

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 19, 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  
Councilwoman Marian King  
Council President Edward Bethea

**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 April 5, 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.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

*Ashley Campbell – Miss Cumberland County*

Ms. Ashley Campbell stated that she is the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Miss Cumberland County. She explained that she is a mental health advocate and attends Rowan University. She stated that she will run for Miss New Jersey in June. Ms. Campbell discussed her reasons of advocating mental health awareness. She stated that she created the One Step Forward Annotative for people unable to get help on their own. Ms. Campbell stated she is very thankful to be able to speak with Council tonight. She stated that she is working with local programs such as Casa Prac.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated it was nice to meet her in person and wishes her luck.

Councilwoman King stated that she is a very dynamic young lady and it is great to see her showcased.

Councilman Gonzalez congratulated her and wish her much success.

Councilman Edwards wished her the best and stated she is making us all proud.

Council President Bethea shared his love for her family. He stated that mental health awareness is very important. He continued that African Americans historically frown upon discussing. He stated that the pandemic impacted mental health greatly.

Mayor Kelly stated he agreed with all of Council. He stated he would be very interested in attending the Miss New Jersey pageant in June.

## **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** – None at this time.

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

**Mayor Kelly** – None at this time.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago** – None at this time.

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

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

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. Council President Bethea asked that this Ordinance be pulled from this meeting and be reintroduced at the May 3, 2022.

**ORDINANCES ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING:**

Council President Bethea announced there were five (5) Ordinances for Second Reading. He asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 22-08**

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTION 149-25 (PARK AND RECREATION FEES) AND SECTION 247-15 (FEE WAIVER) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON**

It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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 King 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:**

<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 22-09**  
**ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$30,000 FROM THE WATER UTILITY  
 REVITALIZATION FUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF WATER LEAD SERVICE  
 LINES IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF  
 CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY**

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 Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Gonzalez 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:**

<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 22-10**  
**ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$465,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN  
 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF GENERATORS AT VARIOUS  
 WATER/SEWER STATIONS IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE  
 COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY**

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards 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 King 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:**

<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			

**ORDINANCE 22-11**

**ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$950,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FOR SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT FOR SOUTH AVENUE IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY**

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

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards 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:**

<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			

**ORDINANCE 22-12**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY ORDINANCE #21-25 OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, FINALLY ADOPTED DECEMBER 7, 2021, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BEING APPROPRIATED AND TO INCLUDE WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO MARION STREET**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Edwards 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 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:**

<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 Gonzalez motioned and seconded by Councilman Edwards the public portion be opened.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey provided reported progress of his incubator license. He stated that he is still awaiting word from the State. He congratulated Miss Cumberland County.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue discussed dead trees in his neighborhood that need to be taken down before any bad weather starts. He discussed sidewalks that need to be finished on Baltimore Avenue for safety. He stated that he is always trying to help the youth. He continued that the kids also need a safe place to play. Mr. Seabrook announced he celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Police Chief Gaimari discussed Federal Laws regarding marijuana use for officers. He explained that Federal Law states no one is to be under the influence while working. He added that the State says that they can use while not working. He explained that there are still a lot of discussions and rules being considered. He continued that he is meeting with the Attorney General tomorrow. Council President Bethea asked what other states that have legalized marijuana are doing for their police officers. Chief Gaimari stated that some left it to up to the municipality to decide. Council President Bethea asked if there were any cases involving Police Department or 1<sup>st</sup> Responders being impaired. City Solicitor, Michele Gibson stated that this is really a new issue due to just passing in the State. She stated that she could look into how other states are handling the situation.

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-9 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. 72-22**, authorizing the Introduction of the Calendar Year 2022 Municipal Budget for the City of Bridgeton.

**RESOLUTION NO. 73-22**, Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".

**RESOLUTION NO. 74-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the City of Bridgeton to enter into Interlocal Services Agreement with County of Cumberland Office of Aging for Senior Nutrition Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 75-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton cancel Municipal Lien for Block 143, Lot 20.01 and Block 55, Lot 35.

**RESOLUTION NO. 76-22**, authorizing acceptance of deeds conveying title to Block 55, Lot 35 (264-266 Cohansey St.) and Block 143, Lot 20.01 (143 S. Pine St.) from Eugene C. Rarey and Darlene Rarey a/k/a Darlene D. Rarey to the City of Bridgeton.

**RESOLUTION NO. 77-22**, authorizing execution of Discharge or Release of Mortgage for 450 South Avenue, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 166, Lot 13 on the City of Bridgeton's Tax Map.

**RESOLUTION NO. 78-22**, authorizing execution of Discharge or Release of Mortgage for 207 Haynes Avenue, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 183, Lot 3 on the City of Bridgeton's Tax Map.

**RESOLUTION NO. 79-22**, authorizing execution of Discharge or Release of Mortgage for 216 South Avenue, Bridgeton, New Jersey, formerly designated as Block 148, Lots 38 and 39 (Currently designated as Block 148, Lot 38) on the city of Bridgeton's Tax Map.

**RESOLUTION NO. 80-22**, authorizing execution of Discharge or Release of Mortgage for 59 Cedar Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, designated as Block 93, Lot 24 on the City of Bridgeton's Tax Map.

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-9 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	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Edwards	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez	<b>X</b>			
Councilwoman King	<b>X</b>			
Council President Bethea	<b>X</b>			

**SCHEDULE OF BILLS:**

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated April 19, 2022 in the amount of \$332,660.34. 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:**

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

1. Block Off Street Application – John Fuqua – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Big Jim” Edwards Auto and Motorcycle Show – May 14, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Commerce Street from Mayor Aitken Drive to Laurel Street.

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

2. Bingo Application– Parish of the Holy Cross – Yearly Bingo dates from July, 2022 – December 2022.
3. Block Off Street Application – Pastor Leonida Feliciano (Iglesia Pentecostal Paz Y Gozo) – Religious Services. **Dates:** May 14, 2022, June 11, 2022, July 16, 2022 and August 27, 2022 **Rain Dates:** May 28, 2022, June 18, 2022, July 23, 2022 and September 3, 2022. **Hours:** 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Location:** Walnut Street between Myrtle Street and East Myrtle Street.

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



## **REPORTS:**

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

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – March 2022
2. Vital Statistic's Monthly Report – March 2022
3. Clerk's Monthly Report – March 2022
4. Clerk's Monthly Resident ID Reports – March 2022
5. Treasurer's Monthly Report – March 2022

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

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

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio-** Wished Mr. Seabrook a happy birthday and stated he looks great for 88.

**Councilwoman King-** Wished Mr. Seabrook a happy birthday.

**Councilman Gonzalez –** Wished Mr. Seabrook a long, healthy and joyful life. He continued that he is an inspiration for the youth of the community.

**Councilman Edwards –** Wished Mr. Seabrook a happy birthday.

Councilman Edwards explained that CompleteCare is in the same situation as the Police Officers regarding the legalization of marijuana. He continued that use of it can risk them losing Federal funding.

**Council President Bethea –** Wished Mr. Seabrook a happy birthday.

Council President Bethea expressed his concern regarding panhandlers. He continued that they are becoming more and more aggressive. He explained that he witnessed it happening the ATM (TD Bank and Walgreens area) and would like to come up with something before something bad happens.

Council President Bethea wished every a belated Easter. He stated that spring is finally here but it is a little hard to tell.

Council President Bethea thanked all 1<sup>st</sup> responders, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Civil Servants for their outstanding job.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council President Bethea announced that Council will convene into Executive Session after which the Council Meeting will resume in public to continue the regular portion of the meeting.

Council President Bethea read **RESOLUTION NO. 81-22**; the City Council has determined that it is necessary to go into an Executive Session to discuss certain matters relating to the items below as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

**1. Dukes v. Marcano et al.- Litigation, Attorney/Client Privilege**

Upon a motion by Councilwoman King and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. Council left the dais to convene into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**


With a motion by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 6:57 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

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 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nichole Almanza, Municipal Clerk

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

Date Approved: 5/3/2022