

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JULY 10, 2025 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Norgalis 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 10, 2024, 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 Filipe Pedroso
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

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

Councilman Ring led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for all who were affected in Texas by the flash flood.

Minutes

JUNE 26, 2025 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Council President Norgalis, the June 26, 2025, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

JUNE 12 & JUNE 26, 2025 – CLOSED SESSIONS

The June 12 & 26, 2025 closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

**Council
Reports**

Councilman Kirsh:

- The Zoning Board heard a case for a self-storage property that currently houses Tectonic, as well as a connection to Melick's farm stand. After a considerable objection from the public, the applicant will take those concerns

into account and will come back in October for a second hearing.

- Attended and offered welcome comments at the Middlebrook Encampment Independence Day celebration. The Middlebrook Encampment is known to be the first location the flag was raised on Flag Day in 1777. Each July 4th, the Declaration of Independence is read at the gathering which commemorates what occurred on those grounds. Councilman Kirsh gave accolades to Bridgewater resident, Kevin Storms, who is the current president of the Washington Campground association.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Councilman Kurdyla stated that he received phone calls from residents who were concerned about safety issues and lack of maintenance related to a township park. Councilman Kurdyla reached out to Chief Mitzak to make him aware of the safety concerns and suggested to Administrator Pappas that there be a meeting with residents on how to address their concerns.

Council President Norgalis: *(verbatim)*

- I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Fourth of July.
- Attended the Quarterly Bridgewater Emergency Services Committee chaired by Police Lt. James Edwards. The major issue of the meeting was the update to the Bridgewater Emergency Operations Plan which is an all-hazards plan to provide structure and mechanisms for township level policy and operational coordination. Three new operational NJ State Police Annexes are being introduced to include: Cyber Incidents, Civil Unrest and Pandemic.
- If you live, work or plan to visit North Bridge St between Vogt Dr and the fire house pack your patience as an 8-week American Water Company job to replace the large and often leaky watermain on North Bridge will be under way. A carefully planned detour will be well marked.
- The long talked about PSE&G road overlay for streets severely impacted by their gas main replacement is almost done.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Thanked Councilman Kirsh for his story of the Middle Brook Encampment.
- Councilman Pedroso expressed that America is an extraordinary place, and all who live here are truly blessed.

Councilman Ring:

- Stated that the Governor signed into legislation, a new law that eliminates the requirement for public notices to be printed in newspapers, as many papers

have stopped printing all together.

Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- For the past few years, the Township has been working on creating a more efficient way to access records by having them digitized. Township Administrator Pappas offered that Foveonics is a very competent vendor who carries out the services that are needed to assist the township with this project.
- Stated that there are resolutions on the agenda for change orders from the road program close-outs. One of the change orders is a twelve percent decrease and one of them is a .97 percent increase.

Presentation

YARD WASTE SITE

Thomas M. Genova, Director of Municipal Services, CPWM

Mr. Genova stated that the Township owns a Yard Waste Transfer Facility, located at 136 Foothill Road, which is utilized by Township residents and the Division of Public Works to drop off yard waste including grass, brush, tree parts and leaves. Residents are allowed to drop off materials in their personal vehicles. A resident using a contractor to clean up their property must obtain a permit from the Division of Public Works for one (1) 6 cubic yard vehicle twice a year at no charge.

The Township currently has an agreement with a Qualified Contractor to perform the Management, Operation, and Maintenance of the Township Yard Waste facility. Responsibilities include the staff maintaining a daily presence at the facility in accordance with the recycling schedule published by the Township. There is no additional payment from the Township for utilizing the facility for drop-off, this includes natural emergencies.

Mr. Genova recommends the award of contract to Nature's Choice NJ, LLC in the amount of \$29,000 payable to the Township for the term of September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, with a one-year renewal option at the same cost.

Councilman Ring emphasized that the Yard Waste Facility will be paying the Township \$29,000.00 rather than the Township paying the facility.

NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

Representatives from NJ American Water Company

New Jersey American Water Co. representatives addressed the dais regarding the upcoming work that will be done from Prince Rodgers Avenue/Vogt Drive to Foothill Road. Existing pipes will be replaced with 4,300 feet of 12-inch ductal iron main. The project will also include new fire hydrants, additional 1-inch services to each

residence and the repaving of the road upon the completion of work.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer and will be performed Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm as per Somerset County. After hours and on the weekends, the road will be open for normal traffic flow. They advised that all residents have been notified and are aware of the work being done.

Following the presentation, the representatives from NJ American Water Company fielded questions from the dais.

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 Ring, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

- No one wished to be heard.

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

Public Hearing & Final Action Ordinances

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,100,000 FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MONROE STREET, JACKSON STREET, VILLA DRIVE, CABOT HILL ROAD, SUNSET DRIVE, MEINERS DRIVE, RIDGE ROAD, MIDDLE ROAD, BOLMER FARM ROAD AND BLAZIER ROAD, INCLUDING CURBING, MILLING, PAVING, DRAINAGE, SEWER AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS, VARIOUS ROAD OVERLAYS AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,795,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting was opened to the public.

No one wished to be heard.

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

Councilman Pedroso expressed that, consistent with his prior comments during the introduction of this ordinance, he will vote “No”.

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

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

ORDINANCE #25-07 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-174](#) is appended to the official minutes

Resolutions

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO NATURE'S CHOICE NJ, LLC OF 960 HOLMDEL ROAD, BUILDING #2, SUITE #201, HOLMDEL, NJ 07733 FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER'S YARD WASTE SITE AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 AND TERMINATING ON AUGUST 31, 2026

Councilman Pedroso thanked Mr. Genova for his thorough presentation regarding this resolution.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-175](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO FOVEONICS IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES INC. OF 99 GRAYROCK ROAD #103, CLINTON, NEW JERSEY 08809 FOR DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS UNDER THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY (ESCNJ) COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM #ESCNJ-22/23-11, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00 TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE RECORDS RETENTION FUND

Township Administrator Pappas stated that the Township Clerk and her staff are doing an excellent job at managing this project. Last year, the Township scanned sewer utility documents and will now be focusing on the remaining departments.

Township Clerk, Grace Njuguna, advised that the Township has approximately 200 boxes that are ready to be imaged and then destroyed by Foveonics. The documents that don't need to be scanned will be stored at the Township until their retention schedule has expired and will subsequently be shredded. She added that shredding events are funded by a grant.

Councilman Pedroso asked where the scanned documents are being stored and if the data is backed up. Township Clerk Njuguna offered that the documents are stored in the cloud and that the Township receives a USB flash drive from Foveonics as a back-up. Councilman Pedroso emphasized the importance of safeguarding Township documents.

Township Administrator Pappas concluded by offering that Township employees utilize this database to answer OPRA requests quickly and efficiently.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-176](#) is appended to the official minutes

CONSENT VOTE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NORGALIS READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE AND ALLOWED FOR DISCUSSIONS/QUESTIONS. HE THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT MOTION.

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER DECREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,014,857.97 TO \$890,785.61 A DECREASE OF 12.23% OR \$124,072.36, 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 2023-6 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF APRIL DRIVE, EASTBROOK ROAD, MAYFLOWER COURT, LOFT DRIVE, AND WEEMAC ROAD, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2023 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,300,932.79 TO \$1,313,509.14 — AN INCREASE OF \$12,576.35 (0.97%) — AND AUTHORIZING PROJECT ACCEPTANCE, 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 2024-5 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF LAWTON ROAD, LAWTON PLACE, BIRCH HILL DRIVE, BITTERSWEET TERRACE, SOMERSET AVENUE, MOUNTAIN TOP ROAD (CRIM ROAD TO ROSE COURT), AND THE PARKING LOT AT THE BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 CAPITAL ROAD FUND

PROJECT RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING (PHASE 1) FOR THE PLYMOUTH ROAD, RYAN WAY AND JEFFREY LANE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE LENGTH OF PLYMOUTH ROAD (WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD TO CRIM ROAD), RYAN WAY (PLYMOUTH ROAD TO PLYMOUTH ROAD) AND JEFFREY LANE (PLYMOUTH ROAD TO CRIM ROAD) TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT BOND AND FY 2024 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#25-07-10-177 thru #25-07-10-179](#) are appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PERSON TO PERSON AND PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE #1806-44-041-002 FROM (LICENSEE) RAMARAM INC. LOCATED AT 477C UNION AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 TO (APPLICANT), SAI ARP, LLC TO BE LOCATED AT 601 EAST MAIN STREET, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807

The application submitted has been deemed complete in all respects and the transfer fees have been paid.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-180](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING A FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED AT 747 STATE ROUTE 28, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY, ON SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025, WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

Council President Norgalis stated that the date on this resolution has already passed. Therefore, since it was not submitted to the council on time, he will be voting “No”.

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 Pedroso | Aye |
| Councilman Ring | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis | Nay |

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-181](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION ENDORSING HOUSING ELEMENT & FAIR SHARE PLAN

Township Administrator Pappas stated that the new legislation from the state requires the Planning Board to approve a housing plan by June 30th.

Councilman Kirsh expressed his frustrations regarding the new mandate from the state and added that it will change the face of Bridgewater and all other municipalities drastically.

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 Pedroso | Nay |
| Councilman Ring | Aye |
| Council President Norgalis | Aye |

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-182](#) 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 and engagement of legal counsel.

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 Ring, Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:34 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#25-07-10-183](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Council President Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:15 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Howard Norgalis
Council President