

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:30 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 Gladys Lugardo-Hemple.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Keen, "Adequate notice of this meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 giving the time, date, location and agenda to the extent known has been given in the following manner:

1. By posting notice of said meeting on the bulletin board at City Hall Annex, 181 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey on February 15, 2017, at 4:30 pm
2. By mailing such notice to The Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and The Press of Atlantic City on February 15, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Councilman Surrency

The following answered to roll call:

Councilman Edwards

Councilman Spence

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Gladys Lugardo-Hemple

Council President Lugardo-Hemple invited Council to join her in presenting certificates of appreciation in honor of Black History month to the following: Ms. Donna Bard a graduate of Cumberland Regional High School and an employee of the Bridgeton Public School System since 1987. Ms. Elizabeth Carroll a graduate of Bridgeton High School when it was located on Broad Street, and a pillar in the community. Lastly, Ms. Esther Victoria Carter a graduate of Bridgeton High School class of 1980, an educator and now Counselor in the Bridgeton Public Schools System since 1998. President Lugardo-Hemple read the certificates and thanked all of the women for their dedication to the community.

President Lugardo-Hemple presented the City Council Meeting Minutes, and the Work Session Minutes of February 7, 2017.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and seconded by Councilman Zapolski that said minutes be approved and to dispense with the reading of said minutes as all members have received copies which motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Surrency abstaining.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced one ordinance for first reading.

The Deputy Clerk read an ordinance entitled:

CITY OF BRIDGETON CALENDAR YEAR 2017 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Zapolski this ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 7, 2017 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced there were no ordinances for second reading.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced this is the time for anyone who desires to address council on the consent agenda or any other matter.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and seconded by Councilman Zapolski the meeting be opened to the public for anyone desiring to address council on the consent agenda or any other matters, which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard.

Mr. Tom Martin spoke of the new service fees imposed on water bills and city information being placed on the website. He commented on tree trimming, Verizon Wireless with respect to right of ways within the city. Lastly he commented on the Solicitors report to council at the last meeting.

Ms. Donna Edwards questioned where property lines are located, do they end at the sidewalk or the street. She also spoke of flooding and drainage on her street.

Mr. Albert Cuff Sr. representing King Memorial Church requested handicapped parking signs be installed on Carl Avenue for seniors attending the church. A discussion then arose regarding the procedure for handicapped parking in the city.

Bryan Hagan, Raymond Kates, and Felicta Cox all addressed council voicing their concerns of a shooting in the city recently. Mr. Kates asked what council was doing about the shooting. Ms. Cox, stated she lives in the area of the shooting and requested the police come into the community, speak to residents, and have a better relationship with them.

Mayor Kelly spoke to Mr. Kates explaining the investigation is being handled by the prosecutor and the attorney general.

Police Chief Gaimari elaborated on the investigation process, stating the prosecutor's office handles all investigations with regard to police. He acknowledged the police frequent the neighborhood, due to drugs and gun violence. He then gave statistical facts of police calls in the area since July of 2016.

Ms. Rhonda Celester asked why the city does not have community policing. She would like to the police to have a better relationship with the community.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski, that the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple closed the public portion of the meeting.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced all matters listed under the consent agenda J-1 through J-15, with J-1, J-2, J-11, and J-12 being removed during the work session, J-4, J-5, and J-6 being amended, and J-15 being added will be enacted upon by one motion unless a council member desires to discuss an item, in that case the items will be removed from the consent agenda and acted upon separately.

RESOLUTION NO.24-17authorizing the RFP for telephone services and equipment.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-17 appointing a Municipal Prosecutor.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-17 approval to submit a grant application and execute a contract with the NJDOT for reconstruction of Bank Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-17 approval to submit a grant application and execute a contract with the NJDOT for reconstruction of existing brick sidewalks in the downtown area.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-17 refund tax sale certificate.

RESOLUTIONNO.29-17 tax office deduction add backs.

RESOLUTION NO.30-17 reappointing Kathryn MacFarland to the Bridgeton Housing Authority

RESOLUTION NO.31-17 authorizing changes to the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the FMBA Local 252.

RESOLUTION NO. 32-17 award a non-fair and open contract for ambulance billing services.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-17 authorizing the demolition of Block 95 lot 47.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-17 approving participation with the state of NJ in a Safe and Secure Communities Program for the 2017 year.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Zapolski that said Resolution be adopted which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

President Lugardo-Hemple asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of February 21, 2017 in the amount of \$392,047.85 reflecting said changes by the Comptroller.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski that the Schedule of Bills be approved and warrants be drawn on their various accounts and appropriations, which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original schedules may be found in the Clerk's Files under "S" Schedule of Bills.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced three applications.

Parish of the Holy Cross Merchandise Raffle
Parish of the Holy Cross Bingo License
Parish of the Holy Cross 50/50 Raffle

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Zapolski that said applications be approved which motion was carried and licenses granted.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the following reports.

1. Water/Sewer January 2017
2. City Clerk January 2017
3. Treasurers Report January 2017
4. Vital Statistics Report January 2017
5. Cash Receipts January 2017
6. Recreation-2016 Seasonal Activities, Miniature Golf 2015 and 2016
7. Police Reports December 2016 and January 2017

With report number #3 removed during the work session, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski that said reports be received and filed which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Mayor Kelly for comments.

Mayor Kelly stated the Mr. Martin is incorrect in his allegations against the Mayor.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Council for comments.

Councilman Edwards – No comments at this time.

Councilman Spence – No comments at this time.

Councilman Surrency – No comments at this time.

Councilman Zapolski – No comments at this time.

President Lugardo-Hemple stated she understands the feelings of those who spoke tonight, her son was killed by drug dealers, and hearing those speak tonight brought it all back.

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilman Zapolski and second by Councilman Spence to adjourn the meeting which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: _____