

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 19, 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 19, 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: Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Grace Njuguna, Township Clerk

Councilman Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

NOVEMBER 14, 2024 AND DECEMBER 5, 2024 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kirsh, the November 14, 2024, and December 5, 2024, regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed unanimously on a voice call vote.

NOVEMBER 14, 2024 AND DECEMBER 5, 2024 – CLOSED SESSIONS

The November 14, 2024, and December 5, 2024, closed session minutes were passed around for Council approval & signature.

Council Reports

Councilman Kirsh:

- Councilman Kirsh began by addressing an item he had missed from the previous meeting. On December 2nd, he attended the Bridgewater Senior Lunch, marking this his second year of participation. He praised the vibrant and valuable contributions of the senior community to Bridgewater.

- On December 10th, the Zoning Board met to consider two cases: an addition to a residence in Martinsville and a solar array in the Finderne neighborhood.
- The Planning Board met on the following Tuesday, approving a minor subdivision in the Bradley Gardens neighborhood with several conditions. They also continued the hearing for the transfer of residents from a hotel to an alternative extended-stay hotel on the former Chick-fil-A site, with progress anticipated to conclude in January 2025.
- Councilman Kirsh expressed his appreciation for the holiday lunch and took the opportunity to recognize the efforts of his colleagues. He specifically acknowledged the leadership of President Tim Ring, highlighting the unique experience of all five council members having served as president and having been led by each other. It was a moment of camaraderie and recognition of the team's collective dedication.
- Councilman Kirsh also addressed recent concerns regarding the council's approach to public input. He clarified that the perception of disregard for public feedback is not accurate. He assured the community that he and his fellow council members deeply value public input, viewing it as a critical component of their decision-making process and integral to shaping their agenda.

Councilman Kurdyla:

- Councilman Kurdyla took a moment to send his warmest holiday wishes to all Bridgewater residents, wishing them good health, prosperity, and happiness. He encouraged everyone to embrace the holiday spirit with the same joy and wonder that children experience, noting how children see magic in every corner of the world. Councilman Kurdyla expressed his belief that the community could benefit from cultivating a greater sense of childlike enthusiasm. He concluded his remarks by extending his best wishes to the entire Bridgewater community.

Councilman Norgalis: *verbatim*

- Attended the Somerset County Planning Partners Forum. Guest presenters included:
 - Climate Change Realization Group
 - NJ Water Supply Authority
 - A County deputy planner also reviewed the Somerset County Local Safety Action Plan
- Attended the viewing for Gerry Doyle husband of Scarlett Doyle our long-term Planner who retired at the beginning of the year.

- Attended the holiday party for the residents of Centerbridge 1 where I am a member of the Board of Directors.
- Building owners whose electric service is provided by Jersey Central Power and Light should be aware that the company is installing new SMART meters that should simply their meter reading but more importantly may enhance their ability to track power outages and, in some cases, the ability to improve their restoration ability. There is a possibility that a uniformed JCP&L worker or their Wellington subcontractor may have to enter your location. Feel free to deny access should you have any safety concerns.
- As this is the last meeting of 2024, I want to thank President Ring for his diligence as President and in addition his effort along with Councilman Kirsch in working on the Township Finance Committee.

Councilman Pedrosa: *verbatim*

- Since November, residents across Bridgewater and surrounding areas have reported frequent drone sightings. These drones are often described as unusually large—some as big as cars or buses.

Despite mounting pressure from both Republican and Democratic leaders, the Biden administration remained silent for weeks, until December 12, when John Kirby, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, issued a statement claiming federal, state, and local authorities could not corroborate any sightings. This contradicted a closed-door briefing to New Jersey legislators, where Department of Homeland Security officials reported that these drones operated in swarms, had extraordinary battery life, were invisible to infrared cameras, and undetectable by radar. Days later, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas acknowledged, “there’s no question that drones are being sighted.”

From the beginning, residents have been assured by the Biden and Murphy administrations that there is no public threat, yet no details have been provided. These sightings have been confirmed by politicians, media, law enforcement, and countless ordinary citizens—including myself. As a licensed private pilot trained to distinguish aircraft, I have personally seen drones on two separate occasions. These were not airplanes.

In response to growing concerns, yesterday, the FAA imposed temporary flight restrictions for drones over 22 areas in New Jersey, after weeks of denials from the Biden administration about the drones’ existence or any potential threat. Yet no explanation has been given for this abrupt policy shift.

The lack of transparency from federal and state leaders is unacceptable.

While I commend State Senator Doug Steinhardt, Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio, and Assemblyman Erik Peterson for demanding answers, Governor Murphy's response has been inadequate. Despite access to State Police and National Guard resources, his administration initially echoed federal empty reassurances and failed to take decisive action. After weeks of inaction and no information, the governor's response this past Monday was to tell New Jerseyans to "calm down." With all due respect, Governor, that response falls far short of what we deserve.

A month has passed, and we are no closer to understanding what's happening. The most plausible explanation is that these drones belong to a U.S. agency conducting a classified operation. If so, the government owes the public an honest explanation—at least enough to assure citizens without fostering fear or distrust. The alternative—that these drones are foreign, private, or completely unknown—raises serious national security concerns.

Without clear communication, speculation runs rampant. Are these drones foreign surveillance devices? Defense contractor tests? Searches for UAPs, radiation, or other threats? The absence of transparency only fuels anxiety.

Today, Bridgewater Township is passing a resolution demanding accountability from state and federal leaders. It's time to stop dismissing the public's concerns. Our government must step up, provide answers, and rebuild trust. The media must continue to press for the truth, and residents should take action—contact Governor Murphy, President Biden, and Congressional representatives to demand transparency and accountability. We deserve to know the truth.

Council President Ring:

- Council President Ring shared a recent traffic experience during a trip to a dentist appointment, where road closures by PSEG and the state caused significant delays. He emphasized the need for better coordination among municipal, county, and state agencies to prevent such issues, noting the impact on residents and local businesses, especially during the holiday season. Ring announced his plan to address the issue with state legislators after the new year and suggested a shared communication system to improve coordination and minimize future disruptions.
- Council President Ring then echoed the holiday greetings extended by his colleagues. He encouraged all residents to enjoy the holiday season with loved ones, regardless of their specific religious or cultural observances.
- He expressed his gratitude for the kind words regarding his service as Council President. While recognizing the visible role of presiding over meetings, he

emphasized the extensive behind-the-scenes work in preparing agendas and coordinating logistics. He thanked Township Clerk Grace and her team, the administration, and Township Attorney Corsini for their invaluable support throughout his term. He concluded by reminding the public that the 2025 Township Council Reorganization Meeting would be held on January 2nd at 7:00 PM and noted that Mayor Moench would be invited to deliver the annual Township Address.

Mayor's Reports

Township Administrator Michael Pappas, speaking on behalf of Mayor Moench, addressed the Council and conveyed the Mayor's gratitude for Council President Ring's service over the past year. Pappas highlighted the positive working relationship with President Ring and expressed hope for continued productive collaboration.

Water Odor Investigation

Administrator Pappas provided an update on the ongoing investigation into water odor concerns:

- **New Jersey American Water Actions:** The utility company is actively addressing the issue by flushing water mains and conducting additional sampling.
- **Water Safety:** The water remains safe to use and meets all regulatory standards.
- **Coordination with NJDEP:** The Township is working closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to determine if further actions are needed.
- **Public Updates:** Residents can access updates on the Township website.

Key Issues from Recent Council Meetings

Pappas addressed several topics raised in recent Council discussions:

1. 2024 Budget:

- The budget was introduced on July 18th, made available online on July 19th, and open for public review for 28 days before its approval on August 15th.

2. Taxation:

- Significant increases in property values in Bridgewater have impacted on the overall tax levy.

3. School District Budget:

- The School District received a \$1.6 million increase in state aid for 2024, which did not affect the tax levy.

4. **Audit:**

- The audit report was issued on July 26th and approved, along with a corrective action plan, on August 15th.

Surplus Funds

Administrator Pappas addressed concerns regarding the use of surplus funds:

- **Yearly Variations:** Surplus generation fluctuates annually, ranging from \$3 million to \$8 million in recent years.
- **Decision-Making:** The Council carefully determines how surplus funds are used based on the Township's financial needs and historical data.
- **Responsible Management:** Pappas refuted claims of irresponsible surplus use, emphasizing the thoughtful approach taken by the Township.

Councilman Kirsh then emphasized the Council's commitment to long-term financial stability, rejecting short-term gains or deferring costs to future years. He affirmed the Council's focus on balancing high-quality services with affordability through prudent budgeting.

Presentation STAVOLA QUARRY OPERATING LICENSE

Council President Ring announced an upcoming presentation by Stavola Quarry regarding their operating license renewal. He clarified that while the Council issues the annual license, regulation of blasting activities is managed by the New Jersey Department of Labor, limiting the Council's scope of review.

Councilman Norgalis stressed the importance of approving the license to avoid halting operations on January 1st. He praised the Quarry's long-standing reputation as a responsible business and invited Mr. Branch to address the Council.

Presentation by Mr. Branch, EHS Manager for Stavola Construction Materials

Mr. Branch, the Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Manager for Stavola Construction Materials, provided an overview of Stavola Quarry's operations and future plans:

Historical Background: Began as a copper mine, later transitioning to trap rock mining.

2024 Activities:

- Conducted blasting operations and maintained communication with the community.
- Repurposed previously unusable shale material as clean fill.
- Explored a potential flood control project.

2025 Plans

- **Mine Plan:**
 - Relocate the primary crusher.
 - Continue mining in designated areas.

- **Reclamation Plan:**
 - Include a detention basin as part of the potential flood control initiative.

Mr. Branch projected the Quarry's operational lifespan at 30–35 years, thanks to the expanded use of shale material.

Council President Ring acknowledged the Quarry's lifespan estimate and stressed the need for careful long-term planning. He highlighted the difficulty of predicting future land use, citing past proposals and the rapid pace of change in recent years. He questioned the practicality of requiring detailed, long-range Reclamation plans and suggested revisiting the relevant ordinance next year to explore more adaptable approaches.

Mr. Branch acknowledged that the previous exploration of future uses for the Quarry, including a gas station, was part of the Township's rezoning and master plan review. He emphasized that the Quarry's focus is on "Reclamation," which involves stabilizing slopes and preparing the site for future use, distinct from "Redevelopment," which involves determining the specific future land use.

Administrator Pappas asked Mr. Branch to clarify the specific documentation he was referring to. He inquired about the date and title of the documents, beginning with the 2025 Mine License Plan.

Mr. Branch responded that the documents he was referencing are the 2025 Mine License Plan and the 2025 Reclamation Plan, both dated August 30, 2024. He confirmed that copies of these documents were included in the materials provided to the Council. In closing, Mr. Branch expressed his appreciation for the cooperation and communication between the Quarry and the Township. He emphasized the importance of open communication and encouraged residents with any questions to contact him directly.

Councilman Pedroso asked Mr. Branch if any of the blasts at Stavola Quarry over the past calendar year exceeded the government-mandated maximum allowable limits.

Mr. Branch acknowledged that one blast, which occurred on November 26th, exceeded the permitted peak particle velocity. He attributed this to an unexpected geological anomaly. He stated that subsequent blasts in the same area had not exceeded the limit, indicating that adjustments were made to the blasting

procedures. Mr. Branch emphasized that this was the first exceedance in his 21 years of experience at the Quarry. He confirmed that the state issued a notice of violation and that a meeting is scheduled to address the issue with the Department of Labor. Mr. Branch also noted that the blasting contractor, M&S Scott, will also receive a notice of a violation for their role in the incident. He explained that when such violations occur, the company is required to address the issue and implement corrective measures.

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

- **Brian Delaney- 1827 Ridge Road- Martinsville, NJ 08836**

Mr. Delaney, representing Spring Run, expressed concerns about deteriorating road conditions and severe stormwater runoff issues in the neighborhood. He highlighted safety hazards for pedestrians and vehicles and the significant property damage caused by flooding on West Circle Drive. He urged the Council to include Spring Run Road repaving in the 2025 Road Improvement Plan and to address the critical stormwater management issues. Mr. Delaney concluded by inviting Council members to the community's annual Luminaries display.

Administrator Pappas acknowledged the concerns raised by Mr. Delaney and the Spring Run residents. He noted that he, along with Township Engineer William Burr and Dan Ahern of the Office of Constituent Relations, had visited the neighborhood on a rainy day and witnessed firsthand the challenges described by the residents. He confirmed that they are committed to ensuring that these concerns would be seriously considered for inclusion in the 2025 Road Improvement Plan. He stated that these discussions are ongoing and assured the Council that they would be kept informed of any developments.

- **Carolyn Gioia, 1402 Palley Ct – Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Ms. Gioia thanked the Council for addressing her concerns about drone activity. She mentioned attending a State Police meeting where the possibility of local ordinances temporarily prohibiting nighttime drone flights was discussed. While acknowledging existing no-fly zones around PSEG facilities, she suggested exploring a similar temporary restriction for Bridgewater to provide residents with greater peace of mind, particularly given recent events.

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

Ms. Geiger extended her best wishes for the holidays and a Happy New Year to all.

- **Daniel Zelinski, 715 Chimney Rock Rd-Martinsville, NJ 08836**

Mr. Zelinski expressed concern over the 2024 budget, particularly the unprecedented \$6 million drawdown from the surplus. He questioned the administration's focus on tax percentage increases while neglecting the impact of this drawdown, which contributed to a 11.6% tax levy increase. He emphasized the importance of the surplus as a crucial reserve and challenged the administration to provide data on historical surplus levels. Mr. Zelinski expressed concern about how the Township plans to replenish the depleted surplus and stated that the budget discussion is ongoing.

Administrator Pappas clarified that the Township has utilized surplus funds in recent years as follows: \$5 million in 2019, \$6.3 million in 2020, \$7.4 million in 2021, \$3.395 million in 2022, and \$6.1 million in 2023.

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

Resolutions

STAVOLA QUARRY OPERATING LICENSE - BLOCK 711, LOTS 3, 4 AND 6 CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY, 08807, SOMERSET COUNTY

Council President Ring moved to approve Resolution 12A, removing stipulations 1, 2, and 3. He suggested triennial, rather than annual, Quarry operation updates. He noted his first-hand experience living near the Quarry, providing unique insight into its operations.

Councilman Pedroso stated that he would support the resolution. He acknowledged that Stavola Quarry's operations are primarily regulated by the State of New Jersey. He recognized Stavola's efforts to be a good neighbor while acknowledging that minor issues may occasionally occur. He emphasized that Stavola is accountable to the state for its blasting operations and believes they strive for compliance.

Councilman Kirsh acknowledged that while general guidance regarding the Quarry's long-term plans is helpful, it's unrealistic to expect precise predictions of future land use 35 years from now. He emphasized that the nature of land use can change significantly over time, making long-term predictions highly uncertain.

Councilman Kurdyla expressed his support for the Quarry's operating license, commending Mr. Branch's consistent and informative presentations. He particularly praised the inclusion of potential flood mitigation measures at the Quarry site as a valuable contribution to the Township.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-284](#) is appended to the official minutes

CONSENT VOTE

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

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,490.61 IN THE CURRENT FUND

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$279,691.21 IN THE SEWER FUND

Councilman Pedroso clarified that the proposed resolution does not involve any new taxes or additional expenses. He explained that the action being considered primarily involves reallocating funds within the existing budget.

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 [#24-12-19- 285 thru # 24-12-19-286](#) is appended to the official minutes

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CLARITY AND TRANSPARENCY FROM FEDERAL AND NEW JERSEY STATE AUTHORITIES ON DRONE OPERATIONS ACROSS SOMERSET COUNTY AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Council President Ring noted that the Resolution had been discussed earlier in the meeting and confirmed he had previously requested Mr. Corsini to prepare a resolution on the matter. He acknowledged that airspace regulation falls primarily under the jurisdiction of the FAA, with limited authority granted to the state of New

Jersey. President Ring also emphasized that, even if the state had greater authority, enforcing such regulations would be highly challenging.

Administrator Pappas clarified that Mayor Moench participated in a telephone conference hosted by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This conference included representatives from the FAA, FBI, and Homeland Security. Mayor Moench was among a small group of mayors invited to ask questions. Administrator Pappas noted that both Mayor Moench and Chief Mitzak have issued public statements regarding the recent events. He mentioned that Mayor Moench also released a video address addressing the issue.

Councilman Norgalis asked if the Township has any authority to control or regulate FAA operations.

Township Attorney Corsini confirmed the Township lacks authority over FAA operations.

Councilman Pedroso noted that many townships with airports face limited authority to regulate airspace due to FAA regulations. He expressed strong confidence—approximately 99%—that Bridgewater Township similarly lacks legal jurisdiction to regulate drone activity within its boundaries, as FAA rules take precedence.

Councilman Kurdyla proposed modifying the resolution to have broader applicability. Rather than specifically referencing President Biden and Governor Murphy, he suggested amending the resolution to address the responsibilities of the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor of the State in protecting Bridgewater residents. This change, he argued, would ensure the resolution remains relevant and applicable in the future.

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 Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Council President Ring	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-287](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$284,814.14 TO HORIZON BLUE CROSS OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$6,812,814.14 FOR 2024

Administrator Pappas clarified that the final reconciliation of the healthcare plan will include the December. This will ensure that the plan covers the entire year, as intended. He acknowledged that he would verify this information if necessary.

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	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-288](#) is appended to the official minutes

CONSENT VOTE

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

AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000.00 TO SCOTT MITZNER, ESQ, MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR OF 2024 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.00

AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$24,000.00 TO JOHN LANZA, ESQ, MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR OF 2024 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$104,000.00

Administrator Pappas acknowledged that the number of court sessions attended by public defenders in 2023 and 2024 was previously miscalculated. He apologized for the confusion and stated that measures would be taken to ensure accurate data collection in 2025. He provided specific attendance figures: Mr. Lans appeared in 63 out of 69 court sessions in 2024, while Mr. Mitzner appeared in 49. He explained that the court administrator groups appear to increase efficiency and reduce costs. He noted that the Township recovers some of these costs through contributions from defendants represented by public defenders.

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	Aye
Council President Ring	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#24-12-19-289 thru #24-12-19-290](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING DISBURSAL OF AN ADDITIONAL \$3,252 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS FOR TWO (2) LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PROPERTIES THROUGH THE BRIDGEWATER HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Administrator Pappas explained that the two small amounts were necessary to complete housing rehabilitation projects.

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 [#24-12-19-291](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BRIDGEWATER/RARITAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION WITH SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,575.36

Administrator Pappas clarified that the submission to the county follows a specific format. He explained that while the actual grant funding from the county is \$11,287.68, the submission requires the inclusion of the total project cost, which includes the Township's cash contribution of \$2,821.92 and an in-kind contribution of \$8,465.76.

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 [#24-12-19-292](#) is appended to the official minutes

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 24-01-04-006; AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$17,500.00 TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN 53 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 110, HAMPTON, NJ 08827 FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$137,500.00 FOR THE YEAR OF 2024

Council President Ring explained that this grant funding is for work that the Township undertook in an area previously excavated by PSEG. He noted that this work included improvements to sidewalks and other infrastructure that were outside the scope of PSEG's project.

Administrator Pappas explained that the grant funding is for work performed by William Burr, a contract engineer with CERS. This work addressed infrastructure issues, such as replacing damaged curbs and improving drainage, in areas along the East and West Side of Vosseller Avenue south of Route 22. He noted that these issues arose during PSEG's road paving project and were outside the scope of PSEG's work. To ensure timely completion of the road paving project before the winter, Administrator Pappas decided to engage Engineer Burr's firm, recognizing their ability to mobilize quickly and efficiently.

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 [#24-12-19-293](#) is appended to the official minutes

CONSENT VOTE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT RING 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 CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$1,140,734.91 TO \$1,157,947.06 AN INCREASE OF 1.51%

OR \$17,212.15, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO REIVAX CONTRACTING CORP. (165 RIVER ROAD, FLEMINGTON, NJ 08822) FOR THE WILLIAMIAN, MORTON & KLINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE ENTIRE LENGTHS OF FROG HOLLOW ROAD, KLINE PLACE, MORTON STREET AND WILLIAMIAN STREET (KLINE PLACE TO FROG HOLLOW ROAD) FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 & 2018 CAPITAL SEWER FUND

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1/FINAL CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE CONTRACT PRICE FROM \$451,684.78 TO \$455,199.78 AN INCREASE OF 0.78% OR \$3,515.00, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, AND FINAL PAYMENT TO KEYSTONE SPORTS CONSTRUCTION (1100 SCHELL LANE, SUITE 104, PHOENIXVILLE, PA. 19640) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF AT THE FIELD KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX TURF LOCATED AT 100 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ FUNDED THROUGH THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ACCOUNT

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND FINAL PAYMENT TO KEYSTONE SPORTS CONSTRUCTION (1100 SCHELL LANE, SUITE 104, PHOENIXVILLE, PA. 19640) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF AT THE FIELD KNOWN AS "TURF 3"/"1000 TURF" LOCATED AT 600 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ, FIFTY PERCENT OF WHICH SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE BRIDGEWATER RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$423,835.12, TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ACCOUNT

Councilman Pedroso inquired about the reason for the cost increase in the turf field project, given that the contractor had initially agreed to complete the work for a specific amount.

Administrator Pappas explained that during the excavation process for the turf field project, it was discovered that additional materials, such as rubber pellets and base material, were required. This unexpected need arose due to the condition of the ground beneath the surface, which was not fully apparent during the initial cost estimation.

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	Abstain
Council President Ring	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#24-12-19-294 thru #24-12-19-296](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS, INC., COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT SERVICES

Administrator Pappas provided an update on an agreement with Communities and Crisis Inc. for community-based treatment services. This initiative was discussed in a presentation a few months ago. The funding for this program will come from the funds received through the opioid settlement class action lawsuit.

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 [#24-12-19-297](#) is appended to the official minutes

REQUEST FOR WAIVER FOR RAFFLE/BINGO APPLICATION FEE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$760 FOR THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY LOCATED AT 60 MAPLE STREET BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807 FOR A SERIES OF INSTANT RAFFLES TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT 2025

Council President Ring confirmed that the Clerk and Mr. Corsini's office have verified the appropriate documentation for this matter.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-298](#) is appended to the official minutes

MODIFICATION OF THE 2024-2025 RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1806-33-021-009 FOR MISH-J.O. INVESTMENT CORP. T/A GREEN KNOLL GRILLE, 645 ROUTE 202/206 SOUTH, BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807 RESOLUTION WITH CONDITIONS

Council President Ring explained that this resolution modifies some of the conditions previously imposed on the Green Knoll Grille while reinforcing others. He noted that these modifications are necessary in light of recent court rulings that have challenged the legality of certain previous conditions.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-299](#) is appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL LAVERY FROM THE LAW FIRM OF LAVERY, SELVAGGI, AND COHEN AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR SEWER LITIGATION

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 [#24-12-19-300](#) 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 with all in accordance with Sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

On the motion of Councilman Kurdyla, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the Council convened in a closed session at approximately 9:30 p.m.

A copy of resolution [#24-12-19-301](#) is appended to the official minutes.

On the motion of Councilman Ring, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting reconvened to open session at approximately 10:48 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

Adjournment

On the motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Njuguna, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Timothy Ring
Council President