

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

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 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 Council President Bethea.

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 Councilman Gonzalez.

The following answered to roll call:

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

Absent: Councilwoman Marian King

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 October 4, 2022. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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.

Councilman Edwards – None at this time.

Councilman Gonzalez – Thanked Lee Fox of Public Works and the rest of the department. He announced that the City is out of the replacement recycling cans (blue) at the moment. He continued that there is an order for another 250 but will take a little time to get in.

**** Councilwoman King entered the meeting at 5:34 p.m. ****

Councilman Gonzalez stated there is various patch work being done within the City with hopes of getting most done before winter arrives.

Councilman Gonzalez provided a statistical report of the Water and Sewer Department.

Councilwoman King – Stated that she and Councilwoman DeQuinzio met with Ms. Marianne Lods of the Millville Development Corporation regarding economic development for the downtown area and various ideas for revitalization. She stated that it was a great meeting with Ms. Lods who was very frank and open about issues that they have seen.

Councilwoman King stated that the Housing Authority is looking to see movement to get upgrades at some of the apartment complexes. She continued that Section 8 vouchers have been distributed and hoping some more residents can receive the help.

Council President Bethea – None at this time.

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

Mayor Kelly – Discussed a meeting that was held at the Hall of Fame building regarding the old landfill and ideas on what should be considered for the site in the future.

Mayor Kelly stated that a State Historic Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday to discuss the plans for the old City Hall (Fire Department Project). He stated he will report back to Council with the findings.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – Stated that the tennis courts and futsal court work will begin at this time with pre-construction items and will finish in the spring due to the weather.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were three (3) Ordinances for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
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 November 14, 2022.

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			

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON FIXING
THE SALARIES AND RATES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES –
DEPARTMENT HEADS**

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 November 14, 2022.

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
CHAPTER 110-3 SECTIONS (B) AND (C) WITH RESPECT TO RETAIL CANNABIS
ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON**

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 November 14, 2022.

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 four (4) Ordinances for Second Reading. Council President Bethea asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 22-30

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 277-10 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO CONFORMANCE TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE TO INCLUDE CONFORMANCE TO P.L. 2021, c.182 GOVERNING INSPECTIONS FOR LEAD PAINT HAZARDS

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman King 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 NO. 22-31
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING
SECTION 149-20 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO FEES FOR LEAD PAINT
INSPECTIONS

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Gonzalez 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 Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman King 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 NO. 22-32
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF VACATED 10' X 40' UNUSED RIGHT-OF-
WAY SITUATED BETWEEN BLOCK 125, LOTS 1.01 AND 2 ON SOUTH LAUREL
STREET TO SMITH & RICHARDS LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

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

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman King 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 NO. 22-33

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF VACATED 10' X 62.23' UNUSED ALLEY
SITUATED BETWEEN LOTS 5 AND 28 OF BLOCK 154 TO IGLESIA DE DIOS
ISRAELITA OF BRIDGETON 2 INCORPORATED**

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

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Edwards 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 Councilman Edwards the public portion be opened.

Damian Cheeks of Cedardell Avenue updated Council on the status of his Cannabis License currently in review with the State of NJ. He explained he is currently working on his Community Impact Statement and Job Creation Plan. He asked Council to reach out to him with suggestions and if they know of any individuals interested in his work.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue discussed the need of more school signs for the children. He stated that he has brought this up multiple times in the beginning of the year. Mr. Seabrook stated that three signs were put up on Spruce but nothing on Sharp.

Mr. Seabrook stated that with Maurice Avenue being blocked off right now, there are cars that are coming down Baltimore and then going south.

Mr. Seabrook also shared his concerns with bus stops being so far away from the students' home.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey stated that the event he announced at the last Council Meeting has been moved to January and that he will provide Council with the information once available. Mr. Trzuskoski stated he recently met with a resident regarding a possible cannabis business and is hoping to do work together.

Markida Taylor of East Avenue shared her agreement regarding the issues with bus stops and signs. She stated that there is no crossing guard on East Avenue which has very high traffic and a lot of school kids trying to walk and cross the streets.

Ms. Taylor discussed 58 East Avenue and stated that it is in deplorable conditions and has been this way for almost 15 years. She continued that the home is an eyesore. Ms. Taylor also stated that the sidewalks on East Avenue and Cedar Street are in need of work done.

Ms. Taylor asked questions regarding the schedule of the street sweeper. She explained that in her neighborhood there is not many off street parking spots so she is forced to park blocks away to not get a ticket. She added that the street sweeper does not come every week.

Ms. Taylor expressed her concerns regarding the misplaced residents living downtown and suggested a program or transitional housing may be needed.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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-19 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-3 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. Council President Bethea stated that at this time M-11 will be removed from the Consent Agenda for further review.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 236-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton imposing liens on various properties for remediation of certain code violations impacting public safety, health or welfare September 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 237-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Debby and Bruce Riley.

RESOLUTION NO. 238-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Officer Josh Thompson.

RESOLUTION NO. 239-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Judy Martin and Judy Allison.

RESOLUTION NO. 240-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Campani's Legacy Lanes.

RESOLUTION NO. 241-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing James Crilley.

RESOLUTION NO. 242-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Russell's Automotive Repair Center and Russell's Truck Sales.

RESOLUTION NO. 243-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Quinn Broadcasting, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 244-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton cancelling \$52,053 funding amount in connection with the Municipal Lead Abatement Program administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 245-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton requesting permission for the Dedication by Rider for fees associated with lead-based paint inspections as required by P.L. 2021, C.182 for all rental properties.

RESOLUTION NO. 246-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton designating Redeveloper for Block 144 Lot 21, aka 203 & 207 South Ave and authorizing Redevelopment Agreement and Purchase Sale Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 247-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton appointing a full-time temporary Purchasing Agent for the City of Bridgeton pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-9.

RESOLUTION NO. 248-22, authorizing and approving Employment Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Deputy Fire Chief Michael Hitchner.

RESOLUTION NO. 249-22, authorizing and approving Employment Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Deputy Fire Chief Jack D. Justice, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 250-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton establishing 2022 Trick or Treat Hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 251-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the auction of certain property on the tax map of the City of Bridgeton.

RESOLUTION NO. 252-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing In Rem Tax Foreclosures.

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

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards that Resolutions M-1 through M-2, M-4 through M-10 and M-12 through M-19 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			

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-3** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Bridgeton Main Street Association (BMS). The motion was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

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		

Resolution M-3 on the Consent Agenda has failed.

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated October 18, 2022 in the amount of \$1,767,855.68 It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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.

APPLICATIONS:

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) application for approval being:

1. Bridgeton Main Street Association – Halloween/Day of the Dead Parade and Scarecrow Contest – October 31, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Pocket Park

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King that said application be approved and filed, which motion carried with unanimously.

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there were five (5) reports for approval.

1. Vitals Statistics Monthly Report – September 2022
2. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – September 2022
3. Treasurer's Monthly Report – September 2022
4. Clerk's Monthly Report – September 2022
5. Clerk's Quarterly Report for Resident ID – July – September 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 – Stated he is going to meet personally with Mr. Seabrook to view the concerns he has and report back to Council.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – None at this time.

Councilwoman King – Congratulated Mr. Cheeks and Alan Trzuskoski for their efforts in cannabis for the City.

Councilwoman King thanked all of her colleagues for working together and stated that there is a lot that goes into the job.

Councilman Gonzalez- Stated it is nice seeing residents taking care of their yards and homes.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked Carl Seabrook for his compassion and heart for the children of the city. He continued that the signs are needed and very important. He added that his voice is being heard.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago for being the in-between for Council and Department Heads.

Councilman Edwards – Thanked Kevin Rabago and Chief Bowen for answering some questions regarding the Fire Department Project.

Councilman Edwards suggested that a meeting be set for the Cannabis Committee to meet again to touch base and review the Ordinances that have been put into place.

Councilman Edwards congratulated the Bridgeton Midget Football League for beating Millville.

Councilman Edwards answered some question brought up by Ms. Markida Taylor in regards to homeless and housing. Mayor Kelly explained that he does have a Tiny Home Project going on with Kintock but at the time being it is for residents being released from same.

Councilman Edwards asked if there has been any updates as to the Angie's Diner project. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago stated that a clean-up of the property is scheduled for later this month and discussed an application for funding for studies with UEZ.

Council President Bethea – Thanked Council for their time and service.

Council President Bethea stated that he hopes he did not scare away the possible redeveloper of the Angie's site and that he hopes it does not drag on either.

Council President Bethea shared his appreciation to Mayor Kelly for stating he will physically go out with Mr. Seabrook to see the issues at hand regarding safety for the school children.

Council President Bethea stated maybe the City can work together with the Board of Education in connection of getting more crossing guards.

Council President Bethea asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago and Lee Fox to review the street sweeper schedule and various signs around the City. Council President Bethea stated that he understands it may be more of a resources issue.

Council President Bethea shared his hopes that the SHPO meeting this Thursday regarding the Fire Department Project is a successful one.

Council President Bethea congratulated Mr. Cheeks on his hard work and informed him that Council supports him.

Council President Bethea thanked and saluted all 1st Responders – Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT:

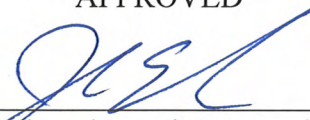
There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting which motion carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED


Nichole Almanza, RMC, Municipal Clerk


J. Curtis Edwards, Acting Council President

Date Approved: 11/14/2022