

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2016**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 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 Acting President Jack Surrency.

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 December 14, 2016, at 4:30 pm
2. By mailing such notice to The Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and The Press of Atlantic City on December 14, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Councilman Spence

The following answered to roll call:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple

Councilman Spence

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Edwards – Absent

Public works Supervisor Dean Dellaquila presented retirees Linwood Swing Jr. and Barry Morgan with resolutions honoring them on their retirement.

Acting President Surrency presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2016.

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

Acting President Surrency announced there were no Ordinance for first reading.

Acting President Surrency announced there were no Ordinances for 2nd Reading.

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

It was moved by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. 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.

Acting President Surrency opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard.

Mr. Mike Abbott thanked Mr. Zapolski for his questions during the work sessions. He then spoke of council meetings, stating he feels council makes decisions in work sessions leaving taxpayers or citizens not able to address a problem with a resolution to the council. He spoke of negative comments posted on social media recently regarding the fireworks, and how the city could inform the public of events. Lastly, Mr. Abbott stated he felt having food trucks in the downtown area was not a good idea, and would cause the local businesses to suffer, he urged council to put the food trucks in the city park.

Mrs. Dolores Batten stated the fireworks were beautiful; she wished council and Mayor Kelley a Merry Christmas and stated she hopes in 2017 the city can be great and safe.

Mr. Tom Martin questioned transactions in the Port Authority Budget. He discussed the River Grove Housing project, pilot agreements, and the city tax rate. He spoke of the recent tax sale and the amount of bidder in attendance. Lastly Mr. Martin talked about tax abatement programs in the city, he questioned the risks to the city and why projects were not being finished by the developers. Mr. Martin also questioned the Mayor not signing documents for specific projects.

Rev. David Rivera thanked everyone for their support of the fireworks last week, he announced almost 3,000 people came to the city for all of the recent activities. He spoke of the positive attitude toward the fireworks, and discussed ways to communicate and inform the public of upcoming events within the city.

Steven Paul of Bridgeton Main Street Program stated the church activities as well as the house tour and parade brought many people to the downtown of the city. He spoke of MSNJ programs possibly not being funded in the upcoming year, and asked councilmembers to reach out to the legislative district. Lastly he spoke of working on grants, moving forward with the "Paint the Town" grant and helping with the facades of some of the downtown businesses.

Jessica Melendez addressed council regarding problems with dairy trucks running on Dubois Avenue; there are signs stating "no trucks" however the signs are not legible. She showed council pictures of the damage done to properties by the trucks. Mr. Zapolski noted he was on the board when the application was approved for the company, and a condition set forth was the prohibition of truck traffic in the area. He stated the city needs to enforce it and referred to the Business Administrator for her help.

Mr. Albert Kelly (Mayor) said he would like to clear up something Mr. Martin brought up earlier regarding the Mayor being conflicted over a project. The Mayor stated he has never been in discussions regarding the project. He does not get involved, he is not a political boss and has never lobbied council on any matter.

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

Acting President Surrency closed the public portion of the meeting.

Acting President Surrency announced all matters listed under the consent agenda J-1 through J-16, with J-15 and J-16 added during the work session, and 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. 304-16 recognizing Barry Morgan service

RESOLUTION NO. 305-16 recognizing Linwood E. Swing Jr service

RESOLUTION NO. 307-16 authorizing award of bid for furnishing fire hydrants

RESOLUTION NO. 308 -16 authorizing the payment of bills by the Chief Financial Officer

RESOLUTION NO. 309-16 authorizing amendment of Emergency Appropriations for cost associated with Municipal Court/Police Complex

RESOLUTION NO. 310-16 authorizing transfer of radio to Greenwich Township

RESOLUTION NO. 311-16 authorizing award of Animal Shelter Services to Cumberland County SPCA & South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter

RESOLUTION NO. 312-16 authorizing addendum to the agreement with NIA Associates for Police Services. (Amity Heights Complex)

RESOLUTION NO. 313-16 authorizing release of Maintenance Bond/Engineering Inspection Escrow with respect to BV Real Estate, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 314-16 authorizing release of Escrow with respect to Bridgeton Investment Group

RESOLUTION NO. 315-16 authorizing Utility Account adjustment and taxes

RESOLUTION NO. 316-16 authorizing Tax Office refund tax overpayment

RESOLUTION NO. 317-16 adopting changes to the City Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual

RESOLUTION NO. 318-16 regarding River Grove Housing Project

RESOLUTION NO. 319-16 approving participation in Safe and Secure Communities Program

RESOLUTION NO. 320-16 appointing James Cowles to the Bridgeton Housing Authority

It was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple to approve the consent agenda with all of the changes be adopted. Mr. Zapolski noted resolution J-12 was modified to exclude the agreement of sale and memorandum of agreement, it will only allow site access. Mr. Zapolski then second the motioned. With that said Resolutions be adopted which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

Acting President Surrency asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of December 20, 2016 in the amount of \$1,423,027.95.

It was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple and second by Mr. 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.

Acting President Surrency announced four applications.

50/50 Raffle Application – Church of the Resurrection on 3/19/2017

Yearly Towing Renewal – Quick Towing & Repair LLC

Yearly Towing Renewal – Ed’s Body Shop LLC

Taxicab Owner Renewal License - Go US Cab & Transport

It was moved by Mr. Zapolski and second by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple to approve said applications which motion was carried and licenses granted.

Acting President Surrency presented the following reports:

- Central Cashier Receipts (November)
- Treasurer (November)
- Municipal Clerk (November)
- Zoning Officer (September/October/November)
- Recreation Seasonal Activities

It was moved by Mr. Spence and second by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple that said reports be received and filed which motion was carried.

Acting President Surrency called upon Mayor Kelly for comments.

Mayor Kelly spoke of Code Blue at the Bethany Grace Church. He thanked Father Rivera for the fireworks presentation. Lastly he reminded council of the UEZ and the forms for South Jersey getting their fair share.

Acting President Surrency called upon Council for comments.

Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple said this was the last council meeting of 2016 and everyone’s concerns were very important to council. She wished everyone a very healthy and prosperous New Year and a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Spence said he heard of the fireworks comments also. He suggest getting the word out to the public via social media. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Zapolski said council is following the “letter of the law” for public input, and with the newspaper being gone it has become hard to get information out to the public. He thought the fireworks were a great idea, and a positive event. He addressed Mr. Martin stating he scrutinizes every penny to help the tax rate in the city. Lastly Mr. Zapolski wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas.

Acting President Surrency thanked everyone for coming to the meeting; he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Acting President Edwards adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Jack Surrency
Acting Council President

Date: _____