

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JUNE 10, 2021 COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Pedroso 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 5, 2021, BY SENDING WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE STAR LEDGER; POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND FILING WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK. A SUBSEQUENT NOTICE WITH LIVESTREAM INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON JUNE 7, 2021.

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

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council Vice President Allen Kurdyla
Council President Filipe Pedroso

Also Present: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Wells Winegar, Deputy Township Administrator
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

Council President Pedroso led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

MAY 17, 2021 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the May 17, 2021 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh

- Happy to be back to in-person meetings and glad we are able to continue our work as a tribute to those that are no longer with us.

- Attended the Somerset County Governing Officials meeting yesterday. There was considerable discussion regarding the Cares Act and deadlines

required as part of the application process. Councilman Kirsh stated he is certain that Administration will keep on top of that. He added there was discussion about the possibility of additional monies once there is proof that the first-round monies have been used up.

- Attended the bulky trash event along with Councilman Norgalis.
- The Planning Board met on May 25th and approved an application for Aspen Dental which will be located where Albers and later AAA offices were located over by Buffalo Wild Wings. This location is challenging based on access but we expect that this will dental practice be a significant positive addition to Bridgewater.
- On Memorial Day, Councilman Kirsh was able to spend a portion of the afternoon right after the parade ended at the American Legion Post #327 to meet with our veterans and other guests.
- The Primary Election was held a couple of days ago. Procedures returned to normal with people voting in-person. At our previous meeting, Councilman Kirsh stated he had mentioned that planning is underway for early voting. In addition to the drop box at the municipal building, we are hopeful that we will be able to report a very convenient in-person option for the 10-days preceding the November 2nd election.

Councilman Norgalis:

- Attended, along with Mayor Moench and Administrator Pappas, a meeting with senior members of the Hindu Venkateswara Temple Community including Board Chairman Bapineedu Kuchipudi and Bridgewater resident Sekhar Vemparala. The subject was a meet and greet to help township representatives better understand the workings of the Temple.
- The Old Farm Rd sewer installation is proceeding and will result in a newly paved road in the near future.
- Thanks to our Clerk's office staff, Linda and Grace for a successful Primary Election which requires a tremendous amount of coordination on their-part. They were handicapped by the County Election Board's not being able to fully staff polling election worker spots. In some cases, there was only one pole worker where three were used in the past.
- Congratulations to Michael Kirsh running for County Commissioner and Michael Pappas running for State Senator. Both will run in the November election.

- Participated along with Council President Pedroso in the combined Centerbridge I and II Board meetings to be updated on their compliance of the CDC requirements for handling COVID. They far surpassed all of the sanitation requirements.

Councilman Ring:

- Very happy to be back in the courtroom for in-person meetings. Since last March, we have seen the community come together to help neighbors and friends. Our first responders in particular our volunteer rescue squads stepped up their game and even with the heightened risk of COVID to their membership continued to answer the call of duty. We saw groups of residents come together to help their fellow neighbors and strangers. There are many groups that truly helped the community throughout the last fifteen (15) months and is sure he would miss many if he tried to list all of them. To everyone that has stepped up to help over the last 15-months, Councilman Ring gave his sincere thanks.
- We now have a vaccine for COVID-19 readily available. Governor Murphy has set a goal to have 70% of the State's population over the age of 18 fully vaccinated by July 1st. According to data released last week, Bridgewater residents have already met that goal, one month early. Councilman Ring stated this is another example of Bridgewater stepping out in the fight against COVID.
- While COVID has unified our community, we must not forget the residents who were impacted. Over 2,600 of our residents contracted COVID-19 and over 106 of our friends, relatives and neighbors passed away from this ailment. Just outside of the municipal building near the entrance of Kid Street, a tree was donated by Bridgewater resident Barbara Ronka with the intent that it will serve as a symbol of healing and hope as well as a memorial to those no longer here with us due to COVID-19.
- We have seen over one third of our local businesses going out of business during the last year. Councilman Ring stated that we have many great restaurants and businesses in Bridgewater and hoped our residents would continue to support them.
- While we were forced to meet virtually the last 15-months, he is pleased that the town continued to operate and provide services for our residents. While restrictions and loss of revenue cost the town to change how they serve residents, township employees stepped up and rose to the challenge. Councilman Ring thanked all of the employees for their efforts.

- Even with the progress we have made, COVID-19 is not gone. Councilman Ring hoped the medical community will continue to work to advance the treatment for those still fighting as well as for those who may contract COVID-19 in the future.
- Participated in the meeting with the Emergency management coordinator and the volunteer rescue squads to discuss some common concerns and ways the Council may be able to help address some items for them. Councilman Ring stated he hopes to have more information on this at the next council meeting.
- Attended the Somerset County Governing Officials meeting in which Paul Penna from the NJ League of municipalities spoke about the American release plan and cannabis legalization noting the legalization of cannabis continues to be plagued with challenges throughout the State. Since the legislature on cannabis was originally voted on early, there have been three (3) cleanup bills trying to clean up issues with the original legislation, including a clean-up bill to the clean-up bill. There was also some discussion for those municipalities that do opt into the cannabis program. The current legislation does not have any built-in protections regarding the 2% tax on cannabis activity. There was concern raised that the State could eventually keep all of the 2% tax much like they did with the public utility tax back in the early 2000.
- It was also reported that the State is having some discussions at the State level about eliminating the medical marijuana program that currently exists in NJ and integrating everything through the new cannabis program.
- According to Mr. Penna, the league is informally tracking municipalities which opt out of cannabis. 70 had previously opted out before the legislative action and currently, there are 110 municipalities that have either opted out or in the process of opting out.

Council Vice-President Kurdyla:

- On Memorial Day, it was his honor to attend the Veteran's Memorial Service

Council President Pedroso

- Is pleased to return to in-person meetings noting that the courtroom has been arranged where one side allows for social distancing and the other side of the room is for those comfortable without social distancing. He added we will continue to livestream out meetings and although the

sound quality is somewhat impaired, we will continue to work on this for future meetings.

Mayor's Reports

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator was present to report on behalf of Mayor Moench

- Following Council's approval of \$8M dollars towards a road program, administration is pleased to be able to present on tonight's agenda the award of contract for Garfield Avenue which includes Lincoln Street. Five bids were received and the winning bid went to a company that has done great work in the past.
- The Senior Citizen's Center was reopened this past Monday after having been closed for well over a year. Administration is very pleased with the turnout.
- The Township Council has been inquiring of the proposed budget for 2021. Administration has been waiting for the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to provide guidance regarding federal relief. This had made it almost impossible for Administration to properly plan but we now have as a goal to have a proposed budget for the Council to officially consider at the next council meeting.

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

Jim Lambert, 1004 Brown Road Bridgewater, NJ 08807

In the summer of 2016, the Bridgewater Township public works built a fence for his next-door neighbor as part of a larger project. That same year, they came to the Zoning Board for a variance for a six-ft high solid white vinyl fence less than 25-ft from the property line. Shortly after that was approved, Mr. Lambert stated he made the Public Works superintendent at the time aware that a portion of that fence, about 40-ft, was constructed on their property. After numerous meetings with township staff and officials including two Mayors, the fence remains on their property almost five years later. His question was what do they have to do to get that fence out of their property.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated that the issue discussed is related to a number of other issues in that part of the community adding there are drainage issues that are associated with that neighborhood. This administration continues, as have previous staff and administration, to review

the record and determine best way to handle this. Administrator Pappas stated he will confer with Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services and William Burr, Township Engineer and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Curtis Kraut, 199 Adamsvill Road Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Frustrated with a lack of response noting he lives along Cuckholds Brook and on May 7th, he contacted the township to have some obstruction removed from the Brook. In the past, issues such as this have been brought to DPW, Engineering or Administration but it has been more than a month since his complaint and wasn't sure why this has not been addressed.

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator stated he spoke to Mr. Kraut recently and is aware that he had been in communication with previous administrations in an attempt to address drainage concerns that are prevalent in that part of the community. We would need a temporary access easement to perform the work. The township does not have any easement nor legal obligation to remove the tree and have not pursued this due to the limited resources we have adding this could begin a process that would ensure we have numerous requests such as this from others in the township. At this point, Administrator Pappas stated we are unable to address this matter as this is on private property.

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

**Public
Hearing &
Final Action
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE REPLACING CHAPTER 126 (LAND USE), PART 11 (SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS), ARTICLE XXXVIA ENTITLED "REMOVAL AND PRESERVATION OF TREES," SECTIONS 126-278.1 THROUGH 126-278.12 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING THE DEFINITION SECTION, DELINEATING ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS, SETTING FORTH THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A PERMIT, DELINEATING THE CRITERIA FOR TREE REMOVAL AND SETTING FORTH THE TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION FESS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Township Administrator Pappas explained this was recommended by Thomas Genova, Director of Municipal Services as there had been serious concerns about how trees were being removed. As a result, the township Ordinance needed to be enhanced. This proposed Ordinance was drafted in consultation with Councilman Howard Norgalis, Scarlett Doyle, Township Planner and William Burr, Township Engineer.

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE #21-12 WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-146](#) is appended to the official minutes

Rescinding
Resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING A CERTAIN FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A SEWER UTILITY PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000.00

Township Administrator Pappas stated that a number of years ago, the Township adopted a capital ordinance for a number of purposes including equipment purchases, woodland terrace road reconstruction and a sewer line for woodland terrace. It was however determined by the Engineering department that the sewer project was not necessary nor feasible so these monies are proposed to be cancelled.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-147](#) is appended to the official minutes

Introduction
of
Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GILBRIDE AND MIDDLEBROOK SEWER PUMP STATIONS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND APPROPRIATING \$1,500,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

Township Administrator Pappas explained the monies cancelled in the rescinding resolution above will be used to fund this project. Councilman Kurdyla asked we secure spare parts that normally take long periods of time to be delivered so that we have them at hand in the event of an emergency.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-148](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. Doyle, 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 21st day of June, 2021 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-85 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED "OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT" TO CODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER CONTROL ACT

Township Administrator Pappas stated this is an enhancement of the Ordinance to ensure that the volunteers are sufficiently covered and the structure is in line with current practices.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-149](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. Doyle, 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 21st day of June, 2021 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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION” SECTION 99-13 ENTITLED “FIRE WATCH AND FIRE SAFETY STANDBY POLICY” TO ADJUST THE FEES FOR SERVICE

Township Administrator Pappas explained this is an adjustment to some of the fees to cover the costs of our inspections.

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-150](#) is appended to the official minutes

Linda J. Doyle, 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 21st day of June, 2021 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

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND \$ 5,860,068.19

Township Administrator Pappas stated this is what administration hopes to be the last temporary appropriation budget addition for 2021. Administration hopes to have the final budget for Council's approval in the next few weeks.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-151](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WELLS WINEGAR AND CHRISTINE MADRID AS BRIDGEWATER'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MIDDLE BROOK HEALTH COMMISSION

Township Administrator Pappas stated the Council approved the township joining the Middlebrook health commission and as such are required to provide two (2) voting representatives. The Mayor has recommended Mr. Winegar and Mr. Madrid.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-152](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING A SPECIAL COUNSEL TO BEVAN, MOSCA & GIUDITTA, PC LOCATED AT 222 MT AIRY RD # 200, BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920 FOR BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2021 (SECOND SOLICITATION)

Township Administrator Pappas stated these firms have extensive experience working with NJDEP and the Board of public utilities and they are assisting us with some negotiations concerning agreements with other municipalities about sewer utility services.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-153](#) is appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING QUALIFIED VENDORS FOR VARIOUS OPEN-ENDED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

Township Administrator Pappas stated we have used a number of these engineering firms for various projects. Christopher M. Corsini, Esq., Township Attorney and Rose Witt, Purchasing Agent created a process that allows us to prequalify the engineering firms. If approved, this will allow us to engage them for engineering projects. Those engagements would still require Council approval.

On motion of Councilman 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 Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-154](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF VARIOUS ITEMS (LISTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE) OF MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER THROUGH SOMERSET COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM USING GOVDEALS IN THE MANNER OF PUBLIC AND/OR INTERNET AUCTION

Township Administrator Pappas stated there have been a number of items that have been determined to be no longer useful to the township. This resolution will allow us to auction off/sell those items.

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 Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-155](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT - EMPG/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE -EMAA. (SUB-AWARD FY 2021 EMPG-EMAA-1806). TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 IN FEDERAL FUNDS

Township Administrator Pappas stated these are grant monies that require no match and will offset the office of emergency management coordinators compensation. Councilman Ring stated this award is as a result of the hard work put in by our OEM coordinator.

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 Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-156](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE GARFIELD AVENUE (INCLUDING LINCOLN STREET) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (THREE SECTIONS- ENTIRE LENGTHS), IN THE SUM OF \$524,980.59, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2020 CAPITAL FUND

Township Administrator Pappas explained five bids were received for roads that have needed to be reconstructed for a long time. Top Line Construction is a company that does a good job.

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 Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-157](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500.00, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, FOR BLOCK 660, LOT 8.02 - VFV PROPERTIES, INC., 1 JEFFREY LANE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ -

Township Administrator Pappas stated William Burr, Township Engineer has recommended the release of this performance guarantee as the improvements associated with this project have been completed to his satisfaction.

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 Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-158](#) is appended to the official minutes

SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED NJDOT TEMPORARY DETOUR THROUGH BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP DUE TO REPLACEMENT OF THE BRIDGE DECKS OF THE NJDOT SOMERVILLE ROAD BRIDGES OVER ROUTE 78

Township Administrator Pappas asked that this resolution be removed and placed for consideration at the next Council meeting.

**Consent
Resolutions**

CONSENT AGENDA - 2021-2022 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

**Liquor
Licenses**

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

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSES

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSES FOR SQUIRES CORNER LIQUORS, INC. t/a SPIRITS OF THE VALLEY, KRISHA BEVERAGE t/a BRIDGEWATER WINE & SPIRITS WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS, INC. AND RAMARAM, INC., t/a BUY BEST WINE & LIQUORS

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER CLUB LIQUOR LICENSES FOR FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, SOMERVILLE LODGE OF ELKS, RARITAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB AND GERALD ABREGO POST AMERICAN LEGION

2021-2022-RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION FOR THE HYATT HOUSE OF BRIDGEWATER, HILTON GARDEN INN, HAMPTON INN AND SUITES AND AC MARRIOTT BRIDGEWATER

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE CAFÉ EMILIA, INC. WITH SPECIAL CONDITION

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCEPTION MARRIOTT HOTEL SERVICES, INC WITH CONDITIONS

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE A. PEARL, INC. LOCATED AT 600 EAST MAIN STREET, BRIDGEWATER WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVALS FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE CHIMNEY ROCK, LQR LLC, NO. 1806-33-017-007 WITH SPECIAL

RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE SOLO BRIDGEWATER, LLC, NO. 1806-32-003-006 WITH SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 APPROVAL FOR TWO LICENSING TERMS 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

2020-2021 RENEWAL OF INACTIVE PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE #1806-33-011-008, RUBY TUESDAY, INC. FORMERLY ACTIVE AT 754 ROUTE 202 TOWNE CENTRE, BRIDGEWATER

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolution [#21-06-10-159 thru #21-06-10-168](#) are appended to the official minutes

2021-2022 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-021-009, FOR MISH-J.O. INVESTMENT CORP. T/A GREEN KNOLL GRILLE

Council President Pedroso stated the Green Knoll Grill was notified the renewal would be discussed tonight due to the negative comments in the police report and noted there was no one was in the room representing the Green Knoll Grille. He asked Detective Dunlop to address Council on his report.

Detective Russell Dunlop explained in preparing the report for renewal of the Township Liquor licenses, he had no concerns or objections to the renewals with the exception of the Green Knoll Grille. In his memo dated 5-19-2021, he outlined his concerns including seven Assaults, one aggravated assault, three verbal disputes, three harassment and eight possible noise violations. He reported he has spoken with the staff at Green Knoll Grille many times regarding CDC requirements with improper masking and social distancing in the past few months and other issues and based from conversations with other officers and review of the CAD reports feel that over serving of alcohol is likely the cause of

the majority of issues.

Sergeant Peter Ochs also stated the concerns with this establishment go back for some time and during his tenure while doing the liquor licensing in 2015 cited there were many issues that caused a multitude of conditions on the license in an effort to better manage and provide public safety.

Councilman Norgalis reiterated issues with public safety and this licensee go back many years and although conditions were placed on the license the infractions seem to continue. He stated he would like to send a strong message to the Green Knoll Grille and asked legal to provide guidance on what ramifications can be taken.

Councilman Kurdyla asked about the bouncers and whether they are a bonded company and agreed that ramifications need to be taken.

Councilman Ring presented the members with an additional report run from the Somerset County Communications that quantified the number of calls to the Green Knoll Grille and offered the following suggestions:

Alcohol Seller and Server Training - Provide training to all staff involved in the sale and/or serving of alcohol. Training should also be provided to security guards and valet staff. Training should cover topics such as-

- How to exercise control within the environment of social drinking
- Influence aspects of drinking behavior to encourage responsible drinking
- How to appropriately intervene in and resolve troublesome situations

There should be a requirement that X% of the impacted staff is trained at all times or that impacted staff must be initially trained within X days of being hired.

While there are couple of different organization that offer this type of training, the industry leader is considered TIPs (<https://www.gettips.com>) TIPs offers a certification which is valid for a period of three years and must be re-certified every three years.

Security Officer Certification - Require all staff employed in a security guard role to be compliant with the New Jersey Security Officer Registration Act (SORA). <https://www.njsp.org/private-detective/sora-help.shtml>

Alternative option would be to outsource security to NJ licensed security vendor.

The Bridgewater Police Department should have the authority to review records for both of these requirements. Non-compliance should be handled like any other violation.

Council President Pedroso instructed the Green Knoll Grille be notified of a Public Hearing on the Liquor License Renewal to be heard on June 21, 2021 and further discussion be held in executive session.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bridgewater Township Council that this body will now hold a closed meeting to discuss:

CONTRACT NEGOTIATION - Somerset Regional Animal Shelter
PUBLIC SAFETY - License Renewal

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 8:50 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#21-06-10-169](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:00 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Filipe Pedroso
Council President

Closed
Session