

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2023**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 18, 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.

Council President asked for a Moment of Silence which was followed by the Flag Salute.

The following answered to roll call:

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

Absent: Councilman David Gonzalez

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Michele Gibson
CFO Trisha McGahhey

Administrator Kevin Rabago
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023. It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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 – Provided statistics received from Police Department which discussed two recruits and the need for two additional dispatchers. Councilman Edwards continued and shared that the recent homicide/shootings are currently under investigation.

Councilwoman King – Stated she recently met with the Director of the Housing Authority and Mr. Esaul Martin and shared they are working on getting the Section 8 list moving.

Councilwoman King gave credit to everyone involved in the 4th of July Fireworks display. She thanked everyone for all the approvals and for the additional funding to have such a great show.

Council President Bethea – Stated that the Board of Education has selected Celeste Mayweather as the new Interim Superintendent until a permanent selection is made. Council President Bethea stated that education is critical to help turn the City around.

Council President Bethea stated he would like to have a meeting with Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago and Mayor Kelly to speak regarding the Central Business District and Economic Development.

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

Mayor Kelly – announced that the CRC has approved the transfer of a Conditional License to a Permanent License to Grotech for manufacturing.

Mayor Kelly stated that the State Health Benefits has increased to 7.4% and not the 24% that was proposed by the State previously. Trisha McGahhey, CFO, explained that they will be renewing municipal aid and that it actually doubled. She continued that there will be an estimate of \$461,000.00 in cash this year that will be added to next year's budget as a reserve pool.

Mayor Kelly discussed the various grant applications that the City has applied for and has been approved for. He continued that in total the City was approved for an amount around \$2.3 Million which will be used for recreation, sidewalks, redevelopment of the landfill and bikeways. Mayor Kelly thanked CFO, Trisha McGahhey and Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago for their fantastic job. He continued that the City hopes to bring in a full-time grant writer to help continue to find funds that the City is eligible for.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – Stated that the replacement of the Tourist Center stairs will begin in the next 30 days.

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 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 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 August 15, 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 CHAPTER 277-37 (B) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS

It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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 August 15, 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 PORTIONS OF SECTION 176 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO YARD SALES

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 August 15, 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
CHAPTER 265-19 PERTAINING TO THE PLACEMENT OF LIENS FOR REMEDIAL
COSTS INCURRED BY 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 August 15, 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 149-25 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO PARK AND RECREATION
FEES FOR USE OF FUTSAL COURT**

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 August 15, 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 22-34 FIXING THE SALARIES AND RATES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES**

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 August 15, 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 was one (1) Ordinance for Second Reading. Council President Bethea asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 23-16

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING
SECTION 110-3 (B) (1) AND (2) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE
NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS**

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 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 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 Edwards motioned and seconded by Councilwoman King the public portion be opened.

Cassandra Avila and Esaul Martin representing the SEG Coordinator and Bridgeton Housing Authority announced the next SEG Community Meeting scheduled for July 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Baptist Temple. She added that dinner will be provided.

Ms. Avila invited everyone to Community Day which will be held at the Riverfront on August 19, 2023 (Rain date August 26, 2023). She stated that they are still looking for vendors for the event.

Esaul Martin stated that the Wells Fargo Foundation will be doing a site visit on July 19, 2023 to review recent redevelopments in the area of Southeast Gateway. He invited Council and Administration to attend.

Police Chief Gaimari stated that there has been arrests made in regards to one of the recent homicides, however, no arrest yet in the other.

Chief Gaimari stated that starting July 19, 2023, the Police will be hitting downtown and the Riverfront to help move people along and with the issues of individuals drinking in the park. He continued that he hopes the new Judge backs up any tickets or citations made during this time. Chief Gaimari told Council that just today, an officer was assaulted by someone at the Riverfront and needed stitches from being cut by a bottle.

Chief Gaimari stated that he met with Mr. Wynder regarding the "Bikes Up Guns Down" event to come up with some additional rules and regulations for the event. He provided a copy to Council and the Clerk. He reviewed a few of the regulations being: no alcohol allowed, onsite security, wrist bands, and helmets.

Cynthia Dozier (address provided) discussed a neighbor problem in the area of 65 American Avenue. She explained that there is a neighbor that has multiple dogs and is throwing the dog feces over the fence and into an alleyway. She added that illegal dumping is taking place here as well. Ms. Dozier expressed her concerns of the health hazards and foul smells. She stated that she has tried to speak with the homeowner, however, it is still happening.

Charles Wynder (address provided) stated that he is the event holder for the “Bikes Up Guns Down” event and is asking for Council to consider voting on waiving all police fees for the bike event as they have a limit budget and this will be a huge financial burden to cover. Mr. Wynder stated he is in receipt of the rules and regulations from Chief Gaimari and shared his agreement with same.

Councilman Edwards asked Chief Gaimari what the estimated cost would be for Police Services for this event. Chief Gaimari stated that it would be anywhere from \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 for the day.

Council President Bethea stated that Council wants to show their support for the event. He shared his concerns regarding wheelies in the streets and safety of riders, pedestrians and other vehicles on the streets.

Alan Trzuskoski, Industrial Blvd., stated that he received his conditional license last year and is working with the State to update his documents. He stated that a Site Plan revision will be heard with the Planning Board and hopes to be on their September agenda.

Julius Badger representing the Ionic Lodge stated that their organization has a Block-Off application on tonight’s agenda for approval. He stated that there was an error on their application and the date of the Annual BBQ event should have stated July 29, 2023. Mr. Badger stated that proceeds of the event will be donated to Mental Health Awareness.

Tyrone Fowler (address provided) stated that there is nowhere for kids to go for parties. He stated that a lot of the children often find themselves joining gangs. He stated he would like to look for a building and possible funding to help make a place for kids where dances, music events and open mic nights can be held.

Mayor Kelly spoke of the fatality on Route 49 by the Wawa. He stated that meetings are being scheduled to discuss striping updates and possibly moving the bus stop in that area.

Sherri Hill (address provided) stated that she is the Chairperson for Tri-City Hope. She thanked the City of Bridgeton and Ionic Lodge for helping the organization have such a successful Juneteenth event.

Ms. Hill stated that they will be holding their Annual Toy Give Away which is open to the public. She continued that a lot of the donations come straight from their members but encouraged Council and other residents to contact them to donate items.

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-20 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-21 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. 146-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for West Vine Street, University Avenue, and New Street and authorizing Grant Agreement upon award of funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 147-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing senior citizen or disabled deduction addbacks.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an Urban Enterprise Zone Project Application to purchase one portable solar powered surveillance camera with trailer.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing use of procurement cards.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-23, 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 April/May, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License for Cortes Sandoval, LLC (Pocket License).

RESOLUTION NO. 152-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting disabled tax exemption (17 Gardner Avenue).

RESOLUTION NO. 153-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing certain utility account adjustments and taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 154-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing an application with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for FY 2023 Local Justice Assistance Grant and authorizing Shared Services Agreement between City of Vineland, City of Millville, City of Bridgeton and County of Cumberland.

RESOLUTION NO. 155-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the City of Bridgeton to enter into Shared Services Agreement with the Bridgeton Board of Education for School Crossing Guards.

RESOLUTION NO. 156-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the City of Bridgeton to enter into Shared Services Agreement with the Bridgeton Board of Education for Recreational and Athletic Facilities and Activities in Bridgeton City Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton confirming the appointment of Robert L. Tarver, Jr. as Municipal Court Judge for the Bridgeton Joint Municipal Court.

RESOLUTION NO. 158-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the firm of Blaney, Donohue, & Weinberg to represent employee Alison Bohn with respect to Summons 022296.

****RESOLUTION NO. 159-23 WAS INADVERTANTLY SKIPPED WHILE NUMBERING RESOLUTION NO. 160-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton clarifying method of sale for a portion of Block 76, Lot 23 (524 Chestnut Avenue) owned by the City of Bridgeton to take place pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5) and authorizing the City to enter into a Contract for Sale for Block 76, Lot 23 (524 Chestnut Avenue).

RESOLUTION NO. 161-23, of the City of Bridgeton rescinding a Contract to the Bancorp Bank, National Association, for the lease of five (5) Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD and five (5) up-fits from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. (Cranford Police Cooperative #47-CPCPS) in the amount not to exceed \$291,980.00 (Finance Total).

RESOLUTION NO. 162-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to the Bancorp Bank, National Association, for the lease of five (5) Ford Utility Police Interceptor Marked Police Vehicles and five (5) up-fits from Gentilini Ford (Cranford Police Cooperative #47-CPCPS) in the amount not to exceed \$308,059.25 (Finance Total).

RESOLUTION NO. 163-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Program for a project to provide trash containers in the Downtown Central Business District.

RESOLUTION NO. 164-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the 2023 Urban Parks Grants Initiative Program (Non-Matching Grant).

RESOLUTION NO. 165-23, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the Directing Administrator of the National Opioid Settlements Fund for the Janssen Payment 3 Subdivision installment payment.

RESOLUTION NO. 166-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addition Services on behalf of the Municipal Alliance Program.

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

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by DEQUI that Resolutions M-1 through M-20 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-21** being **RESOLUTION NO. 167-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the sale of Block 167 Lot 2 to Gateway Community Action Partnership to facilitate the construction of affordable housing, 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.

Council President Bethea announced that City Solicitor, Michele Gibson has provided a Resolution that needs to be added to the agenda for a formal vote. He explained that with Judge Witcher leaving, the City must appoint a new Municipal Court Judge. He continued that Resolution M-12 appointed Robert L. Tarver, Jr. as the new Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bridgeton. He stated that Mr. Tarver has a trial that he must complete prior to starting with the City and we will need to appointment someone as a temporary Judge until he can actually start. Council President Bethea explained that Judge Witcher has agreed to temporary fill this role until mid-August. Council President Bethea asked for a Motion to add this additional Resolution to the meeting.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to amend the Agenda to include an additional Resolution to be formally voted on by a Roll Call Vote 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			

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-22** being **RESOLUTION NO. 168-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton confirming the appointment of Jason Witcher as a Temporary Municipal Court Judge for the Bridgeton Joint Municipal Court, 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 July 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,638,617.29 and Schedule of Bills dated July 18, 2023 in the amount of \$2,161,146.15. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King 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 four (4) applications for approval being:

1. **Block Off Street** – John Fuqua – Life Worth Living – “Bikes Up Guns Down” – August 12, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (**Rain Date:** August 13, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) – Scholastic Drive, Richie Kates Way and Babe Ruth Street.

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

2. **Bingo** – Fraternal Order of Eagles – August 4, 2023 to August 3, 2024 – Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

3. **Block-Off Street** – Scott Depew – Cohanzick Zoological Society – September 30, 2023– 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk – Mayor Aitken Drive (from Park Drive to Washington Street), Richie Kates Way (Burt Street) and Scholastic Drive.

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

4. **Block-Off Street** – Rodney Pierce – Ionic Lodge No. 40 – July 29, 2023 ****Corrected Date****–9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. – BBQ Fundraiser– Columbus Avenue (From Vine Street to Hampton Street).

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

5. **Police Services Fee Waiver (Addition to Agenda)** – Council President Bethea stated that Council would like to take a formal vote for a waiver of police services fees for the “Bikes Up Guns Down” event (See O-1) and asked for a Motion from Council that can be voted on.

Councilman Edwards made a Motion to Waive all Police Services Fees for the “Bikes Up Guns Down” event scheduled to be held August 12, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman King.

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			

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there were five (5) reports for approval.

1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – May 2023
2. Tax Collector’s Cash Receipts – June 2023
3. Clerk’s Resident ID Quarterly Report – April, May & June 2023
4. Vital Statistics’ Monthly Report – June 2023
5. Clerk’s Monthly Report – May and June 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 – Stated she hopes that the proper department can help out Ms. Dozier and her concerns.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated that the Juneteenth event was a great occasion and is looking forwarded to attending more.

Councilwoman King – Stated that there are a lot of organizations that are stepping up regarding holding events for the children of the City. She continued that she would like to have everyone meet together and work on their ideas.

Ms. King stated that she recently lost a nephew in Fairfield and asked for everyone to keep the family in their prayers.

Ms. King stated that it has been a rough start to summer in the City. She continued that there is a lot of contention in the streets. She stated that we all need to work together to make a difference. She added that we cannot ask the children to work together if we are all fighting ourselves.

Councilman Edwards- Stated that the 4th of July Fireworks Display was the best the City has ever had. He gave his compliments to all involved.

Councilman Edwards asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago if Council can be provided with an update on Angie's Diner and the redevelopment of same.

Councilman Edwards stated that maybe the City should look into a Shared Service with the School District regarding a grant writer.

Councilman Edwards shared his condolences to the King family.

Council President Bethea – Thanked Chief Gaimari for his updates regarding the recent arrests. He discussed gang activity taking place on Oxford Street.

Council President Bethea shared his disagreement to the statement that there are no activities in the City for kids. He stated that there are a lot of programs and organizations holding events and providing assistance around the City. He stated that often, adults are encouraging the youth to do wrong and this is where the issue lies. Council President Bethea asked for the adult residents to look in the mirror and see if they are part of the problem or the solution. He added that adults need to know and act on things that are going on in their very own homes.

Council President Bethea provided condolences to Councilwoman King and her family and stated that Council supports them in this time.

Council President Bethea spoke about the comments from Mr. Fowler regarding a building to hold dances and parties at for the youth. He stated that there are plenty of vacant buildings downtown and even the schools are empty at night time. He suggested reaching out to the owners and getting permission to use the property.

Council President Bethea sent his regards to the Officer that was cut while on duty today.

Council President Bethea stated that it was great news that Grotech has received their license. He continued that Council wants businesses in town that will provide jobs to residents and help with tax rates. Council President Bethea stated he hopes that Alan also creates a lot of jobs for the City's residents.

Council President Bethea stated that he is happy with the news regarding the State Benefits rate. He stated that they have received a lot of good news since the hiring of the new CFO, Trisha McGahhey. He added he would also like to continue to reduce expenses and get a grant writer.

Council President Bethea asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago for an update on the health benefit reporting at the next meeting.

Council President Bethea stated that he is very concerned with the information that Ms. Dozier provided regarding the alleyway. He asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago and Department Head of Public Works, Lee Fox to send some workers out to the area.

Council President Bethea stated that maybe one of the next Citywide Clean-ups could focus on the cleaning of alleyways as these seem to be a continuing issue of illegal dumping. He suggested that the trash collected be looked into to see if any addresses are listed to see where the trash is coming from. He invited everyone out to the next clean-up scheduled for September 23, 2023.

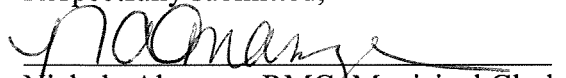
Council President Bethea thanked all 1st Responders – Police Department, Fire Department and all Public Servants for their outstanding jobs.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

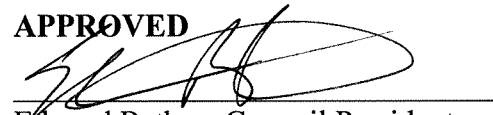
Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nichole Almanza, RMC, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: 8/15/2023

APPROVED


Edward Bethea, Council President