

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 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 Municipal Clerk, Nichole Almanza.

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 to the South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal on January 8, 2022 and on the City Website setting forth the date, time and place of this meeting of the Bridgeton City Council.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Mayor Kelly.

**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

Administrator Kevin Rabago  
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

**MINUTES:**

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2022. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King 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 stated that assignments will be provided prior to the next Council meeting.

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

**Mayor Kelly** – Thanked Dean and staff regarding a recent issue with water quality. He stated that Dean was supposed to be out on town on vacation, however, stayed in town to handle the problem. Director of Public Works, Dean Dellaquila explained that he is bringing the issue to the CCUA to make sure nothing like this happens again.

Mayor Kelly spoke about Broadband updates with the County. He continued that individual communities may need to do independent study.

Mayor Kelly announced a 3 day a week COVID Testing Center at the Marino Center.

Mayor Kelly stated that Code Blue is continuing at this time and the numbers are going up due to the cold weather. He explained that individuals need to be tested prior to entering to help control possible outbreak.

Mayor Kelly stated that the bonding has been completed in regards to the Fire Station and construction documents should be out to bid by June.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago** – Gave thanks to Fire Chief Bowen and Deputy Chief Hitchner regarding the Ardagh water issue. He stated that it was a great job on behalf of the residents.

**City Solicitor, Michele Gibson** – None at this time.

**Council President Bethea** – Council President Bethea asked Mr. Dellaquila to speak regarding trash issues.

Director of Public Works, Dean Dellaquila stated that there is an obvious issue with ACUA and the scheduling of trash pickup. He continued that the problem sits within all of Cumberland County and Atlantic County. Mr. Dellaquila stated that ACUA is having staffing issues and shortages due to COVID. He added that ACUA will be coming in February to address issues to Council. Mr. Dellaquila stated that residents should leave any extra trash out in bags. He continued that enforcement of tickets has been halted at this time. He stated that ACUA should be back on its regular schedule come Monday.

Council President Bethea stated that trash is a big issue for this Council. He spoke of the trash issues that the City had with various housing complexes and stated that he does not want the City to match what happened with them. He stated that his area was picked up on time today and he hopes they are back on schedule as indicated next week. Council President Bethea asked City Solicitor, Michele Gibson to review the contract for what the City can do.

**ORDINANCES ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:**

Council President Bethea announced there were four (4) Ordinances for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING THE HOPE VI REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE GOVERNING BODY RETAINS THE RIGHT TO SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 40A:12A-9 AND N.J.S.A 40A:12-13(C)**

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 February 1, 2022.

**The Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Edwards	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez				<b>X</b>
Councilwoman King	<b>X</b>			
Council President Bethea	<b>X</b>			

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING THE PHOENIX REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE GOVERNING BODY RETAINS THE RIGHT TO SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 40A:12A-9 AND N.J.S.A 40A:12-13(C )**

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 February 1, 2022.

**The Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Edwards	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez				<b>X</b>
Councilwoman King	<b>X</b>			
Council President Bethea			<b>X</b>	

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING THE SOUTHEAST GATEWAY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE GOVERNING BODY RETAINS THE RIGHT TO SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 40A:12A-9 AND N.J.S.A 40A:12-13( C )**

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 February 1, 2022.

**The Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Edwards	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez				<b>X</b>
Councilwoman King	<b>X</b>			
Council President Bethea			<b>X</b>	

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING THE PORT DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE GOVERNING BODY RETAINS THE RIGHT TO SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 40A:12A-9 AND N.J.S.A 40A:12-13( C )**

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 February 1, 2022.

**The Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Edwards	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez				<b>X</b>
Councilwoman King	<b>X</b>			
Council President Bethea	<b>X</b>			

**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 DeQuinzio the public portion be opened.

Linda McFadden of the Bridgeton Public Library stated that this is her last meeting and Tuesday will be her last day with the Library. Ms. McFadden stated that the new Director, Laurie Ortiz, starts on February 1, 2022. Ms. McFadden stated that the State Aid survey is out and she will make sure to complete same prior to her departure. She thanked all for the support over the years.

Alan Trzuskoski stated that he has closed on the sale agreement for private property. He stated that there are a couple candidates interested and would like to introduce candidates to Council.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Seabrook spoke of Rocap's Run and the bridge. He stated that New Jersey has money out to fix roads and bridges. Mr. Seabrook asked if there was any plans with the Old City Hall location. He also asked for any updates on the property were the County Jail was supposed to be built.

Mr. Seabrook spoke about some issues happening at the High Rise downtown such as gas leaks and people trespassing after hours.

Council President Bethea asked the Housing Authority President to speak to the audience. Mr. Esau Martin stated he was unaware of any new issues and stated that changes are being made. He added that a phone call will be made first thing in the morning.

Jose Luis of Gateway stated that they participated in a clean-up today in the area of Southeast Gateway. He thanked Dean Dellaquila for helping pick up the filled bags. He stated that residents need to be more responsible.

Esau Martin stated that they surveyed about 100 residents in the area of Grove Street regarding the bridge in need of repair. He stated that only 2 residents do not want it repaired. Mr. Martin discussed the various items found during their clean up and also brought flyers for the March Citywide Cleanup.

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-8 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 called upon the Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-22**, authorizing refund of electrical permit.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-22**, rejecting the submissions for the City of Bridgeton Animal Control and Shelter Service.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-22**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a contract to Ricky Slade Construction, Inc. for the Westwood Avenue, Preston Avenue Extension, Thompson Avenue, Thompson Court and Hopewell Road Reconstruction in the amount not to exceed \$395,840.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-22**, authorizing a contract Change Order No. 4 (Final) for Dandrea Construction Co., recommended by Settembrino Architects, for an adjustment to the contract to deduct \$47,274.09 for Plaster Ceiling Protection.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-22**, approving participation with the State of New Jersey in a Safe and Secure Communities Program administered by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-22**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter for Animal Control and Shelter Services not to exceed \$135,357.00 for one (1) year – January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton affirming that awarding of a Micro-Business Cultivation and Manufacturing License to Elevate 9, LLC would not exceed allowable limits.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-22**, authorizing the City to advertise for Printing Services 2022-2025

Council President Bethea asked Council for any comments. There were no comments from Council.

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

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman King that Resolutions M-1 through M-12 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:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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 18, 2022 in the amount of \$1,567,498.43. It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

**REPORTS:**

Council President Bethea announced there were two (2) reports for approval.

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts Totals – December 2021
2. Treasurer's Monthly Report – December 2021

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** – Addressed Mr. Seabrook’s comments about South Avenue. He stated that he is speaking with the Freeholders. He stated that the bridge is considered historic and that is the major issue that he was provided. Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated that as a member of the Historic Commission, no notification of anything historic has been provided to them by the State.

**Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:**

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio** – Thanked Mr. Seabrook for coming and speaking. She thanked Linda McFadden for her service over the years.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio spoke to Mr. Esau Martin and agreed with the issues heard of the High Rise and stated that she has heard complaints as well.

**Councilwoman King-** Stated that Linda McFadden will be missed.

Councilwoman King stated that she has heard numerous nuisances about the High Rise as well. She stated that she has faith in the leadership involved and hopes that help can be provided for the already vulnerable community.

Councilwoman King stated she agreed with Mr. Seabrook that the culvert needs to be repaired and soon. She stated that a lot of the surrounding towns have had bridges fixed in a timely manner and they most likely were considered historical as well.

Councilwoman King thanked Mayor Kelly for all his hard work with Code Blue and stated how important the program is.

**Councilman Edwards** – Stated that he also has heard complaints but the High Rise.

Councilman Edwards stated that he missed the last Council Meeting, however, wanted to congratulate Council President Bethea on being voted as Council President.

Councilman Edwards stated that he is glad to see that the trash is being picked up again.

Councilman Edwards asked Dean Dellaquila if a water meter goes bad, does the City replace it. Mr. Dellaquila answered yes.

Councilman Edwards stated that he attended a great MLK event at the Alms Center.

Councilman Edwards gave information regarding President Biden approving a systems for each house to receive 4 free COVID tests a month. He gave a website of [www.usps.com/covidtest](http://www.usps.com/covidtest) for any interested residents.

**Council President Bethea** – Thanked Mr. Seabrook, Mr. Martin, Mr. Luis and Mr. Trzuskoski for sharing their concerns and comments. He stated that he appreciates it and encourages other residents to do the same. He continued that residents need to come to the meetings and share their concerns and successes.

Council President Bethea stated that Ms. McFadden will be missed. He stated that the events that she held at the Library were always great. He wished her luck with all of her future endeavors.

Council President Bethea spoke of the recent water issue and shared his appreciation to the Mayor for handing out water to residents. He continued that residents need to know that Council will advocate for them. Dean Dellaquila stated that there was a faulty system located within Ardagh which seemed to be the issue. He explained that once the valve issue was discovered it was shut down. He also discussed other issues with Ardagh and the sewer system. Mr. Dellaquila stated that the water issue is fixed now and that bills will be adjusted accordingly. Fire Chief Todd Bowen stated that the valve issue was connected to the Fire Suppression system and he was glad that Administration called in the Fire Department for the safety of company and residents.

Council President Bethea shared concerns regarding fatal fires with industrial locations and plants. He asked if this type of thing could have been found earlier with inspections. Fire Chief Bowen and Deputy Chief Hitchner explained that there are yearly inspections and it is a separate vendor that provides the services.

Council President Bethea stated that the old City Hall building will be the new home for the Fire Department. He stated that as the Mayor discussed earlier that construction bids should be out in June. Council President Bethea stated he did not think the process would be so elongated and stated that he will rely on Administration and the Mayor to see if any of it can be accelerated.

Council President Bethea announced that at the February 1, 2022 meeting, ACUA will be attending to address the trash situation and their plans to this does not happen again.

Council President Bethea thanked the Mayor and Councilwoman King for meeting with Commissioners regarding the culvert. He stated that if this issue was in another location within the County, it would have been fixed by now.

Council President Bethea stated that there are a couple of vacancies on the Bridgeton Housing Board which Council appoints. He stated that Council is looking to fill them as soon as possible with people who want to help make changes. Council President Bethea stated that he has confidence in Mr. Martin's leadership.

Council President Bethea stated that the next Citywide Cleanup will be held on March 26, 2022.

Council President Bethea thanked and acknowledged all 1<sup>st</sup> Responders for doing an outstanding job for the citizens. He also thanked Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, Public Works and all Civil Servants for their work.

Council President Bethea stated that today has been a very difficult day for him and asked for prayers for family due to a personal loss today.



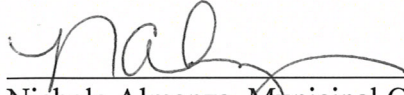
**ADJOURNMENT:**

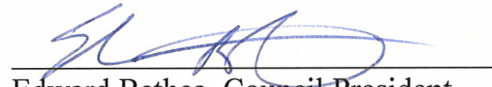
There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Edwards to adjourn the meeting which motion carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED**

  
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Nichole Almanza, Municipal Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 2/1/2022

