

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 17, 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, December 17, 2026, 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 (Absent)  
Councilman Timothy Ring  
Council President Howard V. Norgalis

Also Present: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor  
Michael Pappas, Township Administrator  
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney  
Grace Njuguna, Township Clerk

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

**Minutes**

**DECEMBER 3, 2025 - REGULAR SESSION**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the December 3, 2025 regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote. Councilman Ring abstained.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh:

- Attended a swearing in ceremony for an officer on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
  
- Councilman Kirsh participated in the Christmas Tree Lighting and a good time was had by all.
  
- Attended the ribbon cutting for Ankos Surgical on December 9<sup>th</sup>, which is an organization responsible for the first FDA granted antibacterial coding for orthopedic implants. Ankos Surgical is dedicated to oncology patients and

others who have complicated joint replacement needs.

- The Zoning Board met and approved a residential addition on Carteret Road, as well as hearing additional testimony regarding Café Emilia. That case will continue into the new year. Councilman Kirsh expressed his appreciation on behalf of himself and Township Council to the very hardworking board members.
- The Planning Board granted approval of the AR Bridgewater 2 LLC extension. Councilman Kirsh offered his appreciation for the members who serve on the board.
- Councilman Kirsh stated that in the Township will host the official Hanukkah Celebration tomorrow night.
- Attended the Senior Citizen Center holiday party, the Township staff holiday party and the council reception honoring the outgoing council members.
- Councilman Kirsh acknowledged the hard work and exceptional service that Council President Norgalis provided to the Township. He added that they bonded when he was running for Council in 2019 and that he subsequently asked Council President Norgalis to swear him in, noting it was a decision he was glad he made. Councilman Kirsh expressed that he is looking to continue his legacy.
- Councilman Kirsh reflected on his years working alongside Councilman Kurdyla, noting that they grew much closer during Councilman Kurdyla's term as Council President.
- Councilman Kirsh extended his best wishes to Council President Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla in their future endeavors.

#### Councilman Ring:

- Participated in the Tree Lighting that was held in the Municipal Courtyard. While it was chilly, it was overall a very good night. Councilman Ring thanked all of those who were involved with the event.
- Councilman Ring assisted in serving chili at the Senior Center holiday luncheon, attended the Township staff holiday party, and attended an event held prior to the Council meeting recognizing Council President Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla for their service to the community. He expressed his appreciation for all they have done for Bridgewater Township and thanked both councilmen's families for sharing them for the betterment of the community.

- Reminded Township residents of the ordinance regarding sidewalk maintenance and snow removal, which requires residents to clear the sidewalk in front of their property within 12 hours of daylight after snowfall has ended.

Councilmen Norgalis and Kurdyla stated they would hold off on their reports until the end of the meeting.

### **Mayor's Reports**

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- Mayor Moench thanked Council President Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla for their service and for all they have done for the Township, stating that both councilmen will be missed on 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 Kirsh, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

- **Christine Rose: 1725 Woodfield Road – Martinsville, NJ 08836**

Ms. Rose stated that Council President Norgalis and Councilman Kurdyla will be truly missed. As a former councilwoman, she noted that service on the Township Council involves not only the work visible to residents during meetings, but also significant work behind the scenes to ensure members are well informed on the matters before them. Ms. Rose added that Council President Norgalis exemplified this standard and noted that she never attended a meeting at which he was not fully prepared. Ms. Rose offered an invitation for Council President Norgalis to help with the organization, Friends of Bridgewater History.

Ms. Rose acknowledged the significant work Councilman Kurdyla has undertaken related to open space, including the preservation of land to ensure the Township maintains needed green space throughout the community. She recalled their work together on the Council as being part of a collaborative team, which she stated she greatly appreciated and valued.

- **Joseph Alfieri: 1586 Washington Valley Road - Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Mr. Alfieri stated that he has been on the Sewerage Authority Committee for 15 years and thanked the Council for their support on that committee. He emphasized that the importance of the repair and maintenance of the sewage system as a failure would be catastrophic. He thanked the outgoing council members for their service to Bridgewater and hopes the incoming council provides the same support to the authority.

- **Joan Geiger: 154 Hillside Avenue – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Geiger, the incoming Council President, wished the dais a happy holiday season and a happy new year. She expressed her gratitude to Councilman Kurdyla and Council President Norgalis for their service and stated that she does not know how she will fill Council President Norgalis' shoes, noting that she will be calling on him for help and advice. She also expressed her appreciation for their assistance in ensuring a smooth and peaceful transition into 2026.

- **Bob Albano: 1149 Papen Rd – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Mr. Albano, a former councilman, expressed his appreciation for the years of service rendered for the benefit of the community. He added that he was pleased Ms. Geiger spoke before him, as it highlighted the importance of a peaceful and cordial transition of power. Mr. Albano further stated his hope that the sitting Council members will extend to the incoming Council members the same courtesy and dignity they received when they took office.

- **Cathy Franco: 766 Weemac Road - Martinsville, NJ 08836**

Ms. Franco asked Councilman Ring whether there is an ordinance regarding the clearing of roads, noting that she had seen on social media claims that certain roads were not cleared within a specified timeframe. Councilman Ring advised that roads are maintained by a combination of the Township, the County, and homeowners' associations, and stated that she should contact the Administration with any concerns regarding a specific road.

Ms. Franco asked whether there was a way for the public to view the corrective action plan related to the 2024 Audit. Council President Norgalis offered his copy and assured Ms. Franco that it would be discussed later in the meeting.

Ms. Franco thanked Council President Norgalis, Councilman Kurdyla and Councilman Pedroso for their years of service, commitment and dedication to the Township.

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

## **JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,100,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

Council President Norgalis stated that during the November 6 meeting, it was announced that the public hearing and final action on the \$4.1 million sewer bonding ordinance were scheduled for December 3. Following a subsequent inquiry from Council, the final vote was deferred to the December 17 meeting. Upon the recommendation of bond counsel, the public hearing proceeded as scheduled on December 3, at which time no public comments were received. Accordingly, the matter before Council this evening was limited to discussion and final consideration of the ordinance.

Council President Norgalis noted that the proposed project has been under consideration for several months and represents a comprehensive, well-reviewed infrastructure investment. He and Councilman Kirsh conducted an on-site inspection of the pumping station and observed that the facility, which is approximately 50 years old, is in significant need of modernization.

He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Tom Genova, Director of Municipal Services and Sewer Utility, including DPW and Public Works, who has overseen the planning and evaluation process. An engineering firm was retained to conduct a thorough assessment of the facility's operational requirements, including pump sizing, the number of pumps needed, system upgrades, and the implementation of a fully modernized electronic control system.

Council President Norgalis further emphasized that employee safety is a key component of the project. He explained that current conditions require DPW personnel to descend approximately 50 feet into the station while utilizing gas detection equipment to confirm safe air quality. The proposed improvements include the installation of an enhanced alarm and monitoring system, which will significantly improve safety for municipal employees.

He concluded by inviting questions or comments from the Council regarding the bond ordinance.

Councilman Kirsh commented that the proposed project represents a necessary investment. While acknowledging that the expenditure of \$4.1 million is significant and not taken lightly, he emphasized that the investment is essential to maintaining the long-term physical integrity and fiscal health of the sewer utility. He noted that the community relies on an extensive underground infrastructure that supports daily household activities, including wastewater from residences. By taking a proactive approach and positioning the pumping station for reliable operation well into the future, he stated that Council was taking important and responsible action on behalf of the Township.

Councilman Ring stated that he concurred with the comments made by Councilman Kirsh and noted that the project aligns with the Sewer Utility’s responsibility to proactively address infrastructure needs before failures occur. He emphasized that preventative investment is essential to avoid costly disruptions and stated that the proposed improvements reflect a prudent and forward-looking approach.

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

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

**ORDINANCE #25-13 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#25-12-17-299](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING SECTION 126 OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP CODE, REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 126-321.10 TITLED “AH-3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ZONE” ALLOWING FOR ELEVEN 100% AFFORDABLE MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UNITS AND FOUR DISABLED VETERANS HOUSING UNITS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND ANY UNIFORM HOUSING AND AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS ON BLOCK 406, LOT 2.01**

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

- **Amanda Kronemeyer: Attorney from Herold Law**  
Amanda Kronemeyer, Esq., of Herald Law, addressed Council and stated that she represents six residents residing within 200 feet of the Cornell Boulevard site. She identified her clients as Jennifer Fleer and Jason D. Rodkar of the Borough of Somerville; Brian Riley of the Borough of Somerville; and Richard F. Cash, George E. Cook, and Barbara Cook of the Township of Bridgewater. She further stated that her clients are named parties in pending litigation concerning the original adoption of the AH-3 zoning designation, docket number SOM-L-1455-25.

Ms. Kronemeyer provided information regarding proposed Ordinance 25-24 and discussed its relationship to adjacent residential properties in both the Township of Bridgewater and the Borough of Somerville. She referenced the 2025 Master Plan Re-Examination Report and the Municipal Land Use Law

(MLUL) in the context of zoning considerations applicable to the site.

Ms. Kronemeyer noted that the subject property abuts residential properties located at 203 and 199 Cornell Boulevard within the Township's R-10 single-family residential zone and has frontage adjacent to the Borough of Somerville's R-1 residential district. She reviewed zoning standards applicable to the site under prior C-1 commercial zoning and existing R-10 residential zoning, including setback requirements, and discussed how zoning standards relate to site planning considerations.

She also addressed ordinance provisions related to buffering, landscaping, fencing, and access, and discussed the importance of these elements in relation to neighboring residential uses.

Ms. Kronemeyer concluded her remarks by requesting that the Council consider the information presented in its deliberations regarding the ordinance.

- **Larry Dwire: Foothill Road**

Larry Dwire addressed the Council and stated that he has been a resident of Bridgewater for approximately 60 years, residing on Foothill Road. He referenced his long-standing familiarity with the Township and its development history, including prior community involvement related to land use and development matters.

Mr. Dwire noted past efforts by residents to engage with the Township regarding development proposals and referenced the preservation of property now partially owned by the Township and designated for park use. He acknowledged the Township's role in those prior decisions.

Mr. Dwire stated that he is a Marine veteran and expressed his perspective regarding the proposed affordable housing development, including potential housing for veterans, in proximity to a highway ramp. He discussed the importance of stability, safety, and quality-of-life considerations when planning housing for residents in need, including veterans.

He further acknowledged the Township's obligation to provide affordable housing and encouraged consideration of alternative locations that would best support residents' well-being. Mr. Dwire also referenced concerns raised by residents regarding impacts to nearby neighborhoods and noted that community awareness of the project may vary.

Mr. Dwire concluded by thanking the Council for the opportunity to be heard.

- **Carolyn Gioia: 1402 Palley Court – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Gioia addressed the Council and stated that she was involved in a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Cornell Boulevard in 2023. She described the intersection as challenging due to traffic volume and signal placement and noted that the experience highlighted the importance of safety considerations in that area.

Ms. Gioia encouraged the Council to take traffic flow and safety into account when reviewing development plans that could increase traffic in the vicinity. She referenced relevant reports and documentation available from the police and litigation related to the incident.

She concluded by thanking the Council for considering public safety in its planning and decision-making processes.

- **Cathy Franco: 766 Weemac Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836**

Cathy Franco inquired about the process for public comment, specifically regarding residents represented by legal counsel. She asked for clarification on the statutes or rules governing the ability of such residents to provide comments at public meetings.

Ms. Franco also discussed the proposed zoning changes for the property in question. She highlighted the importance of community awareness regarding zoning decisions and encouraged transparency in communicating potential zoning changes to all residents. She emphasized that residents value understanding how zoning decisions may affect their neighborhoods and noted that clear communication supports informed community participation.

- **Kim Wortman: Somerville resident**

Kim Wortman referred to her previous comments at the September 18th Council meeting regarding proposed zoning changes to block 406, lot 201. She noted that she has spent time reflecting on the project and engaging with the community since that time.

Ms. Wortman encouraged Council to explore alternative locations within the Township for the proposed development that may better fit within the neighborhood context. She offered her assistance in identifying potential sites, conducting research, and supporting the preparation of grant applications, including the DCA grant, to ensure compliance with state requirements for smaller-scale projects that are compatible with surrounding areas.

She also highlighted the importance of assessing potential impacts on local infrastructure and emergency services and encouraged Council to complete

appropriate cost analyses and due diligence prior to taking final action. Ms. Wartman concluded by emphasizing community safety and expressed her willingness to work with the Council and residents to support thoughtful planning and development.

- **Gaynor Neumaier: 291 West Summit Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Ms. Neumaier addressed the Council regarding the proposed rezoning of the site for affordable housing. She discussed quality-of-life considerations associated with the site location, including traffic volume, noise levels, and proximity to highway on-ramps, and noted the importance of evaluating these factors for future residents.

She also referenced environmental and site-related considerations, including groundwater conditions and potential impacts on nearby properties, and encouraged Council to consider how construction and increased activity could affect the surrounding neighborhood, including traffic flow.

Ms. Neumaier expressed her support for affordable housing initiatives generally and acknowledged the Township's efforts to meet its obligations in this area. She encouraged Council to carefully consider whether the proposed site is the most appropriate location for such development.

- **Nathan Cook: Raritan resident**

Mr. Cook stated that his parents reside at 199 Cornell Boulevard. He expressed his perspective regarding the proposed development and discussed how different stakeholders may be affected by the rezoning decision. He referenced potential impacts on nearby residents and encouraged Council to consider those effects as part of its deliberations.

- **Lauren Hutcherson: Resident of Somerville, NJ**

Ms. Hutcherson addressed the timing of the proposed ordinance, noting the upcoming Council reorganization in January, and encouraged consideration of whether additional review by the incoming Council would be beneficial. She discussed planning considerations related to zoning changes, including impervious coverage, drainage, and proximity to nearby environmental features.

She also referenced site design elements such as parking layout and buffering and emphasized the importance of thoughtful land use planning that balances development objectives with neighborhood compatibility. Ms. Hutcherson encouraged the Council to consider cost analysis and environmental impacts as part of its decision-making process.

- **Brett Radi: 289 West Summit Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Former County Clerk Radi addressed Council and discussed policy statements and planning principles referenced by state and local officials in recent years, particularly those related to environmental protection, open space, and neighborhood compatibility. He referenced state funding programs and noted their stated intent to support smaller-scale projects that align with the character of surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Radi discussed the context of the proposed rezoning within a single-family residential area and encouraged the Council to consider whether the scale and design standards of the proposed zoning align with existing neighborhood conditions. He also discussed zoning standards applicable to the proposed district, including setbacks, lot width, and floor area considerations, and encouraged Council to evaluate consistency with zoning practices elsewhere in the Township.

Mr. Radi further referenced the grant application and review process and emphasized the importance of comprehensive environmental and neighborhood review.

- **Jocelyn Eckardt: 194 Cornell Boulevard, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Ms. Eckardt addressed the Council regarding the proposed use of the subject property for affordable housing. She discussed considerations related to the needs of various populations typically served by affordable housing, including senior citizens, families with children, and veterans.

Ms. Eckardt encouraged the Council to evaluate the suitability of the site in relation to access to community amenities, such as retail services, recreational areas, pedestrian infrastructure, public transportation, and social services. She emphasized the importance of safety, accessibility, and quality-of-life factors when determining appropriate locations for housing serving vulnerable populations.

- **Cynthia Hollod: 91 Prospect Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Ms. Hollod, a resident of Somerville, addressed the Council regarding the proposed rezoning associated with the Cornell Boulevard development. She discussed site location considerations and encouraged Council to evaluate the suitability of the parcel for residential use, given its proximity to major roadways and surrounding commercial activity.

Ms. Hollod emphasized the importance of considering environmental conditions, including traffic volume, noise, and air quality, when evaluating sites for residential development. She noted that these considerations are particularly important when planning housing intended to serve residents with limited housing options.

- **Liam Rodke: 110 Prospect Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Mr. Rodke addressed the Council regarding the proposed development on Cornell Boulevard. He discussed site conditions and neighborhood characteristics, including proximity to major roadways, existing vegetation, and environmental features, and encouraged the Council to consider how these factors relate to residential use.

Mr. Rodke also discussed health, safety, and quality-of-life considerations for future residents, including traffic, noise, and air quality, and emphasized the importance of evaluating site suitability for housing serving vulnerable populations. He further referenced existing neighborhood infrastructure, including walkability, street design, and pedestrian conditions, and encouraged consideration of how additional development could affect these elements.

- **Hassam Baig: 5 Arlyne Drive, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Mr. Baig addressed the Council and shared his personal perspective based on having lived in affordable housing during his childhood. He explained that the affordable housing community in which he grew up was integrated into surrounding neighborhoods in a manner that was consistent in scale and appearance, and that this contributed to a strong sense of inclusion and community for residents.

Mr. Baig encouraged Council to consider the experience of future residents, particularly families with children, and emphasized the importance of neighborhood integration, walkability, and access to shared community spaces. He noted that thoughtful site selection and design can help ensure that residents feel connected to and included within the broader community.

He also referenced his current connection to the neighborhood and acknowledged traffic and safety considerations, while encouraging Council to consider the long-term social and community impacts of housing placement decisions.

- **Heinz Neumaier: 291 West Summit Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Mr. Neumaier addressed the Council and discussed his familiarity with traffic conditions in the area due to his frequent travel through the Somerville Circle and surrounding highways. He described traffic patterns, vehicle speeds, and noise levels associated with the convergence of Routes 202, 206, and 22, and noted how these conditions are experienced at varying distances from the roadway.

Mr. Neumaier encouraged the Council to consider long-term planning

implications, including how site conditions may affect future residents over time. He emphasized the importance of reviewing site suitability in light of traffic volume, noise, and regional transportation infrastructure.

He concluded by requesting that Council further evaluate the proposed location and consider alternative sites that may better support residential use.

- **Eileen Foley: 28 Prospect Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Ms. Foley addressed the Council regarding the proposed development at Cornell Boulevard. She discussed pedestrian and traffic conditions in the neighborhood, noting her frequent walking routes and observations of vehicular patterns. She highlighted safety considerations for pedestrians and children in the area and encouraged Council to take these factors into account when evaluating site suitability.

Ms. Foley also referenced the intended purpose of the housing and expressed concern about whether the location is optimal for future residents.

- **Colleen Runyon: 12 Arlyne Drive, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Ms. Runyon addressed the Council regarding the proposed development at Cornell Boulevard. She highlighted traffic and noise conditions in the area, including the convergence of nearby highways and commercial activity, and encouraged Council to consider how these factors may affect the quality of life for future residents, including families and veterans.

She also raised environmental considerations, noting concerns about impervious surfaces, stormwater runoff, and drainage, and encouraged Council to ensure that appropriate environmental studies are conducted. Ms. Runyon suggested that alternative sites within the Township could provide additional opportunities for affordable housing while optimizing safety, livability, and environmental compatibility.

- **David Hollod: 91 Prospect Street, Somerville, NJ 08876**

Mr. Hollod addressed Council regarding the proposed development at the subject parcel on Route 202/206. He discussed site suitability, noting the existing natural features and the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood. He encouraged Council to consider alternative locations within the Township that could provide affordable housing for veterans and moderate-income residents while maintaining neighborhood character and environmental buffers.

Mr. Hollod also highlighted traffic, noise, and air quality considerations associated with the proximity to major roadways and encouraged careful

evaluation of these factors in planning decisions.

He concluded by acknowledging the outgoing Council members for their years of service and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide public comment.

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

Township Attorney Corsini addressed Council regarding the ordinance under consideration. He noted that this is a final action ordinance and that Council discussion may proceed with the understanding that the matter is currently involved in litigation. He advised that the discussion should remain limited to the appropriate topic.

Councilman Kirsh highlighted that the Township offers a range of housing options across various price points and acknowledged the need to meet the state-mandated affordable housing requirements. Councilman Kirsh noted that concerns raised regarding neighborhood conditions, water management, traffic, and environmental impacts are addressed during site plan review and Planning Board approval, ensuring that any development is designed to manage water appropriately and maintain or improve existing conditions. He concluded by affirming that Council members have conducted on-site visits and engaged respectfully with residents throughout the hearing process.

Councilman Ring noted that the Planning Board has recommended approval of the project and that it is included in the Township's approved fair share housing plan submitted to the State.

He also highlighted that the developer applied for and received a \$3 million grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, indicating state-level support for the project. Councilman Ring emphasized that environmental considerations, traffic, and tree preservation will be thoroughly reviewed by the Land Use Board as part of the site plan process.

Council President Norgalis noted that the Township is working to fulfill a state-mandated affordable housing requirement, which was originally 477 units and negotiated down to 421 units. He emphasized the extensive efforts undertaken by a professional planner who conducted on-site visits to numerous potential locations. Council President Norgalis acknowledged that while no site is perfect, this location has been carefully considered as part of the planning process.

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

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

**ORDINANCE #25-24 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#25-12-17-300](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 (PERSONNEL POLICIES), ARTICLE IV (COMPENSATION AND PAY PERIODS) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER TO CLARIFY COMPENSATION STANDARDS**

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

**ORDINANCE #25-26 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#25-12-17-301](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING SECTION 320.3 ENTITLED “BRCC BRIDGEWATER REGIONAL CORPORATE CENTER ZONE” WITHIN CHAPTER 126 (LAND USE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO BRING THE BRIDGEWATER REGIONAL CORPORATE CENTER ZONE INTO CONFORMANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP 2025 MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION REPORT AND ITS ADOPTION BY THE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD**

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 Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, the public comment portion was closed.

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

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

**ORDINANCE #25-25 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#25-12-17-302](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AMENDING SECTION 126 OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP CODE, AMENDING SECTION 126-311 TITLED “C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ZONE” TO PERMIT ADDITIONAL CONDITIONAL USES**

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

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

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

**ORDINANCE #25-27 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#25-12-17-303](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Resolutions**

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

**CERTIFICATION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL AUDIT**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Mayor Moench stated that the audit identified one item requiring attention, specifically ensuring that all accounts are reconciled monthly, and noted that a process has been implemented to address this.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#25-12-17-304 thru #25-12-17-305](#) are appended to the official minutes

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

**AUTHORIZING HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$6,508,000 FOR THE YEAR 2026  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

**AUTHORIZING BENECARD SERVICES, LLC OF NEW JERSEY, INC. TO PROVIDE PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$3,980,000 FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**AUTHORIZING DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY, INC. TO PROVIDE DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$376,000 FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**AUTHORIZING THE HARTFORD TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE TO ELIGIBLE RETIREES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A**

**TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$598,000 FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000.00 TO THE LAW OFFICE OF SAVO, SCHALK, CORSINI, WARNER, GILLESPIE, O’GRODNICK & FISHER, P.A., TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR OF 2025 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON HEALTH NETWORK, INC. FOR THE SOMERSET AMBULANCE SHARED SERVICES AGENCY (SASSA) FOR DAYTIME WEEKDAY AMBULANCE SERVICES, AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEARS OF 2026, 2027, AND 2028**

Mayor Moench offered that the council received a presentation on the four health insurance resolutions, however noted that the biggest item regarding the health insurance costs will be at a zero percent (0%) increase for 2026. He stated that the biggest rise in cost is the prescription usage which was increased.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#25-12-17-306 thru #25-12-17-311](#) are appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH 555 ROUTE 22 ASSOCIATES, LLC (“ADP”) AND SOMERSET CENTER 1, LLC, SCC II, LLC SCC III, LLC SC IV, LLC, AND SCC V, LLC (“SCC”) PERTAINING TO LITIGATION REGARDING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 411, LOT 39 AND BLOCK 408, LOT 67, ALSO KNOWN AS 555 ROUTE 22 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER**

Council President Norgalis advised that this concerns the settling of litigation between SJP and the former Ethicon property.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-312](#) is appended to the official minutes

**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 INCREASING THE AMENDED CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,290,578.73 TO \$1,302,721.10 AN INCREASE OF \$12,142.37, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. (491 ELIZABETH AVENUE, PO BOX 6030, SOMERSET, NJ 08875) FOR THE ROLLING HILLS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF ROLLING HILLS ROAD, BRANDYWINE ROAD, HILL LANE AND VICKI DRIVE FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 ROAD IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL FUND AND FY 2022 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/ INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, ARDSLEY LANE AND GOLDFINCH DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES COUNTRY CLUB ROAD (ROOSEVELT STREET TO MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY NORTH), ARDSLEY LANE (COUNTRY CLUB ROAD TO EISENHOWER AVENUE) AND GOLDFINCH DRIVE (ARDSLEY LANE TO MEADOW ROAD) TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,500.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2025 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT BOND AND FY 2025 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$356,411.00**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING/SURVEYING/ INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE VAN VEGHTEN DRIVE AND SOUTH AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES VAN VEGHTEN DRIVE (FINDERNE AVENUE TO THE TERMINUS) AND SOUTH AVENUE (FINDERNE TO THE TERMINUS), TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,750.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2025 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT BOND AND FY 2025 NJDOT LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REPORT FOR THE CAMP CROMWELL FACILITY REHABILITATION PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,500.00 (BASE SCOPE OF WORK), FUNDED THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) - FY 2024 COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TRIBUTARY TO CHAMBER BROOK DRAINAGE STUDY TO THE REYNOLDS GROUP INC., 575 ROUTE 28, SUITE 110, RARITAN, NJ 08869, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,500.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2025 CAPITAL ROAD BOND**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE 1024 BROWN ROAD – DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,750.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2025 CAPITAL ROAD BOND**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SPRING RUN NEIGHBORHOOD – DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN, INC., SHELBOURNE AT HUNTERDON, 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,250.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2025 CAPITAL ROAD BOND**

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

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

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#25-12-17-313 thru #25-12-17-319](#) are appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$855,178.14 IN THE CURRENT FUND**

Council President Norgalis opined that the matter strictly involved the movement of funds, as permitted during the November and December timeframe.

Councilman Kirsh noted that the street lighting funds reflected the movement of \$9,500.00 to fulfill the Township’s obligations to maintain street visibility and safety.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-320](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AND BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL NO. 174 (PBA) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027**

Councilman Ring stated that the agreement dates back to 2024, noting that the PBA had been without a contract for an extended period. He stated that he believes the agreement is fair to all parties.

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 Pedroso	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-321](#) is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CARLIN, WARD, ASH & HEIART, LLC FOR SPECIAL TAX COUNSEL SERVICES AND APPOINTING CARLIN, WARD, ASH & HEIART, LLC SPECIAL TAX COUNSEL TO BE PAID ON A CONTINGENT BASIS AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP**

Council President Norgalis reminded everyone that this agreement had been rejected by the Council several months earlier and he would not be supporting this.

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

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

**THE MOTION FAILED TO CARRY.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-322](#) is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REGULAR MEMBER – JOHN KULAK**

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	Absent
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Norgalis	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-323](#) is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF SARAH HOUSMAN AS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69A-43 AND ARTICLE IX OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER**

Council President Norgalis advised that Ms. Housman is currently the Township’s Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) and brings significant experience and value to the role.

Councilman Ring offered his congratulations, and Township Attorney Corsini stated that he works closely with Ms. Housman and described her as excellent.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Absent

Councilman Ring                      Aye  
Council President Norgalis      Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

Copy of resolution [#25-12-17-324](#) is appended to the official minutes

**Council  
Reports**

Councilman Kurdyla

- Councilman Kurdyla stated that while he is disappointed, he believes in the democratic process and wishes the incoming council members the best of luck.
- Thanked his fellow council members and the administration for their assistance on numerous issues over the years, noting that he and Council President Norgalis participated in more than 500 meetings together.
- Councilman Kurdyla expressed his gratitude to his wife, Nancy, for her unwavering support throughout his time on council. He joked that when he returned home after meetings, she knew not to ask about them - except when she saw him pour a glass of scotch, which signaled a particularly difficult meeting. He extended heartfelt thanks to his entire family for their constant support, stating that it has been a true blessing.
- Councilman Kurdyla spoke about his daughter, Amanda, whom he referred to as the family gatekeeper and someone who is special to him in many ways. He thanked Amanda for everything she has done for him over the years, explaining that because of her, he has gained a deeper perspective and learned to consider all options, especially when it comes to advocating for individuals with special needs. He emphasized that she has provided invaluable service to him both personally and professionally.
- Councilman Kurdyla shared that when he first began serving on council, his brother gifted him a pen that he has used for the past 22 years. He said the pen serves as a reminder that in public service, one must balance two lives - personal and political - and keep them separate while honoring the responsibility of holding office. He stated that it has been his pleasure to represent all 46,000-plus residents of the community.
- In closing, Councilman Kurdyla thanked Council President Norgalis for the many hours spent together discussing issues, acknowledging that while they agreed to disagree, they always maintained mutual respect.

Council President Norgalis: *(verbatim)*

I want to talk about a few of the Titles I have held over the years. Especially those jobs that might have helped me to be a better councilman. But before I do that, I want to thank my family for the wonderful support they provided over these 21 and a half years so I could do Council work. That includes son James, Daughter Karen and their combined troop of 5 children who have all grown to adulthood over the decades. They have also appeared in several of my campaign brochures or in one case a video.

In my private life as well in my political life I have been truly blessed with sharing my life with my best friend and “significant other” Christine Phillips, sitting here in the room. We spent many election eve days and hours going door with Chris holding a clip board on the sidewalk or in the street pointing at the next house for me to knock on. In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy tells her dog Toto “I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.” There were streets we covered that I feared we might no longer be in Bridgewater.

I also want to thank the members of the Clerk’s Office who are the only employees who work directly for the Council. You all know Grace, our State Certified Clerk and Juliana our Deputy Clerk, but you should also know Aly Gust and Natalie Troisi who work the desk, answer the phone and provide backbone for the Council operation.

Now on to Titles. Probably the best titles I have held are those related to family. As a father of two and grandfather of five, I am called by many titles: Dad, Pop, Grampa, Papa sometimes even sweetie among others. They are all music to my ears.

In my 39 years at ATT Long Lines, I had lots of titles and accompanying business cards but the title that came closest to my task as a councilman was District Manager Finance. Hence my love of and respect for numbers.

In the US Army I was a Staff Sergeant and that job had little to do with being a councilman but a lot to do with working with folks who, in some cases did not want to work with me. Come to think about it, maybe that job had more to do with being an effective Councilman than I thought.

In my church I was an Elder and Deacon and headed numerous committees including being cemetery Chairman for the four a half-acre cemetery on Washington Valley Rd in Pluckemin. Now that was a very interesting assignment.

I was Vice President of the Somerset Chaplaincy to the Elderly providing ministerial and spiritual support to residents in numerous nursing homes in Somerset and Middlesex counties.

I have been a Bridgewater fire fighter since 1976 and Fire Company Chaplain for many of those years.

I was a high school swimming official for 25 years including being President of the Swimming Official Association of New Jersey. I attended clinics at the Colorado Olympic Training Center to sit on panels on the ever-changing swimming rules.

But the title that I will hold for the next two weeks, that of Bridgewater Councilman is one that I am very proud of. To know that I had the overwhelming support of you, the residents of Bridgewater during six Council elections, gladdens my heart. I am truly grateful and honored for the opportunity to be part of the TEAM that is the Bridgewater Council. As a Councilman I am but one of five, and while my voice at times may have been a little louder than others it was still only one. I believe that the actions we took as a Council, and every Resolution and Ordinance we passed was to protect and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

In two weeks. On Dec 31st I will have been a Councilman for exactly 21 years and six months. Now I did the math and that means for over 25% of my entire life (Actually 25.62965%) I was a member of this Council. If I added in Zoning Board and Planning Board time it would be closer to a third of my life serving the community that I love since moving here in 1975. Last year my family and I collectively made the decision that at 83 years of age, very soon to be 84, I would not seek reelection for 2026. It was time for me to stop and grow and smell the roses. And I intend to do just that.

As we enter the 2026 Holiday Season, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or just plain Happy Holidays if that is your preference. And may GOD protect and Bless our troops, our first responders and our citizens during these very stressful times.

As my last official public act I move for Adjournment of the Bridgewater Council in its last meeting of 2025. I look to my fellow fire fighter and long-term friend Allen Kurdyla for the second. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

Thank you all for the memories. We are adjourned.

## **Adjournment**

On the motion of Council President Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Howard Norgalis  
Council President