

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2017**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 7, 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 March 1, 2017, at 4:30 pm
2. By mailing such notice to The Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and The Press of Atlantic City on March 1, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Councilman Edwards

The following answered to roll call:

Councilman Edwards

Councilman Spence

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Gladys Lugardo-Hemple

Council President Lugardo-Hemple explained International Women's Day is March 8th and dates back to 1857, when one female worker protested against poor working conditions and less pay. In 1908 in New York City more than 15,000 women marched in protest of shorter working hours and fair pay for all women. President Lugardo-Hemple stated this has helped women get to where they are today, and invited all women in attendance to step forward to receive a Certificate of Recognition. She asked Council to join her in presenting the certificates, Councilman Edwards then read the certificate aloud: *March 8th is "International Women's Day" We celebrate women and their many great accomplishments during Women's History Month. Women are leaders in Government, law, civics, medicine, science, arts, education, business, and many other fields. As mothers, sisters, and daughters, they bring compassion and integrity to our communities and help to teach our children the values that make our country great. We need to remember during this month the transition in history made by women before us who fought for our rights today.*

President Lugardo-Hemple presented the City Council Meeting Minutes, and the Work Session Minutes of February 21, 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 was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced two ordinance for first reading.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 300 OF THE GENERAL CODE OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON REGARDING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTION

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency this ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 21, 2017 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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 second by Councilman Zapolski this ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 21, 2017 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced one ordinance for second reading.

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 Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski 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.

President Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to the public for a hearing on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one 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.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski that this be considered the third and final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote which motion was carried.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Spence	X			
Councilman Surrency	X			
Councilman Zapolski	X			
President Lugardo-Hemple	X			

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the ordinance adopted becoming ORDINANCE NO. 17-1, the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

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 Surrency and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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 commented on the Dark Store resolution, the River Grove pilot agreement, and the CDBG fund.

Ms. Maria Perez asked if there was funding to fix the tennis courts, and add more lights.

Sangeeta Scott asked if there have been any changes made to the construction fee schedule.

Jorge Romero spoke of the historic Jeremiah Buck House at 297 Commerce Street sitting vacant, he asked the city could buy and maintain it. He feels the history in the city should be preserved and Victorian homes should be protected. He mentioned work being done on house adjacent to 297 Commerce that possibly does not have permits. He would like Bridgeton Main Street Association to have more funding to be able to fix up the downtown area.

Dolores Batten spoke of men and women both having rights. The value of houses in the city going down and feels the downtown areas needs to be more inviting and needs more stores. She thanked President Lugardo-Hemple for the recognizing women's rights.

Elaine Adams questioned the new water tax. Councilman Zapolski explained the city infrastructure issues, the high cost of privatization, and the need to build up a reserve. He noted the money is for preventative measures, and will help in the future, Councilman Zapolski also noted the money is dedicated to be used for the water system only.

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

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

Councilman Spence asked if he could get a ruling from the Solicitor concerning a Councilperson possibly having a conflict of interest regarding a resolution vote. Solicitor Bertram explained the agreement is not with Gateway, it is with a separate entity; it is all perception and up to the Councilperson.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced all matters listed under the consent agenda J-1 through J-11 with J-5 and J-7 removed, J-10 will be voted on separately and J-11 was added on during the work session 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. 36-17 Overruling denial of peddler's license

RESOLUTION NO. 37-17 Amending resolution 16-17 appointing various professionals and authorizing professional service agreements

RESOLUTION NO. 38-17 Granting senior citizen tax exemptions

RESOLUTION NO. 39-17 Authorizing the closing of certain streets for the Bridgeton Public Schools Parade of Champions

RESOLUTION NO. 40-17 Supporting an initiative to close the dark store tax loophole

RESOLUTION NO. 41-17 Authorizing the release of escrow with respect to Woodruff Energy, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-17 Authorizing the release of escrow with respect to Novick Auto Mall

RESOLUTION NO. 44-17 Authorizing quiet title action against NJ Ethanol LLC enforcing reverter clause in deed concerning block 189.01, lot 6, S. Industrial Boulevard

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

President Lugardo-Hemple announced Resolution J-10 Regarding the River Grove Housing Project. Solicitor Bertram noted the resolution will be modified to include: "It is the intention to allocate \$30,000 of the purchase price to the library after the purchase."

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards that J-10 known as Resolution 43-17 be adopted with the modification.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Spence		X		
Councilman Surrency	X			
Councilman Zapolski		X		
President Lugardo-Hemple	X			

The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

President Lugardo-Hemple asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of March 7, 2017 in the amount of \$523,126.59.

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 two applications.

1. Block Off Street – Bridgeton Public Schools
2. Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Indians of NJ – Merchandise Raffle

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

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the following reports.

1. Tax Collectors Annual Statement of Receipts CY16
2. CDBG Budget Report

Councilman Zapolski questioned the CDBG report during the work session, and asked for changes to be made.

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards that said reports be received and filed which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Mayor Kelly for comments.

Mayor Kelly reminded everyone of his prior comments regarding a new business and the Atlantic City Electric tree giveaway.

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.

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski 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: _____