

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
July 18, 2024 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council President Ring read the following announcement:

Notice of Meeting

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT OF NEW JERSEY, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 21, 2023, WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE BREEZE POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND FILING WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

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

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

Also Present: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor
 Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
 Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
 Juliana Coelho, Deputy Township Clerk

Councilman Kirsh led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

JUNE 27, 2024- REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the June 27, 2024, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

JUNE 27, 2024- CLOSED SESSIONS

The June 27, 2024, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

Council Reports

- Councilman Kirsh:
- Councilman Kirsh stated that the budget that is being presented is as a result of many collaborative budget discussions over the last few weeks.

 - On July 4th, Councilman Kirsh attended the ceremony at the Middlebrook

encampment. The day was highlighted by inspiring remarks from the mayor and the symbolic lowering and raising of a new Hopkinson flag. This flag shares the design of the one displayed on the back wall of our chamber. Additionally, the reading of the Declaration of Independence made it a truly memorable event. Authorized by Congress to be flown 24 hours a day, the flag had flown for 365, perhaps 366, days due to the leap year. Its slightly changed colors symbolize the passage of time in Bridgewater from one year to the next.

- On July 9th, the Zoning Board convened to review a residential case and provided conditional approval.
- On July 16th, the Planning Board continued its discussion about a subdivision on Mountaintop Road.
- On July 17th, Councilman Kirsh stated he had the opportunity to attend the pre-opening night at the Big Chicken restaurant at Bridgewater Commons.
- Councilman Kirsh enthusiastically shared the news with his colleagues and members of the public that he has been named to a Board of Trustees at Home Sharing Inc. This is a volunteer position, and he is excited to be part of an organization that connects individuals in various New Jersey communities who have excess housing, such as an extra bedroom or two, with those who may need housing. The organization's mission is quite special as it focuses on linking potentially older couples or widowers who have extra space and need assistance with chores, like raking leaves, taking out the garbage, or helping with grocery shopping. This arrangement creates a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended the first of two meetings for the Open Space Recreation Master Plan on July 16.

Councilman Norgalis (*Verbatim*):

- Happy Birthday to our country as we celebrated July 4th with fireworks at North Branch Park.
- Attended the Quarterly meeting of the Bridgewater Local Emergency Council chaired by Police Sgt Jamie Edwards. FEMA is still considering reimbursement for items from Tropical Storm IDA.
- Police Officer Brian Sujansky is the newly appointed Deputy OEM Coordinator.
- There was an extensive discussion of the Damage Assessment Annex to our OEM plan. The purpose of this annex is to define and provide guidance for the

development and operation of a viable damage assessment program during any emergency or disaster situation.

- The Balaji Hindu Temple held its yearly Health Camp on 7/14/24 at the temple. This health camp was free to all Township residents. This year the testing was expanded along with a number of different specialists providing free advice to enhance community health.
- Somerset County to Host Free Document Shredding Event on July 20 at the Chimney Rock DPW garage off of Route 22 next to the quarry.
- Attended the ribbon cutting for the FOGO de Chao restaurant at the Commons Mall. This is a Brazilian company specializing in high-end meat servings. They use a carving knife, not scissors to cut the ribbon
- Somerset County Prosecutor John McDonald sent out a Public Safety Message alerting residents to be aware of Fraudulent Tax Scams and Jury Duty Scams. Be careful who you give your personal information to.
- Attended a Budget Planning Session with Admin Pappas, and CFO Pandos among others to obtain additional details on the proposed 2024 budget

Councilman Pedroso:

- Councilman Pedroso thanked Mr. Pappas for inviting him to a budget meeting.
- Councilman Pedroso welcomed Big Chicken to Bridgewater Township, and more importantly, to Bridgewater Commons. Bridgewater Township has a partnership with Bridgewater Commons, and we do share in some of their profits. A win for the Commons is a win for the Bridgewater taxpayer, so it's nice to have quality businesses come into our mall.

Council President Ring:

- Has attended multiple budget meetings during the last couple of weeks.
- Council President Ring attended the ribbon cutting at Fogo do Chao. During the Opening Ceremonies, they presented a \$27,000 check to the food bank, which represented 10% of their sales for the first week. Fogo do Chao has only been with us for a couple of weeks, but they have already become active members of our community and are supporting the people in town.
- Attended the pre-opening night at the Big Chicken restaurant at Bridgewater Commons. He offered Big Chicken is a Shaquille O'Neal franchise.

Mayor's Reports

Mayor Matthew C. Moench

- The high school turf fields are nearing completion. We've worked closely with the school district on this project and are now partnering to finish both the high school and municipal turf fields. Progress reports are available for those interested in updates. The high school field will be ready for the start of the school year.
- Bridgewater recently completed a successful promissory note sale. This one-year financing option secured the lowest interest rate available. Our financial advisor, Anthony Verso, highlighted the positive impact of this outcome. Detailed information about the notes is available upon request.
- Following the June storms, Director of Municipal Services Tom Genova and Public Works Director Dicky Shimp compiled reports detailing damage, identified issues, and ongoing remediation efforts.
- Congressman Thomas Kean's recent legislation offering fire safety grants is promising news. We shared this information with council members connected to the fire and rescue community. Our local rescue squads, fire departments, and emergency services stand to benefit from this federal program. Congressman Kean also joined us for breakfast with local police chiefs, which was a pleasure to host.

Police Chief Mitzak

Chief John Mitzak addressed the investigation of alleged racism, prejudice, and profiling against Officer Hoelzel, as presented by Mr. Ashis Joshi at the Public Council meeting on 1/18/24.

Timeline of Events (Verbatim)

12/20/23- Officer Hoelzel is dispatched to Sunset Ridge for a Burglar Alarm.

1/18/24- Mr. Ashish Joshi and his 14-year-old son come to the council meeting. During public comment they allege that from the incident on 12/20/23, Officer Hoelzel was racist, he profiled and failed to de-escalate the situation. Mr. Joshi alleged that he had a video of the entire incident. Council members tried speaking with Mr. Joshi. Council members inquired if there were any racial slurs used. The 14-year-old stated that there were no racial slurs but there was obvious prejudice towards him. He further stated, "Officer Hoelzel taught him that racism is real and that was the first time he had been racially profiled by anyone. Mr. Ashis Joshi related that he saw the video and it made him very uncomfortable. Council member Pedroso asked Mr. Joshi what racism was experienced and Mr. Joshi responded, "There was racism, absolutely 110%, I've seen the video."

All this interaction was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube.

Once I heard Mr. Joshi's comments, I immediately tried to speak with him to inquire more about his allegations. He refused to speak with me and walked out of the room.

I immediately walked up to the dais and advised all the council members, and the public, that a thorough Internal Affairs Investigation would be conducted to investigate Joshi's claims.

As you can all imagine, I was appalled at what I heard. I was concerned, disturbed, and worried about what I was going to see on the BWC. I was upset that no supervisor brought this incident to my attention.

1/22/24- Lt Ochs was assigned the Internal Affairs investigation into the Joshi matter. I will try to set the stage for what occurred on 12/20/23. This entire call for service was recorded on the Body Worn Camera from the moment Officer Hoelzel arrived on the scene until he left the scene. Officer Hoelzel was dispatched to an activated burglar alarm at 5:16 PM. The house was located on Sunset Ridge. It was completely dark outside. On this night, Officer Hoelzel parks on the street and starts to walk up a long dark driveway.

At the top of the driveway is a person, wearing a hoody, standing there with his hands in his pockets. Officer Hoelzel shines his flashlight on him. Officer Hoelzel asks him to remove his hands for officer safety. Officer Hoelzel asks him for Identification, and he is provided with a California driver's license. The individual advises he is at the house with his friend. Shortly after the 14-year-old Joshi responds outside. The 14-year-old advised Officer Hoelzel that he is on the phone with the homeowner. Officer Hoelzel is handed the cell phone. Officer Hoelzel puts the phone on his vest, the speaker is on. Officer Hoelzel is asking relevant questions and writing the information down on his notepad. Officer Hoelzel confirms that the boys were allowed to be at the house. Officer Hoelzel gives the phone back and starts to speak with the adult male in the driveway telling him it's not a good idea to have his hands in his pocket when an officer is approaching. The male did not respond to Officer Hoelzel. Hoelzel states that people usually respond during a conversation but then states, "That's ok you do not have to." Officer Hoelzel then thanked both subjects and stated, "Have a good night, guys" He then walked away.

Lt Ochs conducted a thorough investigation. He tried to interview the Joshi's, but they did not cooperate. He responded to the house where the burglar alarm was activated to get video, to see if there was something that was not captured by Hoelzel BWC. The homeowner never called Ochs back. He also looked for other homes in the area that might have surveillance video, which was never located or provided.

Lt Ochs reviewed all the evidence and determined that Officer Hoelzel did not violate any AG Guidelines, Bridgewater Township Police Policy/Procedures, or Bridgewater Township Police Department Rules and Regulations.

To confirm our findings, I also sent all the evidence to the Somerset County Prosecutors Office for an independent review of these allegations. First Assistant

Prosecutor Brain Stack reviewed the case and provided a written report. (Read highlights)

I or one of my Captains attend council meetings on a regular basis so the public can see us and ask us any questions about the police department. Spreading false information can have serious consequences, including misinformation, confusion, harm to individuals or organizations, erosion of trust, and societal division. In closing, what was alleged by Mr. Joshi and his son was not what was betrayed on the Body Worn Camera. To come before the council and public an allege racism, and prejudice against Officer Hoelzel without providing any proof or allowing a thorough investigation to take place before coming in front of the council is slander, character assassination, and public humiliation.

Presentation LEAD PAINT COMPLIANCE

Christine Madrid, Director of Human Services made a presentation as follows:

New Jersey's newest lead-based paint law, "New Jersey's Lead-Safe Certification," went into effect July 22, 2022, and impacts all pre-1978 rental properties. New Jersey now requires lead paint inspections for all targeted rental units.

Bridgewater Township proposes to engage Lew Environmental Services to ensure compliance with the new law. Lew is providing this service to over 50 municipalities in New Jersey and has designed a cost-free program specifically for municipalities. Their program directly notifies and educates landlords on the law, collects municipal and state fees directly from property owners, completes inspections, and tracks certifications. Their portal provides 24/7 access for municipal staff to track Bridgewater's data and compliance status. Property owners will be required to file the report directly with Bridgewater upon completion and pay a \$25 filing fee to cover our administrative costs.

Proclamation NONE

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

Anda Cytroen –654 Stangle Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mrs. Cytroen requested clarification on the purpose and function of council reports. She also shared her opinion on Councilman Pedroso's' statement from the June 6th meeting.

Township Attorney Chris Corsini offered that the purpose of council reports is allow the Council to share any thoughts they may have.

Malini Rao – 650 Bellerive Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mrs. Malani shared her frustration about the severe land erosion caused by the creek near her home. She explained that it has also impacted her neighbors, who are eager to share their own experiences.

Mayor Moench assured Ms. Rao that they are aware of the situation and are working to determine what the township can do. Administrator Pappas also provided her with his business card so that she could contact him for further discussion.

Joan Geiger – 154 Hillside Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (Verbatim)

New Jersey issued requirements for Storm Water Management that may be burdensome, improperly mandated, or unnecessary. But first the facts:

1. Extreme weather affects 100% of the citizens of Bridgewater. The argument is over. Whether Floyd, Irene, Ida, Sandy, snowtober, and others, were caused by human action or natural earth cycles is irrelevant.
2. Some of the effects are:
 - a) Blocked roads from flooding, fallen trees, and debris.
 - b) Damage in homes resulting in costs for carpets, French drains, and sump pumps;
 - c) Tree removal and home repairs including the almost irreparable damage in Finderne caused by IDA.
 - d) Power outages, school cancellations, internet loss, and downed power lines.
 - e) Damage to or loss of vehicles, sheds, decks, etc.
 - f) Loss of income and inventory for businesses due to closing, water damage, or customers unable to travel.
 - g) Loss of income by folks unable to work or taking off time for repairs or childcare.
 - h) Health-related issues from mold, injured backs from removing branches, etc.
 - i) And, sadly, death – recall HONGXIA LI; MALATHI KANCHES; PING FANG; AND SUZIE HOMA.
3. Ignoring the problem, and eliminating public works jobs, while prudent at the time, exasperated this.
4. Complaining about mandates or the costs is fruitless.

This must be dealt with. NOW. As council members, you are the front line, elected to protect the citizens of Bridgewater. It is time for the following:

1. Review the state requirements.
2. Prioritize those most needed for our town.
3. Implement them in the order of priority.
4. Accept the harsh reality that it will cost money, public works jobs need to be reinstated and yes, taxes will increase. However, we, the people, are already paying the price.

Jessica Edelstein – 444 Stony Brook Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (Verbatim)

I do not live in a flood zone, but I gave part of my property to the town to install an easement on the corner of my property less than a year ago. The easement faces away from my house so we can't see it from my house. On 6/30, after the rain had stopped, the easement overflowed at an astounding rate. The water was 3 feet high, taller than my youngest child, and gushing fast. If I had taken my kids back outside my toddler would have been underwater and we wouldn't have seen it coming. My husband jumped in and pulled large tree trunks and huge pieces of garbage out of the water to unclog it, but we still had damage inside and outside my house.

Public works came by a few days later to clear it out and I asked when the mesh would be installed as we had been told it would be, and they told me that a mesh barrier would be useless to stop the huge pieces of debris they saw. I emailed the town numerous times, including photos of the large debris, before finally receiving a reply from only Dan Ahern who let me know that the easement is not expected to work with that amount of rain. I'm astounded by this reply from the town regarding an easement that is not even a year old. I've since asked numerous times when my easement will be evaluated and for more information as to who is responsible for damages to people and property when an easement that the town knows will fail, fails.

It's been 19 days, and I have not received any further information. The town owns this easement, which is not expected to work, and I am at your mercy to fix this situation. My younger kids have been having nightmares about rain since that day, and my husband and I are worried about what will happen to our house if we go on a vacation, and it rains heavily. I'm here today because I need a response and support from the town.

Marguerite Baranowski – 210 FINDERNE AVENUE, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 (Verbatim)

In the wake of the near assassination of former President Trump, now is the time to act on the local level to prevent such violence in Bridgewater. From watching the Republican Convention, you know there is deep concern in this country about crime. Firearm regulations are typically governed by State and Federal laws. A review of the town ordinances shows there are very few regulations at the town level.

There are likely to be several political events in Bridgewater relating to the 2024 election and in the past, our own Congressman Kean had an office in this very building. Although New Jersey has some of the strictest gun laws in the country, it is not hard to cross the border into a neighboring state and obtain firearms.

I am asking the council to review this issue for the protection of our politicians, citizens, schools, and businesses, to see what steps we can take at the local level to thwart gun violence in Bridgewater. Can you commit to reviewing the ordinances and researching what steps can be taken at this level? Can you commit to sending a mailing to residents reminding us of the need to keep guns separate from ammo and both locked and out of reach of young people, mentally unstable people, and people with criminal records? Can you commit to providing extra police protection at political events? We do not want to be the next town on the map for a school shooting or political assassination. And, sadly, there will be a next town.

Ray Booth – Riha Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mr. Booth expressed concern regarding a neglected property in his neighborhood noting it warrants attention. The property's current condition, with high grass and lack of maintenance, is not only an eyesore but also a potential risk for the local wildlife.

Mayor Moench explained that enforcing property maintenance ordinances is a complex task requiring a balance between property owners' rights and community standards. The Mayor has informed the property owner of the ordinance and the need for property upkeep. Failure to comply will result in a citation.

We understand that enforcement can be slow, especially when property owners are non-compliant. We've received complaints about this issue and will monitor for improvements. Property owners will be reminded of their obligations if necessary.

Janis Reino – 302 Jamestown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mrs. Reino stated that she has been a resident of Bridgewater since 1997. With Hurricane IDA, her house was surrounded by water, causing significant damage to her property. The cost to replace everything, including sentimental items, was around \$100,000. She couldn't return home for about four months. This situation poses a safety risk for her and their neighbors. They seek protection from future damage.

Mayor Moench announced tonight's agenda includes approving a contract for improvements on Acorn, Lilac, Jamestown, and Yorktown streets. These upgrades will address drainage and stormwater issues in the area. While these improvements may mitigate flooding for homes near streams, they might not completely resolve stream-related flooding problems.

William Getz – 2915 Packer Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mr. Getz expressed concern about his drinking water from American Water Company being contaminated, supported by a report showing detected contaminants.

Council President Ring responded that the township does not have authority over the American Water Company. Mr. Getz was advised to contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for assistance.

Cathy Franco – 766 Weemac Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mrs. Franco mentioned that the proposed budget, which is overdue according to DCA regulations and standards, will be presented tonight. She inquired about when the proposed budget will be available online for residents and when it will be posted. She thanked all her fellow residents for attending tonight and sharing their concerns with the council.

Mayor Moench mentioned that the budget will be available shortly. While uncertain about immediate online access, he anticipates it to be available tomorrow, with final action scheduled for August 15th.

John Arcoleo – 1110 Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Mr. Arcoleo inquired about the note sale and zoning for the land on Kid Street. He questioned whether the Catalyst Experimental default on payments allows for a billboard prohibition.

Councilman Norgalis responded that the \$23,839,000 bond, with a NIC Rate of 3.442% and a yield of 3.400%, was tax-exempt. Bridgewater secured the best rate out of ten offerings.

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

CALENDAR YEAR 2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Mayor Moench explained that the cap bank is an annual process. State law allows for a certain budget increase, but unused portions of that increase can be saved for future budgets. He clarified that this is an accounting measure required by local finance law.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye

**2024
Municipal
Budget**

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Nay
Council President Ring	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-195](#) is appended to the official minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Juliana Coelho, Deputy Township Clerk read the following report:

Municipal Budget of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset for the fiscal Year 2024.

Be it Resolved, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2024;

Be it Further Resolved, that said Budget be published in the Courier News in the issue of July 25, 2024.

The Governing Body of the Township of Bridgewater does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2024:

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-196](#) is appended to the official minutes.

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the council members of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, on July 18, 2024.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Municipal Complex, on August 15, 2024, at 7:30 o'clock at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2024 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

**Introduction
of Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A QUITCLAIM DEED RELEASING THE AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS ATTACHED TO CERTAIN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS AT BLOCK 526, LOTS 16 & 17 ON GRIGGS DRIVE

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

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

THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-207](#) is appended to the official minutes

Juliana Coelho, Deputy 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 1st day of August 2024, at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time on said day as the time and the Bridgewater Township Municipal Court Chambers at 100 Commons Way in said Township as the place for hearing and final action.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forthwith post on the bulletin board in the Township Municipal Building at 100 Commons Way, a true copy of said ordinance and make copies available to members of the general public and spread the same upon the minutes of the meeting.

Resolutions

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,000.00 WHICH BRINGS THE 2024 YEAR-TO-DATE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS TO \$24,593,521.63

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-197](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 ET SEQ FOR MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES WITH THE BOROUGH OF RARITAN

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-198](#) is appended to the official minutes

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO KM CONSTRUCTION CORP. (14 CORDIER STREET, IRVINGTON, NJ 07111) FOR THE 2024-1 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF ACORN DRIVE, LILAC COURT, JAMESTOWN ROAD AND YORKTOWN ROAD, IN THE SUM OF \$465,184.05, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 CAPITAL FUND

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. (22 FIFTH STREET, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876) FOR THE 2024-3 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF CANDLEWICK LANE, LOVE ROAD AND JUNIPER LANE (CANDLEWICK LANE TO NORTH BRANCH ROAD), IN THE SUM OF \$724,616.60, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 CAPITAL FUND

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO S. BROTHERS, INC. (PO BOX 317, SOUTH RIVER, NJ 08882) FOR THE 2024-4 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE BASE BID FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF BARBARA DRIVE, CATALPA DRIVE, LAKEVIEW DRIVE, LONG ROAD, STAR VIEW WAY, STELLA DRIVE (ROUTE 202/206 TO STAR VIEW WAY), IN THE SUM OF \$,1,153,943.65, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2024 CAPITAL FUND

Mayor Moench explained that by packaging road projects in larger groups, the township can receive more competitive bids. Most roads will be completed this year if the weather allows.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Kurdyla	Aye

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Nay
Council President Ring	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#24-07-18-199 thru #24-07-18-201](#) are appended to the official minutes

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO PERFORM LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C. 182. COSTS BORNE BY PROPERTY OWNERS, NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-202](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FIRE PERMIT FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120.00 FOR THE GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., 324 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807, IN CONNECTION WITH OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS ON JULY 4, 2024, BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PERMIT FEES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,379.00 FROM THE FIRE OFFICIAL, THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT, AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H FAIR AT NORTH BRANCH PARK LOCATED AT 310 MILLTOWN ROAD, BRIDGEWATER ON AUGUST 7, 8 & 9, 2024

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

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

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#24-07-18-203](#) thru [#24-07-18-204](#) are appended to the official minutes

PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE #1806-44-044-002 BELONGING TO WINE OUTLET BRIDGEWATER, LLC, MAILING ADDRESS 120 EMILY PLACE, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054, FROM POCKET STATUS TO PREMISES TO BE SITUATED AT BRIDGEWATER PROMENADE, 155 PROMENADE BLVD, SUITE A08, BRIDGEWATER NJ 08807, NEW LICENSE NUMBER 1806-44-044-003

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-205](#) 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.

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 to all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the Council convened in closed session at approximately 8:48 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#24-07-18-206](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:22 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Timothy Ring
Council President