

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 5, 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, December 5, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 & via Live Online Broadcast.

Council Vice 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 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 (Absent)

Also Present: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator  
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney  
Juliana Coelho, Deputy Township Clerk

Councilman Kurdyla led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

Minutes will be presented for Council action at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

**Council Reports**

Councilman Kirsh:

- The Planning Board convened on November 19th solely for the purpose of passing resolutions.
  
- Later that week, several local officials attended the League of Municipalities conference. A highlight of the event was a session featuring legislative leaders discussing their priorities. For the second consecutive year, affordable housing emerged as a prominent topic, signaling its continued importance to policymakers. Additionally, Mayor Matt Moench hosted a well-attended event that drew four Republican gubernatorial nominees and even Governor Murphy himself. This high-profile gathering significantly elevated Bridgewater's visibility within the State's political landscape.

- On November 22nd, attended a cultural event at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center. As part of the program, checks were distributed to local first responders, including the Police Department, Fire Service, and EMS. This generous act by the Hindu community further strengthens the strong partnership between the community and the Township of Bridgewater.
- On the 26th, the Zoning Board met to discuss a single residential case on Hawthorne Avenue. This case involved a resident seeking to invest in their property and potentially remain in the community for years to come.
- On December 3rd, a Planning Board meeting was held in the Court room. Two significant cases were discussed. The second of three hearings for the proposed Chick-fil-A near Wegman's took place. Additionally, a request to transfer the brand of a previously approved hotel project from Days Inn to Woodspring Suites was considered and approved.
- On December 3rd, several staff members attended an internal meeting with Deputy Township Attorney Alex Fisher to discuss the dispensary that is currently in the approval process in Somerville. While the dispensary is technically located in Somerville, it is situated on the border and may potentially impact Bridgewater residents. It was emphasized that regardless of the size of the affected community, whether it's a small neighborhood or a larger area, Bridgewater will advocate for its residents and ensure that the dispensary adheres to all rules and regulations. The goal is to prevent any negative impacts on the surrounding community, as has unfortunately occurred in the past with a neighboring establishment.
- Last night, Councilman Kirsh attended the tree lighting ceremony. While Santa Claus might have been the most recognizable guest, the ice-skating rink and festive atmosphere created a joyful experience for everyone.
- As we prepare to discuss public comment procedures at tonight's Council meeting, Councilman Kirsh emphasized the importance of maintaining an open and friendly dialogue. We are all neighbors and, in some cases, friends. Any public comments should be delivered in this spirit of camaraderie.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Attended the recent township tree lighting ceremony which drew a crowd of families and friends, who gathered to enjoy the festive atmosphere. Children were seen skating on the ice rink, while others explored the various holiday displays. The event marked the official start of the holiday season and served as a reminder of the upcoming Menorah Lighting on December 26th.

- The council is currently working with the administration to secure a grant that will fund the replacement of all Bridgewater police, fire, and EMS radio systems. This initiative is necessary to comply with a mandatory frequency change directive issued by the County government.

Councilman Norgalis:(verbatim)

- I attended the tree lighting last night in front of our building and wish to thank whoever in DPW hand-made the star on top of the tree. I mentioned to Mr. Pappas last year that “our tree needed a star” and he arranged for it.
- You will hear more about our road program in a few minutes, but I want to stress that as part of this program stripped crosswalks have been added in a lot of places as well as stop signs. There are also yellow double lines for a no-passing lane adjacent to crosswalks and stop signs. Drivers pay attention to the new signs.
- I attended a meeting dealing with our sanitary sewer system. One of the three relatively new pumps installed at the Gilbride pumping station has malfunctioned and has been disconnected and returned to the manufacturer to be repaired under warranty. These 60-horsepower pumps are big and heavy so taking them out of service is a lot more complicated than taking a TV to a repair shop.
- Speaking of the sewer system, unfortunately, we have been forced to take legal action against Warren Township in their refusal to negotiate an equitable settlement fee for their use of our system whereby their sewerage goes through our system on its way to the regional treatment plant.
- I met our new full-time zoning officer yesterday. His name is Kevin Lewthwaite. Kevin comes to us with great credentials and will report to Land Use Administrator Nancy Probst in Tom Genova’s Group.
- We have a new employee in the Clerk’s office. Natalie Troisi is an internal transfer from the Tax Collector’s Office. We welcome her.
- Attended the monthly Municipal Alliance meeting very ably chaired by Lynne Hurley of the Recreation Dept. The major takeaway is that the marijuana that can be legally purchased is much stronger than originally thought and according to several major health studies can have a negative effect on the user's heart.
- Drones are in the news and have been seen across the state and even in our town. I was asked if the township uses drones, and the simple answer is we do not.

Councilman Pedroso:

- Councilman Pedroso stated that he presented a Proclamation on behalf of Mayor Moench to Rabbi Ron Isaacs of Temple Shalom. Rabbi Isaacs, who served Temple Shalom for 40 years, was honored for his significant contributions to the community.
- Councilman Pedroso extended his belated Thanksgiving wishes to everyone.
- The Christmas tree lighting event last night was a success. The addition of the ice-skating rink was terrific, and the administration did an excellent job organizing the event.
- Councilman Pedroso was excited to announce the newest member of their family noting they recently welcomed a new puppy into their home, and their children are thrilled.

**Mayor's Reports**

Michael Pappas, Township Administrator reported on behalf of Mayor Moench

- A report on the first annual Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee was distributed to the council members. The committee has begun its work and has issued its initial report.
- Two items are proposed for purchase on tonight's agenda: a camera and a vac truck for the sewer system. The council's approval to fund these important equipment purchases is appreciated.
- The recent tree lighting ceremony was a success, thanks to the efforts of the council members, the Recreation Department, the Office of Constituent Relations, Public Works, and the Police Department. The community looks forward to the upcoming menorah lighting.

**Presentation 2024 ROAD PROGRAM- presented by Thomas Genova and William Burr IV, P.E.**

Administrator Pappas introduced the road program presentation, highlighting the council's support for funding requests. He then introduced Mr. Genova, Director of Municipal Services, and Mr. Burr, Township Engineer, to discuss the successes of the 2024 road program. Mr. Burr provided a summary of the road improvements in each section of town, with detailed information available on screen for those interested.

Mr. Genova, Director of Municipal Services, presented a report on the successful completion of the 2024 Capital Road Project, led by the Engineering Division. This year marked the fourth year of a five-year plan, with approximately 44% of the township's 600 roads being reconstructed or repaved since 2020.

The Engineering Division, led by Township Engineer Bill Burr, Assistant Township

Engineer Tony Gallo, and Engineer/Project Manager Kyle Boehme, oversaw all aspects of the project, from design to completion. Moving forward, the focus will shift towards routine pavement management, aiming to maintain road conditions through regular maintenance and prevent significant deterioration in the future.

Mr. Burr, the Township Engineer, provided a detailed overview of the completed road projects. He emphasized the importance of a data-driven approach to prioritize sidewalk maintenance. He added that the Engineering Division, in collaboration with Public Works and the Office of Constituent Relations, identifies and addresses trip hazards on sidewalks, prioritizing repairs based on severity. They utilize advanced saw-cutting technology to repair damaged sidewalks, complying with ADA regulations and optimizing costs.

Specific sidewalks completed in 2024 include Glenn Ridge Drive South, Golf Links Drive, Jondel Court, Vanderveer Road, Shaffer Road, Okeefe Road, Bertran Way, Colmart Way, Freeman Lane, Sally Court, Terrace Lane, and Cross Road.

By implementing a strategic approach and early budget allocation, the township aims to maximize the number of roads completed each year. The Engineering Division is currently focused on the 2025 Capital Road Projects and is committed to continuing this positive momentum.

Mr. Burr highlighted the township's success in securing grant funding to improve local infrastructure. He emphasized the collaborative effort between the engineering group and the administration in identifying suitable grant opportunities and ensuring proper program alignment.

**Recent grant awards include:**

- **\$356,411** from NJDOT Municipal aid FY'25 for improvements to Country Club Road, Ardsley Road, Goldfinch Road, and Meadow Road
- **\$404,652** from NJDOT Municipal aid FY'25 for improvements to Plymouth Road, Jeffrey Road, and Ryan Road near Crim School and Washington Valley Road
- **\$750,000** from the NJDOT Local Transportation Projects Fund for improvements to Van Veghten Road
- **\$ 768,000** from Federal Safe Routes to School grants for improvements to the Garretson Road
- **\$ 962,000** from Federal Safe Routes to School grants for improvements to Adamsville Road near Adamsville School

In total, the township has secured over **\$3,241,063.00** in grant funding to enhance local infrastructure.

Councilman Kirsh inquired about the age of the roads and sidewalks in his neighborhood, which was built approximately 25-30 years ago. He noted that as neighborhoods age, infrastructure like roads and sidewalks typically requires maintenance and repair. He asked if the conditions observed in his neighborhood are common for areas of similar age.

Mr. Genova responded that the age of a neighborhood is not the sole factor in determining the condition of roads and sidewalks. Other factors, such as tree root damage and improper utility trench backfilling, can also contribute to deterioration. However, he acknowledged that, in general, roads and sidewalks should last approximately 20 years before requiring significant maintenance or replacement.

Councilman Norgalis thanked Mr. Genova and Mr. Burr for their leadership in the road improvement program. He acknowledged the significant progress made over the past four years and expressed anticipation for the final year of the program.

Councilman Kurdyla praised the work done in the Southeast portion of the township, specifically on Glenn Road, Glenn Park, and Shady Lane. He noted the significant improvements made to the sidewalks and curbs, addressing previous trip hazards and enhancing the overall neighborhood environment. Despite challenging weather conditions, the work was completed to a high standard, resulting in a noticeable improvement in the area.

Councilman Kirsh thanked the team for their significant work on the road improvement program. He acknowledged the substantial investment of approximately \$40 million, emphasizing the long-term benefits of this investment. He highlighted the transition from a reactive approach to a proactive one, aiming to prevent roads from deteriorating to a state requiring costly full replacements. By prioritizing preventive maintenance and timely repairs, the township aims to extend the lifespan of its roads and reduce future expenses.

Councilman Pedroso thanked Mr. Genova and Mr. Burr for their presentation and acknowledged Mayor Moench's commitment to road improvements, which was a key campaign promise. He praised the administration's dedication to fulfilling this vision and improving the town's infrastructure. Councilman Pedroso also acknowledged Councilman Kirsh's shared commitment to this goal and their collective effort in implementing this long-term vision.

Administrator Pappas expressed gratitude to Mr. Genova and Mr. Burr for their efforts and highlighted the collaborative approach taken to ensure the success of the road improvement program. He mentioned the weekly meetings involving key

stakeholders, including representatives from Engineering, Municipal Services, Police Department, Public Works, Office of Constituent Relations, and Finance. This collaborative effort ensures effective communication and coordination among all parties involved. He acknowledged the leadership role of Mr. Genova and Mr. Burr while emphasizing the contributions of many others to the program's success. Finally, he thanked the council for their support in making this program a reality.

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

- **Joan G. Geiger, 154 Hillside Avenue – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**  
Ms. Geiger advocated for a change in the public comment policy at township council meetings, noting the current 3-minute limit is insufficient to allow for meaningful expression of concerns and ideas. She advocated extending public comment time to six minutes, citing the importance of public input in democracy. She added that due to the complexity of issues discussed, three minutes is insufficient for an effective discussion. She further noted that many residents, particularly senior citizens, may require more time to articulate their thoughts. Ms. Geiger urged the council members to extend the public comment limit to six minutes, respect citizens' right to express their concerns without interruption, and prioritize transparency and open communication.
- **Carolyn Gioia, 1402 Palley Ct – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**  
Ms. Gioia expressed concern about recent safety incidents in the area, including a high-speed police chase, a series of burglaries, and drone activity. She highlighted the potential impact of these events on community safety and the need for vigilance. She also emphasized the importance of community unity and cooperation in addressing these concerns. Ms. Gioia urged everyone to be mindful of their surroundings, report suspicious activity and take necessary precautions to ensure personal safety.
- **Elizabeth Colucci, 1776 Washington Valley RD – Martinsville, NJ 08836**  
Ms. Colucci expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to address the council. She emphasized the importance of respectful dialogue and the value of every community member's voice. She expressed her hope that future meetings would maintain a respectful and constructive atmosphere.
- **Daniel Zelinski, 715 Chimney Rock Rd-Martinsville, NJ 08836**  
Mr. Zelinski articulated his concern about the town's financial situation, highlighting a late budget delivery, a significant tax increase, and a depleted

surplus. He questioned the council's oversight and accountability, suggesting a lack of transparency and responsiveness to resident concerns. Mr. Zelinski also raised concerns about the potential for a substantial tax increase in the following year if the financial situation is not addressed. He called for increased transparency, accountability, and proactive measures to mitigate the financial challenges facing the town.

- **Marguerite Baranowski, 210 Finderne Ave- Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Baranowski expressed concern regarding the potential for new warehouse construction while vacant warehouses still exist. She suggested that existing vacant warehouses should be prioritized for occupancy before new construction. Ms. Baranowski also proposed the idea of converting vacant warehouses into housing units, such as apartments or senior citizen housing, to address local housing needs. She emphasized the importance of considering the impact on residents and prioritizing their needs.

Councilman Norgalis responded by clarifying that the township has an ordinance in place that prevents the construction of new warehouses. He acknowledged the existence of a few warehouses that were approved before the ordinance was enacted. He assured Ms. Baranowski that the township is committed to preventing further warehouse development.

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

Councilman Pedroso thanked the public for their comments and emphasized the importance of public participation in the democratic process. He acknowledged the value of time limits in ensuring fair and equitable opportunities for all speakers. He cited examples of time limits in other governing bodies, such as Philadelphia, to illustrate the common practice of setting time constraints. He assured the public that the council values their input and will continue to provide a platform for their voices to be heard.

**Public  
Hearing &  
Final Action  
Ordinances**

**AMENDING AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CERTAIN OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 374 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1985; N.J.S.A. 2A:809; N.J.S.A. 2A:8-13; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-165; N.J.S.A.40A:9-135; N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146, AND CHAPTER 95 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1996**

Councilman Norgalis clarified that the recent salary increases were due to the merger with Raritan Township and emphasized that the additional compensation for these positions is fully covered by the funds received from Raritan Township.

Councilman Pedroso acknowledged the increased workload on the court system due to the merger with Raritan Township. He expressed support for fair compensation for the judge and court clerk, recognizing their increased responsibilities. He praised the efficiency and quality of the Bridgewater court system and expressed his support for the ordinance.

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 Kurdyla, the public comment portion was closed.

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
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Ring	Absent

**ORDINANCE #24-14 WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-268](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**Resolutions**

**CONSENT VOTE**

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

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4:87 – BUDGET CHAPTER 159 FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4:87 – BUDGET CHAPTER 159 FROM THE RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,416.05**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4:87 – BUDGET CHAPTER 159 FROM THE SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,150**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4:87 – BUDGET CHAPTER 159 FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4:87 – BUDGET CHAPTER 159 FROM THE NATIONAL OPIOIDS SETTLEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,464.36**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, 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	Absent

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#24-12-05-269 thru #24-12-05-273](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**CONSENT VOTE**

COUNCIL VICE 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 \$6,212,616 FOR THE YEAR 2025**

**AUTHORIZING BENECARD SERVICES, LLC OF NEW JERSEY, INC. TO PROVIDE PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$2,931,791 FOR THE YEAR 2025**

**AUTHORIZING DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY, INC. TO PROVIDE DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$358,764 FOR THE YEAR 2025**

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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	Absent

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#24-12-05-274 thru #24-12-05-276](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KATHERINE SARMAD AS TOWNSHIP PLANNER FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING ON NOVEMBER 11, 2024, AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024, THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID ON THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO BE LESS THAN \$17,500**

Administrator Pappas explained that this resolution seeks to recognize and confirm Ms. Sarmed's transition from Harbor Consultants to her own firm. He emphasized the valuable contributions she has made to the township and expressed hope for the council's support of the resolution.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-277](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBORDINATION AND STANDSTILL AGREEMENT WITH NJGRP I, LLC FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 400, LOT 7 (530 U.S. ROUTE 22)**

Township Attorney Corsini explained that a Redemption document is required by Fannie Mae before foreclosing on any property. This is a simple document that allows for a redemption period.

Councilman Norgalis added that Hyatt House is assisting the township in meeting its affordable housing criteria.

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

Councilman Kirsh	Aye
------------------	-----

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-278](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**CONSENT VOTE**

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

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VAC-CON INC; 3388 ROUTE 22 WEST, BRANCHBURG, NJ 08876 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$27,963.45 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A RAUSCH PUSH CAMERA FOR THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP SEWER DEPARTMENT VIA THE SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED FROM SEWER OPERATING ACCOUNT**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VAC-CON INC; 3388 ROUTE 22 WEST, BRANCHBURG, NJ 08876 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$529,937.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A JET VAC TRUCK FOR THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP SEWER DEPARTMENT VIA THE SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED FROM SEWER CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

Mr. Genova emphasized the significance of the two resolutions before the council.

**Resolution (m):** This resolution authorizes the purchase of a Rausch Push Camera from Vac-Con Inc. for a maximum of \$27,963.45. This advanced camera system, capable of 360-degree rotation and a 300-foot cable, will significantly enhance the Sewer Division's ability to efficiently identify and address pipe issues.

**Resolution (n):** This resolution approves the purchase of a 2025 combination jet/vacuum sewer cleaner from Vac-Con Inc. for a maximum of \$529,937.00. This essential equipment, mounted on a Freightliner chassis, is crucial for daily maintenance and emergency response. The current sewer cleaner is nearing the end of its lifespan and is experiencing frequent breakdowns.

His office strongly recommends the approval of both resolutions to ensure the continued efficient operation of the sewer system.

Councilman Kirsh inquired about the expected timeline for acquiring the new jet/vacuum sewer cleaner, given the authorization for its purchase.

Councilman Norgalis replied that according to the DPW superintendent, the new jet/vacuum sewer cleaner is expected to be delivered by February.

Councilman Kurdyla questioned whether the new jet/vacuum sewer cleaner could be used by other municipalities besides Bridgewater.

Mr. Genova clarified that the township has not been sharing its equipment with other municipalities due to the high cost of the equipment and the specialized training required to operate it. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of Bridgewater residents. The purchase of the new jet/vacuum sewer cleaner is being funded through the 2024 capital budget of the sewer utility.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, 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	Absent

**THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.**

Copies of resolutions [#24-12-05-279 thru #24-12-05-280](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARKING EXPANSION COMPLETED TO DATE AND REDUCTION OF THE CASH PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$305,575.00 TO \$91,672.50, WHICH IS A 70 PERCENT REDUCTION OF \$213,902.50 FOR SRI VENKATESWARA TEMPLE (HINDU TEMPLE & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF USA, INC.), BLOCK 483, LOTS 2 AND 12.02 – 1 BALAJI TEMPLE DRIVE**

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-281](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 221, LOTS 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 2.00, & 2.01 (1200, 1210 AND 1220 ROUTE 22) ON THE TAX MAP OF TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT (NON-CONDEMNATION) PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ.) AND DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP’S REDEVELOPMENT PLANNER AND PLANNING BOARD TO PREPARE A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Administrator Pappas introduced Mr. Michael Sullivan, the Township's designated Redevelopment Planner. Mr. Sullivan presented a report based on a directive from the council. The Planning Board reviewed the report and adopted a resolution recommending the action to the governing body. The report, which was the subject of a public hearing, was summarized for the council's consideration.

Michael Sullivan, the Township Redevelopment Planner, presented a detailed analysis of the Greymark Office Park. He highlighted the site's existing conditions, including an outdated office building, unfinished development, and significant environmental issues such as uncontrolled stormwater runoff, erosion, and potential wetland formation. He emphasized the negative impact of these conditions on the site's value and the surrounding area.

Sullivan explained that the site meets the criteria for a Redevelopment Area due to obsolescence, dilapidation, and negative environmental impacts. He also emphasized the potential for redevelopment to address these issues and generate additional tax revenue. The Planning Board recommended designating the entire study area as an Area in Need of Redevelopment, which would allow for the implementation of redevelopment tools to revitalize the site.

Councilman Kirsh noted that the Greymark Office Park site is adjacent to an area where hotel development is permitted. He explained that the previous applications for the Days Inn and the proposed Woodspring Suites were reviewed by the Zoning Board due to the proximity to the boundary between the hotel zone and the non-hotel zone.

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

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

**THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-282](#) 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 Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the Council convened in closed session at approximately 9:22 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-05-283](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 9:29 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

---

Timothy Ring  
Council President