

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2023**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 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 Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia;

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 to the South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal on January 7, 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 were led by Councilman David Gonzalez.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk then called the roll of the Bridgeton City Council:

The following answered to roll call:

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

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Michele Gibson
CFO Trisha McGahhey

Administrator Kevin Rabago
Deputy Municipal Clerk Miriam Garcia

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2023. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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

Councilwoman King –None at this time.

Councilman Gonzalez – None at this time.

Councilman Edwards – None at this time

Council President Bethea – reported that Erica Mosley Williams is the President of the Bridgeton Public School and that Markita Taylor is the Vice President.

Council President Bethea- stated that there looking into doing a joint meeting on Tuesday March 28, 2023 and also in October.

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

Mayor Kelly – commented on resolution M-14 on the agenda opposing the temporary use of Grove Street as a two-way street. Mayor Kelly stated he asked the freeholder director to follow up with a letter with his commitment in fixing the culvert so that he may share with Council members and the public.

Mayor Kelly-stated that he had a very good meeting with the President of Cumberland County College about the expansion in the City of Bridgeton and that they will share more information as it progresses.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – None at this time.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**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 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 February 7, 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 two (2) Ordinances for Second Reading. He asked the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

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

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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			

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.

Alan Trzuskoski of 7 N. Industrial Blvd-gave a quick update and stated that they are working on finalizing everything for the conversion application which involves documenting the contract and everyone involve in the business. Alan also stated on the incubator side of things that the planning board will be ratifying plans for property located at 7 North Industrial Blvd. and once it gets approved next month there will be a purchase of sale.

Eddie Bartee-stated he was driving the other night leaving Wawa and was headed on east avenue and realized that he was being followed. He continued that once he made a left turn into Martin Luther King Jr. Way on the end of the road before getting to Florida Ave, he was pulled over by an officer for not signaling one hundred feet before getting to the stop sign. He added that there is no sign that states where the hundred feet marker is and you can only make a left hand turn on that road. Mr. Bartee stated the city should do something because there is no other road going that way that is accessible to the public and therefore should be a sign that says left hand turn only.

Andrea Gillis of 270 Cohansey-commented that the material being used to fix the pot holes should be looked into because all streets are still cracking up.

Andres Gillis- provided some safety concerns such as the need for a red light at North Laurel Street and Pearl Street. She stated that there are streets that are dangerous and it needs to be looked at.

Esaul Martin- stated that they hired a new Executive Director for Bridgeton Housing Authority Ivy Melendez from Vineland New Jersey.

Chavela Green Alston 335 Colfax Street-stated that there is a young man in the community by the name of Devon Parker who picks up litter seven days a week in the rain and cold and wanted to know what the City can do for him to show that we appreciate him for what he is doing in the area.

Chavela Green Alston- Discussed safety concerns for children crossing the road to get to the Wawa. She suggested the speed be lowered in that area or signs put up regarding pedestrians crossing.

Mayor Kelly-stated that there is a resident on 72 South Pine Street who has some concern that they are addressing with the Code Enforcement Department and that she came today to speak about her dilemma.

Laquanda Bradshaw 72 Pine Street-stated she has been renting her home for four years and she has not been able to get any maintenance in her property. She stated that on December 24, 2022 her pipes busted on her walls and the landlord did not come out to help. Ms. Bradshaw stated that her home has been rendered as uninhabitable.

Administrator Kevin Rabago-commented that property 72 Pine Street has six pending summonses for a multitude of violations that where cited and not corrected.

Council President Bethea-commented that there are couple of remedies to assist her until the situation is resolved. Council President Bethea stated that he is glad that the City is going to hold this particular landlord accountable. Council President Bethea also stated that they take this very serious with regard to safeguarding our citizens.

William Robinson-stated that he moved to Cumberland County a year ago and that he started a non-profit organization called "A Better Cumberland County" and the goal is to employ one to eighty kids in Cumberland County yearly round. Mr. Robinson continued that they partnered with local businesses to develop trade training to youngsters from fourteen through eighteen years of age. He also stated that that there is a community service where they develop projects to serve their community and help them implement their projects.

Rafael Cruz 481 Harvest Lane-Commented to possibly put a City Ordinance to require a license to become a landlord in Bridgeton.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio 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-14 of the Consent Agenda be voted on separately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 17-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to ALS Global, ALS Environmental for Landfill Monitoring Wells Ground Water Testing Service for one (1) year (January 1 – December 31, 2023) with renewal options for two (2) additional years (January 1 – December 31, 2024 and January 1 – December 31, 2025).

RESOLUTION NO. 18-23, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a contract to Municipal Maintenance Co. for Emergency Generators and Automatic Transfer Switches for Well #2 and Pump Stations #3, #4 and #8, in the amount not to exceed \$583,809.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton approving the consolidation of certain City of Bridgeton bank accounts.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton approving use of a portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for the purchase of an (one) ambulance for the Fire/EMS Department consistent with uses outlined in 31 CFR Part 35.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton amending Resolution No. 09-23 providing for a Temporary Budget for the City of Bridgeton for the Year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing tax office refund (215 W. Lincoln Street).

RESOLUTION NO. 23-23, authorizing execution of Radium Removal System Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Water Remediation Technology, LLC for second extension.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton amending Resolution 09-22 expressing support for Elevate 9, LLC to obtain an Annual Cultivation License in place of a Microbusiness License.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and approving Contract between the City of Bridgeton and EMTS/Paramedics Int'l Assn/NAGE/SEIU Local No. R2-352.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the City of Bridgeton to execute Agreements of Sale with the State of New Jersey in order to allow the State of New Jersey to acquire certain city-owned lands needed for the completion of the Route 49 & Buckshutem Road Interchange Redesign Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-23, authorizing the Release of Escrow with respect to David Miller.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-23, authorizing the Release of Escrow with respect to Wanda Coursey.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton accepting the bids on certain property owned by the City of Bridgeton.

RESOLUTION NO. 30-23, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton opposing County of Cumberland's temporary intersection modification at Shoemaker Lane (County Route 706) and Grove Street (County Route 609 Spur) to allow for two-way traffic on Grove Street.

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

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that Resolutions M-1 through M-13 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			

Council President Bethea called upon the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read Resolutions M-14 in its entirety.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-14** being **RESOLUTION NO. 30-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton opposing County of Cumberland's temporary intersection modification at Shoemaker Lane (County Route 706) and Grove Street (County Route 609 Spur) to allow for two-way traffic on Grove Street.

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman Dequinzio that resolution M-14 be adopted which motion carried 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			

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated January 17, 2023 in the amount of \$2,284,813.44. It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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 no applications for approval.

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there was one (2) report for approval.

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts Totals – December 2022
2. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – December 2022

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 – Spoke about Devon Parker and stated that Devon is one of four individuals that goes out daily in our City to pick up trash and that Mayor Kelly decided to asked all four individuals to come in February so they can be recognized for what they do.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – Stated that today’s meeting has been an eye opener with what Ms. Bradshaw is going through.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio- addressed Mr. Cruz and stated that the licensing of landlords was proposed about two years ago and it was shot down by a landlord.

Councilwoman King – stated that there are lot of properties that are not up to par and that many families are living in a condition that should not be. She continued when it comes to private owners their hands are tied.

Councilwoman King-stated as a City we can look into doing a Pilot Program where they can look into these things and have residents come and feel free to express whatever it is that they are going through.

Councilman Gonzalez-commented that as a former landlord, he can’t see how some of these landlords don’t take care of their properties that are supposed to be an investment for them. He continued that they should also care for the community and want the best for it.

Councilman Gonzalez- stated he is looking forward to “A Better Cumberland County” working with our youth, along with other programs.

Councilman Gonzalez-stated they are looking forward in meeting the new Executive Housing Director.

Councilman Edwards –appreciated everyone that had something to say.

Councilman Edwards- stated that Mr. Ed Bartee is a stand-up guy and is saddened to hear that he is being profiled in the City of Bridgeton.

Council Edwards- Stated that interviews started for a new recreation director and that there are two candidates.

Council Edwards-addressed Andrea Gillis and stated that they will find the proper materials to fix the pot holes.

Councilman Edwards-stated that Devon Parker should be recognized for picking up trash.

Council Edwards-thanked Mr. Robinson for introducing himself and “A Better Cumberland County” and that he is looking forward to working with him.

Council President Bethea – stated that he wants our residents to respect the police and certainly police to respect our residents. He continued that it has to be a given and take.

Council President Bethea addressed Ms. Gillis about the pot holes and stated that we do have a lot of pot holes. He added that he wishes we can pave all the streets in town but we don't have the funds for it. He continued that we do our best with the money that we receive to fill those pot holes. He stated when you have situations where pot holes are really bad, you can notify Public Works, Mr. Rabago, Councilmembers and the Mayor and they will make them aware to try their best to get out there and fill the pot holes.

Council President Edward Bethea stated he is very excited about new leadership at the Housing Authority.

Council President Edward Bethea addressed Ms. Bradshaw and stated that he is devastated about her story.

Council President Edward Bethea stated that the City-Wide Clean-Up is twice a year and that he is very pleased to hear that Devon Parker walks around with his bucket to pick up trash and he should be acknowledged for his work and contribution for what he does for our City.

Council President Edwards expressed his concerns with on Route 49. He stated that he has seen other municipalities doing a crossing sign to slow people down when kids are around and perhaps is something to look into having a conversation with DOT about what can be done there.

Council President Edward addressed Mr. Robinson and stated he would like to have a conversation with him. He stated the City is trying to do some work force development in 2023.

Council President Bethea appreciated and thanked all 1st Responders. He also acknowledged Civil Servants for their outstanding job.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Miriam Garcia Deputy Municipal Clerk

APPROVED

Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 2-7-23