

She requested that if the council had any comments on the residents' remarks, they should be stated while the speaker is still at the podium.

- **Jessica Gallego – a resident of Whitehouse Station came in for Emil Lopata's proclamation**

Ms. Gallego thanked the Council for the beautiful proclamation honoring Emil Lopata.

- **Andrew Bucko- 543 Berrywood Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Mr. Bucko stated she hoped that the new plans for areas in need of redevelopment will include new housing as the township doesn't need any more warehouses. Mr. Bucko further commented on resolution 12f and asked why money is being shifted from road improvements to bond interest. Lastly, he questioned if the township was being reimbursed for the lack of service by the New Jersey American Water Company, as there has been two water main breaks in the last two weeks.

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

Introduction of Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 24-12 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER 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 SALARIES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE AND THE COURT CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR TO REFLECT THE TOWNSHIP'S SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES WITH THE BOROUGH OF RARITAN

Council President Ring stated that the shared service agreement will include Raritan Borough paying Bridgewater Township for court services. These additional funds will be split amongst the Municipal Court Judge, Court Clerk/Administrator and added to their salaries.

Councilman Norgalis expressed his frustration that only the title of the position is listed on this ordinance while the names are not included. He stated that if the employee's names are not shown on the final ordinance, he will not support it.

Councilman Kirsh offered that his preference is to see the names of the individuals who hold titles be shown on ordinance moving forward in 2025. He intends to hold the administration to that standard.

Councilman Pedroso asked why the names are not listed. Township Administrator Pappas stated that up until now, it has been a precedence that the title was listed and not the name.

Councilman Kurdyla advised that he will be supporting Councilman Norgalis on having the names stated on future ordinances.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-258](#) is appended to the official minutes

Grace Njuguna, 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 14th day of November 2024, 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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 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 ON THE TAX MAP OF TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT (NON-CONDEMNATION) PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ.)

Michael Sullivan, the Township Redevelopment Planner, presented a detailed analysis of the former Ethicon campus. He outlined the site's existing conditions, including its size, age, and current state of use. He emphasized the significant amount of infrastructure on the site, including buildings, parking, and utilities. Sullivan also highlighted the challenges associated with the site's redevelopment,

such as the age of the buildings, the presence of environmental contaminants, and the need for significant investment to adapt the site for new uses.

Mr. John D.S. Hatch, a principal at Clarke Caton Hintz, conducted a comprehensive analysis of the former Ethicon campus. His report delved into the specific attributes of each building, assessing their potential for repurposing. He emphasized the unique design features and specialized functions of the buildings, which were tailored to the company's specific needs. Mr. Hatch also discussed the challenges associated with the site's redevelopment, including the age of the buildings, the presence of environmental contaminants, and the need for significant investment to adapt the site for new uses. Additionally, he highlighted the potential for redevelopment to create new jobs and economic opportunities for the community.

Councilman Kirsh clarified that the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School property is not within the contaminated area of the Ethicon campus. He emphasized this point to ensure that it is part of the official record.

Mr. Sullivan provided additional details about the environmental contamination at the Ethicon campus. He explained that the site is contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons, lead, asbestos, and PCBs. These contaminants are present in various building materials and components, including soil and groundwater. The remediation costs for these contaminants are estimated to be significant, exceeding \$4 million for groundwater and asbestos alone. The costs for remediating lead and PCB contamination have not yet been determined but are expected to be substantial as well.

Council President Ring clarified that the lead, asbestos, and PCB contamination on the Ethicon campus is not an immediate issue unless there are plans for renovation or demolition. He emphasized that the primary concern arises during these activities when the materials containing these substances could become airborne and pose health risks.

Mr. Sullivan provided a detailed explanation of how the Ethicon campus meets the criteria for a Redevelopment Area under the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. He highlighted the site's obsolescence, underutilization, and environmental contamination as key factors supporting the designation. Additionally, he explained how the vacant 2.4-acre lot meets the criteria for a Redevelopment Area due to its undeveloped nature and constraints related to topography and wetlands. Finally, he emphasized the alignment of the redevelopment proposal with the state's smart growth principles, as the site is in a highly favored planning area for development.

Council President Ring clarified the purpose of the current meeting, which is to decide whether to accept the Planning Board's recommendation to designate the

Ethicon campus as an Area in Need of Redevelopment. He emphasized that this decision does not determine the specific nature of the redevelopment. The Planning Board will subsequently develop a Redevelopment Plan, which will outline the specific uses and zoning regulations for the site. This plan will then be presented to the governing body for final approval.

Councilman Kirsh thanked Mr. Sullivan for the thorough presentation and provided additional context regarding the public hearing and the concerns raised about the funding of the redevelopment study. He emphasized the importance of transparency and public participation in the process. He also clarified that the current decision is focused on whether the site meets the criteria for a Redevelopment Area, and that future decisions regarding the specific redevelopment plan will be made through a separate process.

Mr. Llewellyn, a hydrogeologist and environmental consultant, provided a detailed overview of the environmental conditions at the former Ethicon campus. He explained the historical use of the site, the types of contaminants present, and the ongoing remediation efforts. He emphasized that the majority of the contamination has been addressed, and that the remaining groundwater contamination is being actively managed and monitored. He also addressed concerns about potential impacts on the surrounding community, including the implementation of air monitoring systems during demolition activities.

Councilman Kirsh asked a clarifying question about the relationship between redevelopment and environmental remediation. He noted that redevelopment could be a catalyst for cleaning up the site and improving its environmental conditions. He suggested that leaving the site in its current state would likely result in no environmental improvement and could potentially lead to further deterioration.

Mr. Llewellyn emphasized that the ongoing remediation efforts at the Ethicon campus are making significant progress. He expressed confidence that the site can be redeveloped, even with the existing environmental challenges. He highlighted the flexibility in designing a redevelopment plan that can accommodate the existing infrastructure and environmental constraints.

Councilman Pedroso noted that regardless of whether the site is designated as a Redevelopment Area, any potential developer would need to address the environmental contamination before undertaking any construction project. He highlighted the state Department of Environmental Protection's regulations, which mandate specific cleanup standards that must be met before development can proceed.

Councilman Kurdyla acknowledged the historical environmental challenges associated with other sites in Bridgewater, such as the RCA and Cyanamid sites. He

expressed satisfaction with the ongoing remediation efforts at the Ethicon site and emphasized the importance of focusing on the decision of whether to designate the site as a Redevelopment Area.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-259](#) is appended to the official minutes

ESTABLISHES THE 2024 EMPLOYEE STANDARD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR APPROVED TOWNSHIP BUSINESS AS SET BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

In the event a Township vehicle is not available when an employee must attend training conferences, the employee may use their personal vehicle and shall receive mileage reimbursement.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-260](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING DISBURSAL OF \$49,705 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS FOR THREE (3) LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME PROPERTIES THROUGH THE BRIDGEWATER HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-261](#) is appended to the official minutes

AMENDING RESOLUTION #24-09-19-242 APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$45,150.00 AND A MATCHING EXPENSE OF UP TO \$273,278.16 FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$318,428.16

Council President Ring advised that this is a grant that was previously voted however there was an issue with how FICA and social security tax calculations. This resolution reflects the correct calculations.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-262](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT – EMPG/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE –EMAA

Council President Ring stated that there is a lot of work that is done by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He added that Sargeant Edwards ensures that the township is compliant with the terms of this grant every year.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-263](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$549,304.37 IN THE CURRENT FUND

Township Administrator Pappas stated that the township does not anticipate any additional transfers at this time. There were several retirements and budgeted positions which were vacated, and the funds had not been spent therefore able to be transferred.

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	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Ring	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-264](#) is appended to the official minutes

CANCELLATION OF SEWER CAPITAL BOND ORDINANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$348,787.27

Because some Sewer Capital Improvement funds remained allocated to completed projects, it is necessary to formally cancel these balances. This will allow unspent monies to be returned to their respective Capital Improvement Funds or credited to surplus, and any unused debt authorization to be canceled.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-265](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING REPLACEMENT OF THE RETIREE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN PROVIDED BY BRAVEN WITH THE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN PROVIDED BY THE HARTFORD TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE TO ELIGIBLE RETIREES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$475,872 FOR THE YEAR 2025

Council President Ring explained that the resolution would change retiree benefit providers, saving the township money and improving customer service for retirees.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-266](#) 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 public safety and contract negotiations.

When and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time.

The public is excluded from said meeting and further notice thereof is dispensed with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:50 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#24-11-14-267](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Council President Ring, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:14 p.m.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Timothy Ring
Council President