

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2023**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 19, 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 Municipal Clerk, Nichole Almanza;

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	Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza
CFO Trisha McGahhey	

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of August 15, 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 – Stated that, along with Councilman Edwards, she met with the Auditors regarding the Exit Conference Report. She thanked the CFO for a job well done.

Councilman Edwards – Agreed with Councilwoman DeQuinzio, that the CFO and her staff have done an outstanding job. He continued that we had a perfect audit with only suggestions and no actual findings.

Councilman Gonzalez – Provided statistics of the Public Works department for trash pick up and drop offs.

Councilman Gonzalez stated that the Planning Board recently approved two applications being one for St. John Lutheran Church and one for the Eastern Pacific Redevelopment project.

Councilwoman King – Stated she met with the School Board recently regarding midget football and the need to use the fields at the High School. She continued that the Board agreed for usage until the midget football fields are up to par and safe for use.

Council President Bethea – None at this time.

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

Mayor Kelly – Spoke of a recent Channel 10 1-Hour special on the disappearance of Dulce Maria Alavez. Mayor Kelly stated that an afternoon service was held at the park. He commended the Police Department and the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office for their continuing efforts.

Mayor Kelly invited all to attend the Semi-Annual Citywide Clean-Up scheduled Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – Stated that City Council recently asked Administration to look into options regarding Health Insurance. He explained that both companies that looked into options for us came back that right now they will not be able to help us due to our claim numbers. He continued that this will be checked again next year.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were six (6) Ordinances for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 149-27 OF THE CITY CODE CONCERNING CERTAIN POLICE-RELATED FEES

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 October 3, 2023.

The 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 247-3 (G) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO GENERAL CONDUCT OF PERSONS WITH REGARD TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PARK FACILITIES IN THE CITY

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 October 3, 2023.

The 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 251-4 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PUBLIC SPACES

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 October 3, 2023.

The 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
ORDINANCE 19-11 WITH RESPECT TO SEWER RATES AND CHARGES**

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 October 3, 2023.

The 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 CITY CODE WITH RESPECT TO CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
AND CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION**

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 October 3, 2023.

The 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 173-5 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE
AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BINGO AND RAFFLE LICENSES**

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 October 3, 2023.

The 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 were eight (8) Ordinances for Second Reading. Council President Bethea asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 23-23

**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 Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman King 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 Councilman Gonzalez 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 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 23-24

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 Edwards 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 Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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 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 23-25

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 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 King and second by Councilman Edwards 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 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 23-26

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 King 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 Councilwoman King and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 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 23-27
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 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 King 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 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 23-28
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 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 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 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 23-29

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 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.

Elizabeth Trinidad of Bridgeton, asked exactly where this location is. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago, explained that this is where the old Enterprise was. Ms. Trinidad asked for clarification as to what a Class 5 license is. Mr. Rabago explained that this is for retail only and that they would not be able to manufacturer or cultivate at this location.

Ms. Trinidad asked what can someone expect at this location. Mr. Rabago explained that this is a retail store where customers would engage with staff for products. He continued that this is highly regulated by the State as to security and cameras. He added that nothing would be "self-serve."

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 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 23-30
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 second by Councilwoman King 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 King and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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 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 Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public portion be opened.

Cassandra Avila and Esaul Martin representing the SEG Coordinator and Bridgeton Housing Authority announced the Semi-Annual City-Wide Clean-Up scheduled for Saturday and a rain date of September 30, 2023.

Elizabeth Trinidad of Bridgeton, stated that there needs to be a pedestrian crossing put in place on Commerce Street by the fountain plaza. She continued that traffic has increased with both pedestrians and vehicles.

Ms. Trinidad also asked why the fountain is not operating anymore. She also discussed the removal of the benches in this area. She stated that this has not solved any issues with loitering. She continued that this has now left residents to sit on the walls of the fountain area and is now making the brick structure needing work. Ms. Trinidad also shared her opinions on the benches that were placed and removed. She suggested that the City brings back the original benches that were in that location.

Ms. Trinidad stated that the proposed Ordinances regarding alcohol in public are long overdue. She shared that she has personally called the Police Department regarding drunkenness and fights and understands that the Police Department could only do so much at that time.

Ms. Trinidad asked about marijuana odors in public. She asked if this will eventually be looked into and possibly an Ordinance put in place.

Ms. Trinidad stated that the intersection of Atlantic and Lincoln needs a 4-way stop in place. She explained that there are accidents at this location all the time. She added that speeding is a big issue here.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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-14 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 asked that M-15 of the Consent Agenda be voted on separately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 182-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the directing Administrator of the National Opioid Settlement Fund for the Distributor Year 3 Subdivision installment payment.

RESOLUTION NO. 183-23, 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 July 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 184-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the Statewide Insurance Fund for the 2023 SIF Risk Control Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 185-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through a Shared Service Agreement with the Bridgeton Board of Education for School Crossing Guards for the 2023-2024 School Year.

RESOLUTION NO. 186-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through a Shared Service Agreement with the Bridgeton Board of Education for Recreational and Athletic Facilities and Activities in Bridgeton City Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 187-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing certain utility account adjustments and taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 188-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton refund of tax overpayment. (83 Bank Street).

RESOLUTION NO. 189-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing auction of the property known as Block 110.01, Lot 58 on the tax map of the City of Bridgeton and also known as 689-691 E. Commerce Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 190-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Bay Hill Environmental for Lead Assessment Services from September 26, 2023 – September 25, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 191-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an UEZ Project to purchase and install gates, related fencing, and lighting in select alleys along S. Laurel Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 192-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton extending grace period to pay Third Quarter 2023 Property Taxes and Solid Waste bills.

RESOLUTION NO. 193-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement between City of Bridgeton and Cannabis Dispensary LLC for Block 170, Lot 9.

RESOLUTION NO. 194-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing execution of a Redevelopment Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement with Royal Dynastics a/k/a Royal Dynastic Organics LLC, for Block 71 Lot 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 195-23, authorizing the release of escrow with respect to Collins Family Center, LLC.

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

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards that Resolutions M-1 through M-14 be adopted which motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

The 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			

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-15** being **RESOLUTION NO. 196-23**, designating Conditional Redeveloper, authorizing negotiations for Amendment to Redevelopment Agreement to include Block 178, Lot 5 and Block 179, Lot 14 located in the Phoenix Redevelopment Area, which was seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio.

The 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 September 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,346,409.01 and Schedule of Bills dated September 19, 2023 in the amount of \$1,862,246.99. 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:

Council President Bethea announced there were three (3) applications for approval being:

1. **Raffle** – The Dolores Romero Foundation – 50/50 Raffle - October 14, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King that said application be approved and filed, which motion carried unanimously.

2. **Raffle** – The Dolores Romero Foundation – Basket Raffle - October 14, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman King that said application be approved and filed, which motion carried unanimously.

3. **Bingo** – The Dolores Romero Foundation – Handbag Bingo - October 14, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

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

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there were two (2) reports for approval.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – July 2023
2. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – August 2023

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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 – None at this time.

Councilwoman Gonzalez – None at this time.

Councilman Edwards- None at this time.

Council President Bethea – Announced the sudden passing of Temple University President.

Council President Bethea congratulated all that were celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Council President Bethea stated he is eager to hear the updates on the Firehouse project.

Council President Bethea stated that he will be unable to attend the clean-up this Saturday as he will be traveling to the University of Michigan for the Homecoming game against Rutgers.

Council President Bethea stated that he also had a conversation with the auditors and commended the CFO and her team for a job well done. Council President Bethea stated he has some concerns regarding the American Rescue Funds. He added that he does not want the City to lose these funds.

Council President Bethea responded to some of Ms. Trinidad's concerns brought forward at the Public Comment portion. He stated that she brought up many valid concerns. He stated that there were many individuals using the fountain plaza site as a place to drink among other things and that it was not a pretty sight. He explained that the City is trying to be aggressive to deal with the situation.

Council President Bethea addressed Ms. Trinidad's suggesting of a crosswalk for pedestrian traffic on Commerce by the plaza. He explained that the increase of vehicle traffic could be because of the bridge closing. He stated that hopefully with the reopening of the bridge come the end of the month, the traffic increase will be eased. Council President Bethea stated that a crosswalk in that area is a valid idea and is something worth looking into. Council President Bethea explained that Council and the City have looked at other locations such as Route 49 located by the Wawa for signage and/or crosswalk lighting so another tragedy does not take place.

Council President Bethea agreed with the Cannabis smell issues and explained that it is a tricky situation as the use of it is legal but with some restrictions in place. He asked that the Cannabis look into this and bring their findings back to Council.

Council President Bethea thanked all 1st Responders – Police Department, Fire Department and all Public Servants for their outstanding jobs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council President Bethea announced that Council will convene into Executive Session after which the Council Meeting will resume in public to continue the regular portion of the meeting.

Council President Bethea read **RESOLUTION NO. 197-23**; the City Council has determined that it is necessary to go into an Executive Session to discuss certain matters relating to the items below as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

1. CCIA – Firehouse Project- Contracts

Upon a motion by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Gonzalez the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. Council left the dais to convene into Executive Session.

With a motion by Councilman Edwards, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

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 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nichole Almanza, RMC, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: 10/3/2023

APPROVED


Edward Bethea, Council President

