

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Monday, November 14, 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 Acting Council President Edwards.

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
Councilwoman Marian King

Absent: Council President Edward Bethea

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Michele Gibson

Administrator Kevin Rabago
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

PRESENTATIONS:

Michael Gaimari, Police Chief– Promotion for Lt. Wayne Miller

Police Chief Michael Gaimari provided a lengthy employment history for Lt. Miller and various accomplishments over the years with the City of Bridgeton. Chief Gaimari also stated that Lt. Miller enjoys volunteering with the community as well. Mayor Kelly completed the Oath of Office with Lt. Miller.

MINUTES:

Acting Council President Edwards presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2022. 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:

Acting Council President Edwards requested Council/Committee Liaison Reports:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – None at this time.

Councilwoman King – None at this time.

Councilman Gonzalez – Provided statistics of the Public Works Department over the past month. He indicated that over 40 tons of trash have been collected at the Florida Avenue facility, the street sweeper has collected 20 tons and 400 cubic yards of leaves have been collected.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked Lee Fox and his crew at Public Works for their hard work. He also explained that the replenishment of replacement cans should arrive this week and thanked the residents for being patient.

Councilman Gonzalez provided statistics of the Water and Sewer Department for the last month. He stated that over 91 million gallons of water have been pumped. He continued that there were 3 main break repairs and 2 service lines installed.

Councilman Gonzalez stated that the Planning Board recently approved the expansion for Shoreline Freezer. He continued that they also approved a cannabis retail site behind the Wawa which will have another retail site with it. Councilman Gonzalez stated that the Planning Board also approved applications regarding the Firehouse Project.

Acting Council President Edwards – None at this time.

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

Mayor Kelly – Stated that the County Library is still interested with working together with the Bridgeton Public Library. He continued that hopefully more discussions can follow.

Mayor Kelly thanked Council for removing their campaign signs now that the election has taken place.

Mayor Kelly stated he will be attending a Zoom meeting with the Cannabis Regulatory Commission regarding social equity. He explained that the various cannabis companies that are approved are required to share back funds with the community.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – Stated that the Cannabis Committee will meet this week regarding the status of various projects and reviewing the Code for any amendments needed.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

CFO, Trisha McGahhey – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

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

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
ESTABLISHING A FEE IN CONNECTION WITH PREPERATION AND ISSUANCE
OF A CERTIFICATE OF REDEMPTION**

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 December 6, 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
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY 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 December 6, 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 TO AMEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
BRIDGETON FOR SALARY OF MAYOR, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND CITY
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 December 6, 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:

Acting Council President Edwards announced there were three (3) Ordinances for Second Reading. Acting Council President Edwards asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 22-34

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 Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman King 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.

Acting Council President Edwards 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 King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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. 22-35
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 Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

Acting Council President Edwards 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 Gonzalez the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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. 22-36
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 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.

Acting Council President Edwards 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

PUBLIC PORTION:

Acting Council President Edwards opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio motioned and seconded by Councilwoman King the public portion be opened.

Damian Cheeks of Cedardell Avenue congratulated Mayor Kelly and Council on the recent election. Mr. Cheeks stated that he was not included in the last CRC Executive Meeting. He explained that they only review so many licensees at one meeting and he is hopeful to be on the next which is scheduled for December 8, 2022. Mr. Cheeks notified Councilman Edwards that he is prepared and ready to meet with him to discuss his proposed Community Plan. Mr. Cheeks also indicated that he is interested at a property located at 490 E. Broad Street for his business.

Esaul Martin of Eagle Street congratulated all officials on their election win. He thanked them for all that they have done so far and for that they plan to do in the future.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public portion be closed, which motion was carried. Acting Council President Edwards closed the public portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acting Council President Edwards announced all matters listed under the consent agenda; M-1 through M-17 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.

Acting Council President Edwards asked that M-9 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further review.

Acting Council President Edwards called upon the Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda (M-1 to M-8 and M-10 to M-17).

RESOLUTION NO. 253-22, authorizing the City to advertise for Emergency Generators and Automatic Transfer Switches for Well #2 and Pump Stations #3, #4 and #8.

RESOLUTION NO. 254-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Montrose Environmental Solutions, Inc. for Water System Engineering from January 1 – December 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 255-22, authorizing Contract with certain approved State Contract Vendors for contracting units pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, County Co-Op Vendors approved by the County of Cumberland for use by municipalities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29, and National Co-Op Vendors approved by the State for use by municipalities pursuant to P.L. 2011, c.139.

RESOLUTION NO. 256-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open (NFAO) Contract to Emergency Training and Consulting/Dr. Ken Lavelle, MD, FACEP, NR-P, BC-EMS for the Professional Service of Medical Director the CY 2023, not to exceed \$9,600.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 257-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Bianco Security Systems, Inc. for Fire and Burglar Alarm, Security and Surveillance from January 1 – December 31, 2023, not to exceed \$31,460.00 (\$7,865.00 Quarterly).

RESOLUTION NO. 258-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Dominion Title Search for Title Search Services In Rem Tax Foreclosures from January 1 – December 31, 2023, not to exceed \$17,500.00

RESOLUTION NO. 259-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Surety Title Company for Title Search Services In Rem Tax Foreclosures from January 1 – December 31, 2023, not to exceed \$17,500.00

RESOLUTION NO. 260-22, authorizing execution of Discharge or Release of Mortgage for 62-64 N. Laurel Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 80, Lot 18.03 on the City of Bridgeton Tax Map.

RESOLUTION NO. 261-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and approving Contract between the City of Bridgeton and New Jersey Civil Service Association, Cumberland County Council #18, (“Association”).

RESOLUTION NO. 262-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Premier Technology Solutions, LLC for Computer Engineering Super Services/Hosting December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 263-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton Tax Overpayment – 6 Ewing Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 264-22, authorizing the Discharge of the Deed Reverter Clause for 32-34 South Laurel Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 116, Lot 25 on the City of Bridgeton’s Tax Map.

RESOLUTION NO. 265-22, authorizing execution of Discharge of Release of Mortgage for 32-34 South Laurel Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 116, Lot 25 on the City of Bridgeton’s Tax Map.

RESOLUTION NO. 266-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Memorandum of Understanding for installation of sidewalks and/or curbing by Gateway Community Action Partnership at Block 131 Lot 16 also known as the Pauline Boykin Tot Lot.

RESOLUTION NO. 267-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Memorandum of Understanding for installation of fencing, resurfacing basketball court and parking lot and installation of playground equipment at 155 Spruce Street also known as the DeHurse Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 268-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Memorandum of Understanding for installation of trees, mulch, rain gardens, trench drains and rock channels for Block 134 Lots 1, 2, 2.01, and 3 also known as the intersection of South Ave. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Acting Council President Edwards 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-8 and M-10 through M-17 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

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Acting Council President Edwards asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated November 14, 2022 in the amount of \$3,735,093.31 It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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:

Acting Council President Edwards announced there were three (3) applications for approval being:

1. **Bingo** – Parish of the Holy Cross –Various Dates from January to June, 2023 – Noon to 12:00 a.m. – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ 08302
2. **Block Off Street** – Parish of the Holy Cross – Rev. Matthew R. Weber – December 11, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Religious Procession – N. Laurel Street, Washington Street, Mayor Aitken Drive, W. Commerce Street, N. West Avenue, and Central Avenue.
3. **Raffle** – Fraternal Order of Eagles – Instant Daily Raffle – July 8, 2022 – July 8, 2023 – Monday to Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Sunday – 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

REPORTS:

Acting Council President Edwards announced there were four (4) reports for approval.

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – October 2022
2. Clerk's Monthly Report – October 2022
3. Vital Statistics Report – October 2022
4. Treasurer's Report – October 2022

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King that said applications be approved and filed, which motion carried unanimously.

Acting Council President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:

Mayor Kelly – Stated that Mr. Teodoro Martinez who was also running for Mayor pulled him aside to congratulate him on the win of the election. He explained that they also discussed the things that Mr. Martinez shared on social media that were inaccurate and incorrect such as Councilmembers not living within the City.

Acting Council President Edwards called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – Thanked all of the residents for their continued support. She also congratulated Lt. Miller on his promotion.

Councilwoman King – Thanked everyone for supporting Council and Mayor for reelection. She stated she would like to sit down with Mr. Martinez to address some of the concerns that he has. She explained that there are a lot of times on social media that people ask why certain things are not being fixed or looked into. She continued that a lot of the times the problem is that it is not a City issue and it is handled by the County or even the School Board. She added that City Council does not have authority to change these things.

Councilwoman King discussed the Ordinance for 1st Reading regarding the increase of salary for Mayor, Council and Council President. She explained that being in this position is having another job. She added that there is a lot of research in the background done by Council regarding the things placed on the agenda.

Councilman Gonzalez- Thanked everyone for their continued support.

Councilman Gonzalez discussed attending conferences held in Atlantic City to help educate Council on how to serve the City better.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked residents for attending meetings and stated that it shows that you care about the City.

Acting Council President Edwards – Stated he was glad to hear that the County Library is still interested in a merger/work-together with the Bridgeton Public Library.

Acting Council President Edwards stated that he wished Mr. Martinez would have stayed for the rest of the meeting so some discussions could have been had. He discussed voter statistics for the City. Acting Council President Edwards stated that there are election signs that still need to be picked up now that the election is over.

Acting Council President Edwards spoke of the average cost on road work and indicated that it is about \$1 Million per mile. He continued that this is why a lot of the work done is patchwork due to the lack of funds available.

Acting Council President Edwards stated he is excited to have another Cannabis Committee meeting and will bring back any updates.

Acting Council President Edwards thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He also thanked all 1st Responders and Public Works.

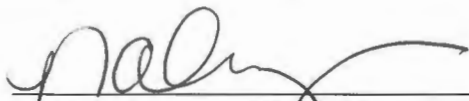
Acting Council President Edwards announced that Bridgeton Main Street will be holding a Winterfest at the Riverfront on November 27, 2022 and invited residents interested in becoming a vendor for the event to reach out to the organization for more information.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Acting Council President Edwards adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nichole Almanza, RMO, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED



J. Curtis Edwards, Acting Council President

Date Approved: 12/6/22