

BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2023

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:30 p.m., at the City of Bridgeton Police and Municipal Court Complex, 330 Fayette Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey in Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Bethea.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia;

Notice of this Meeting of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, as required by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the "Open Public Meetings Act", has been provided by an Amended Public Advertisement in the South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal on February 11, 2023 and on the City Website setting forth the date, time and place of this meeting of the Bridgeton City Council.

Invocation and Flag Salute was led by Councilman Gonzalez.

The following answered to roll call:

Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
Councilman J. Curtis Edwards
Councilman David Gonzalez
Councilwoman Marian King
Council President Edward Bethea

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly	Administrator Kevin Rabago
Solicitor Michele Gibson	Deputy Municipal Clerk Miriam Garcia
CFO Trisha McGahhey	

PRESENTATIONS:

Cannabis

Joseph Vupnik and Alan Trzuskoski-representing Cannabis Incubator

Alan Trzuskoski-stated that Cannabis incubator is designed to help small businesses start, grow and create an anchor in the City of Bridgeton and that they provide entrepreneurs with resources, guidance, and infrastructures through the whole process.

Alan Trzuskoski commented that they generated 7 conditional licenses and submitted 3 conditional conversions to the State.

Alan Trzuskoski stated that they purchased property 7 North Industrial, Block 189, Lot 3.03 and that they are working on a site plan to join Block 189, Lots 3.03 and 3.04. and upon possession of the property for Phase 1 they are looking into developing about 150,000 square feet of various style of greenhouses on Buckshutem and Burlington Road and Phase 2 will include 60,000 square feet indoor cultivation and manufacturing facility.

Alan Trzuskoski stated that in order to proceed at Buckshutem Road the CCIA needs City's approval to engage in the project.

Council President Bethea-questioned why the CCIA need's the City's approval.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago-responded that the Zoning and City Code will need to be amended in order to allow cannabis on that site.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago further stated that the CCIA does not want to move forward with the proposal unless the City approves.

Council President Bethea-stated that the Cannabis Committee will reconvene to discuss the matter and will get back with their recommendations.

Council President Bethea further stated that Council has made it very clear that they want Buckshutem Road site to be Economic Development.

Ebony Maisonet-introduced herself as the owner of E-Quality Cannabis and stated she will be bringing operation into 1 Glass Street in Bridgeton.

Ebony Maisonet stated that 1 Glass Street has 8 different buildings and she would like to purchase one of the buildings.

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2023. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman King that said minutes be approved and to dispense with the reading of said minutes as all members have received copies.
The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Council President Bethea requested Council/Committee Liaison Reports:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – None at this time.

Councilman Edwards –None at this time

Councilman Gonzalez–None at this time

Councilwoman King –None at this time

Council President Bethea – None at this time

Council President Bethea referred to the Mayor, Business Administrator and Solicitor for their reports.

Mayor Kelly – Provided Council with a map outline on the proposal of NJDOT on Route 49.

Mayor Kelly stated that Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago and Mayor Kelly have been in contact with Governor's office regarding making the necessary improvement to ensure safer conditions on Route 49.

Mayor Kelly further stated that Police Chief Gaimari has requested a stop light on Route 49 and that NJ Transit is considering a bus stop along Route 49.

Mayor Kelly stated that the bridge entrance of the park will be completed by the end of September.

Mayor Kelly reported that Senator Testa has been pressing in getting South Ave Culvert completed and that they are waiting for the engineer's final approval.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago –Introduced Dave Peterson as the Acting Director of Water/Sewer Department and stated it will be permanent once his credentials are finalized in October.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

Council President Bethea called upon Mayor and Councilmembers for the retirement presentation of Judge Witcher.

Council President Bethea stated it is tough to salute Judge Witcher as he did an outstanding job as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bridgeton.

Council President Bethea read part of the Resolution No. 179-23 Recognizing the Honorable Jason D. Witcher on the occasion of his retirement from a full-time service as a Municipal Court Judge and for his dedication to the Citizens of New Jersey, the Citizens of Vicinage 15, Fairfield Township and the City of Bridgeton, in the practice of Law and his contributions to the administrations of justice and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

Mayor Kelly-stated from 2011 to present he has never received any complaints of Judge Witcher and thanked him for his dedication on the bench to the Citizens of Bridgeton.

Mayor Kelly further commented that it is an honor standing next to Judge Witcher to wish him well on his retirement and presented him with a photo of his 1st swearing in as the Municipal Court Judge.

Councilman Edwards-thanked Judge Witcher for all that he has done for the City of Bridgeton and wished him well on his retirement.

Councilwoman King-thanked Judge Witcher for his years of services and for his fairness to the community.

Councilman Gonzalez-addressed Witcher with an honorable statement thanking him for what he has done for the Citizens and County.

Councilman Gonzalez stated that Judge Witcher will be like a father to many young generations in guiding them with his wisdom.

Councilwoman Dequinzio-wished Judge Witcher all the best on his retirement.

Julius Badger representing the Ionic Lodge presented Judge Witcher with a resolution on his retirement which listed Judge Witcher devotion to the City of Bridgeton.

Andrea Gillis thanked Judge Witcher for mentoring troubled teens.

Todd Edwards expressed his thoughts about Judge Witcher on the value of things he has done for the City and Community and stated that he will be missed.

Judge Jason D. Witcher commented that he was not born in Bridgeton but Bridgeton is his home.

Judge Jason D. Witcher stated that his job was about people's life and that his robe represented years of services and weight of carrying something that's going to benefit other people life.

Judge Jason D. Witcher thanked the Citizens, Police Department and the Leaders for the embrace over the past decade.

Judge Jason D. Witcher further stated that he will continue to be an influence and impact to the community.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were eight (8) Ordinances for First Reading. The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PORTIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TO ALLOW FOR CANNABIS USE ON BLOCK 170, LOTS 8.02, 8.04 AND 9, TO MODIFY PARKING STANDARDS FOR BLOCK 170, LOT 9, AND TO CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR SIGNS

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #22-10 ADOPTED APRIL 19, 2022, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$182,789.00 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF GENERATORS AT VARIOUS WATER/SEWER STATIONS IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #22-11 ADOPTED APRIL 19, 2022, IN ORDER TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$325,265.00 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FOR THE SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT FOR SOUTH AVENUE IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON ESTABLISHING A LAND SALE REQUEST APPLICATION FEE FOR PUBLIC REQUESTS TO PURCHASE MUNICIPALLY-OWNED LAND

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman King that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			

Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 277-10 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO P.L. 2021, c.182 PERTAINING TO LEAD PAINT HAZARDS IN RENTAL PROPERTIES

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 110-3 (C) OF THE CITY CODE TO ALLOW RETAIL CANNABIS AT BLOCK 13 LOT 6 (614 N. PEARL ST) WITHIN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE APPROVING SECOND AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL AGREEMENT AND CONSENT TO AND ACCEPTANCE OF SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF FINANCIAL AGREEMENT TO RIVERWALK HOUSING PARTNERS, LP WITH RESPECT TO BLOCK 265, LOTS 11, 12, AND 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE CITY

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 19, 2023.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			

Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCES ON 2ND READING:

Council President Bethea announced there was six (6) Ordinance for Second Reading. Council President Bethea asked the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 23-17

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$112,245.00 FROM THE WATER UTILITY REVITALIZATION FUND FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WELL #19 WITHIN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman Dequinzio and second by Councilwoman King the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilman Edwards this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 23-18

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 277-37 (B) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Gonzalez this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 23-19

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTION 176 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO YARD SALES

It was moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Gonzalez this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 23-20

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 265-19 PERTAINING TO THE PLACEMENT OF LIENS FOR REMEDIAL COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 23-21

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 149-25 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO PARK AND RECREATION FEES FOR USE OF FUTSAL COURT

It was moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman King the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE NO. 23-22

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-34 FIXING THE SALARIES AND RATES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards this be considered the second reading of said ordinance and the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the matter which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilman Gonzalez this be considered the final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

PUBLIC PORTION:

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez motioned and seconded by Councilman Edwards the public portion be opened.

Scott Depew representing the Cohanzick Zoo Society announced a 5k Run for September 30, 2023 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am at the Zoo. He continued and stated that they requested 2 police officers for the 5K Run event and would like Police Services Fees to be waived.

Andrea Gillis-commented on the beautiful steps at the Zoning office.

Andrea Gillis stated that on the South sides pot holes has not been fixed.

Esaul Martin stated that Community Day will be held at the Riverfront on August 19, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and free food will be provided for the first 250 children. He further stated that they requested Police Services for Community Day and would like for Council to waive Police Services Fees.

Esaul Martin-announced the next SEG Community Meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2023 starting at 5:00 p.m. at Faith Outreach Deliverance Church.

Esaul Martin provided information regarding the Semi-Annual Citywide Clean-up scheduled for September 23, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Rain date September 30, 2023).

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King the public portion be closed, which motion was carried. Council President Bethea closed the public portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council President Bethea announced all matters listed under the consent agenda; M-1 through M-13 will be enacted upon by one motion unless a council member desires to discuss an item, in which case the items will be removed from the consent agenda and acted upon separately.

Council President Bethea called upon the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 169-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Accelerated Tax Sale Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-19 and Chapter 99 P.L.1997 and Electronic Tax Sale Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:33-1.1.

RESOLUTION NO. 170-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc. for Water Treatment Chemicals to the City of Bridgeton Water Department form August 22, 2023 – August 21, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton imposing liens on various properties for remediation of certain code violations impacting public safety, health or Welfare May/June 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 172-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the auction of certain property on the tax map of the City of Bridgeton.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-23, authorizing execution of discharge or release of mortgage for 215 Atlantic Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 235, Lot 9 on the City of Bridgeton's Tax Map.

RESOLUTION NO. 174-23, approving services for Realauction.com to perform an Online Electronic Tax Sale.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Widow of Veteran tax deduction (74 N. Burlington Road).

RESOLUTION NO. 176-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Lead Grant Assistance Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 177-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Phase III Downtown Sidewalk Replacement Commerce Street (Atlantic Street to NJSH#77) Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 178-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Bid/Contract to Charles Marandino LLC. for the Reconstruction of existing Brick Sidewalks/Laurel Street/Phase II.

RESOLUTION NO. 179-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing the Honorable Jason D. Witcher on the occasion of his retirement from full-time service as a Municipal Court Judge.

RESOLUTION NO. 180-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Agreement with Jonathan Bergmann for DVM PC for Cohanzick Zoo Veterinary from August 18, 2023-August 17, 2024 not to exceed the amount of \$24,000.00

RESOLUTION NO. 181-23, expressing support for E-Quality Cannabis to operate as Class 1 Cultivation 1 Glass Street within the City of Bridgeton

Council President Bethea asked for a motion to accept the resolutions under the consent agenda.

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman Dequinzio that Resolutions M-1 through M-13 be adopted which motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

The original resolution may be found in the Resolution book.

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated August 1, 2023 in the amount of \$3,485,422.65 and Schedule of Bills dated August 15, 2023 in the amount of \$2,713,136.93. It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the Schedule of Bills be approved as read and warrants be drawn on their various accounts and appropriations, which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original schedule may be found in the minute books.

APPLICATIONS:

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson

Ms. Gibson asked Council President Bethea if Council will be making a decision tonight regarding the two (2) request for Police Services Fees.

Council President Bethea stated he will address the request for Police Service in his comments.

Council President Bethea announced there were no applications for approval.

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there were three (3) reports for approval.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – June 2023
2. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – July 2023
3. Vital Statistics' Monthly Report – July 2023

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King that said applications be approved and filed, which motion carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:

Mayor Kelly – None at this time.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio –None at this time.

Councilwoman King –commented on the car accident that occurred in Fairton, NJ and asked to keep the family in prayers.

Councilman Gonzalez- thanked all 1st Responders and Police Department for keeping our City safe.

Councilman Gonzalez stated it is great to see progress in the city with all the construction taking place.

Councilman Gonzalez further stated that they are looking forward to more job being created in the city.

Councilman Gonzalez expressed his gratitude to the Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago for working hard.

Councilman Edwards- stated he would like to see the CCIA at a future Council meeting to discussed outstanding projects in the city.

Councilman Edwards stated that he would like an update on the Fire Station.

Council President Bethea – stated he is celebrating his 26-wedding anniversary with his wife.

Council President Bethea stated the request for Police Waivers was heard and currently the City Code does not allow for waivers.

Council President Bethea asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago to work with the Clerk's office, Police and Fire Department to possibly modify the City Code to allow for waivers.

Council President Bethea reminded all that Community Day is this Saturday and encourages everyone to come out.

Council President stated that the Semi-Annual Citywide Clean-up is schedule for September 23, 2023.

Council President Bethea-congratulated Dave Peterson as the Acting Director for Water/Sewer Department.

Council President Bethea publicly thanked Mayor Albert Kelly for being so diligent on the Wawa traffic.

Council President Bethea further thanked Mayor Albert Kelly for the update on South Ave Culvert. He continued and expressed that the one good thing of being shut down is that traffic has slowdown in that neighborhood.

Council President Bethea stated he would like to have a conversation with the residents of Bridgeton on how we can permantly slow traffic once it reopens and whether or not makes sense to make Grove Street a two-way street.

Council President Bethea stated he had the opportunity to participate in the ribbon cutting of Complete Care New Medical Unit and saluted Councilman Edwards on the outstanding job.

Council President Bethea mentioned that Complete Care is a great partner for the City and for Southeast Gateway.

Council President Bethea echoed the words of Councilman Edwards regarding an update from the Authority with the Fire Station. He stated that the streets where blocked off and there is no action going on.

Council President Bethea stated that City has dedicated a lot of funds for the Fire Station project.

Council President Bethea commented on the Cannabis Incubator and stated he is in support with Alan Trzuskoski but is confused why the CCIA wants Council approval to engage in the project.

Council President Bethea further stated he would like to see some completed projects in the city from CCIA.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards to adjourn the meeting which motion carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Garcia

Miriam Garcia, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: 9-19-23

APPROVED

[Signature]

Edward Bethea, Council President