

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 5, 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	Administrator Kevin Rabago
Solicitor Michele Gibson	Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 15, 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 – Stated that she attended a Finance Preliminary Meeting.

Councilman Edwards – None at this time. He stated that the Governance and Finance Committee met and there is some work needing to be done.

Councilman Gonzalez – Stated that he attended the Citywide Clean-Up. He continued that it was a great event. He thanked the Public Works Department for their help.

Councilwoman King – Stated that she attended the Housing Authority Preliminary Meeting. She discussed they hope to revitalize area complexes if they can.

Council President Bethea – Stated that winners of the Clean-Up Poster contest have been selected. He continued that they will be invited to attend the May 3, 2022 meeting for recognition.

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

Mayor Kelly – Provided Code Blue Summary Report to Council. He stated that Code Blue was in effect for 65 nights and housed an estimated 42 individuals. He added that the statistics show that a shelter on this side of the county is needed. He stated that he is speaking with the county regarding funding for same or converting a facility.

Mayor Kelly discussed meeting with Police Chief Gaimari to work on recruitment of local residents to become Police Officers. Chief Gaimari provided information regarding a new proposed bill that would require the City to pass a Resolution to accept an alternate route to circumvent Civil Service lists. He continued that this would allow the City to hire someone who went to the academy on their own.

Mayor Kelly provided a report received that lists costs from the SPCA. He stated that he is asking the county to take the lead of getting another shelter. Mayor Kelly stated that the report shows the totals that local municipalities have provided the SPCA.

Mayor Kelly stated that at the last Freeholder Meeting it was discussed that meals for seniors will take place at the Hall of Fame building using Meals on Wheels. He indicated that they are in need of staffing for it to begin.

Mayor Kelly stated that he met with County Commissioners regarding the culvert and the need of it being fixed. He indicated that he will be reaching out to Legislators as time is of the essence.

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 were five (5) Ordinances for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

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 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 April 19, 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 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 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 April 19, 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 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 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 April 19, 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 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 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 April 19, 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 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 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 April 19, 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 was one (1) Ordinance for Second Reading. He asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 22-07
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 284-4 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO FEES FOR RESIDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 Councilman Edwards 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.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey provided reported progress of his incubator license. He announced that he plans on holding a seminar and information program to provide interested parties information regarding licensing and legal aspects.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue stated that the Citywide Clean-Up was a beautiful event. Mr. Seabrook stated that Baltimore Avenue area is in need of 24 inch lines across the street to allow children to walk safely to and from school. He stated that he hopes that the City can make this happen by the next school year.

Esau Martin of Eagle Street stated that there are at least five houses in his neighborhood that need to be knocked down before they fall on their own and possible hurt someone. He continued that Angie's Diner is another location that needs to be taken care of. He stated that the City should look into funding for these items.

Josue Ruiz-Ramirez of Atlantic Street stated that trash is a big problem in the Southeast Gateway neighborhood. He stated that he is doing small scale clean-ups in the area. He suggested that signs be put up regarding fines. He also stated that businesses in that area need to take care of their proprieties as well as trash from their establishments are constantly found in that area.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman 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-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. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago asked that M-7 be removed at this time from the Consent Agenda for further review. Council agreed to remove M-7. Council President Bethea indicated that M-8 and M-9 will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

RESOLUTION NO. 64-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Veteran or Widow of Veteran Tax Exemption (334 S. Pine St.).

RESOLUTION NO. 65-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Fourth of July Fireworks Display in Bridgeton City Park for 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-22, 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 – March 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Shared Services Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and the County of Cumberland pertaining to repair and replacement of drainage pipe on Commerce Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton Tax Overpayment (482 Coral Avenue).

RESOLUTION NO. 69-22, amending Resolution 42-22 establishing a 2022 Temporary Water and Sewer Capital Budget for the City of Bridgeton.

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-6 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			

Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-8** being **RESOLUTION NO. 70-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton amending Resolution 230-21 adding parcels and designating Conditional Redeveloper, authorizing negotiations for Redevelopment Agreement and Purchase/Sale Agreement pertaining to certain parcels in Block 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182 and 183 within the Phoenix Redevelopment Area. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio.

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	

Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-9** being **RESOLUTION NO. 71-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and directing the Bridgeton Planning Board to prepare a parcel-specific Phoenix Redevelopment Plan Amendment for parcels in Block 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181 and 183. 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	

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated April 5, 2022 in the amount of \$1,252,256.85. It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez 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 three (3) reports for approval.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – February 2022
2. Clerk's Monthly Report – February 2022
3. Clerk's Monthly Resident ID Reports – January and February 2022

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 Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio- None at this time.

Councilwoman King- Stated that she hopes that the jail can stay in the City as too many jobs are leaving the city to go to outside districts.

Councilwoman King shared her agreement that Buckshutem area would be a great idea for a new school or even Cherry Street area.

Councilwoman King asked everyone to keep Ukraine and Russia families in their prayers. She added that it is sad to see the world in the state it is.

Councilman Gonzalez – Thanked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago for providing information regarding Zoo Camp. Mr. Rabago indicated that residents can find the information on our website.

Councilman Gonzalez stated that the Cinco de Mayo event will take place this year and welcomed everyone out.

Councilman Gonzalez asked Fire Chief Bowen if the Fire Department is still providing batteries for smoke detectors. Chief Bowen explained that instead of batteries they provide the whole detector and it is done year round.

Councilman Edwards – Stated that a follow up needs to take place for the culvert which needs to be taken care of sooner rather than later.

Councilman Edwards discussed work that needs to be done for the Midget Football Fields.

Councilman Edwards asked Police Chief Gaimari if he could bring information regarding the Rule of 3 to the next meeting to discuss.

Councilman Edwards discussed attending the Citywide Clean-up. He indicated that the area complexes are getting worse, specifically Burlington Manor. He stated that screens, windows, painting, and other basic items need to be taken care of and updated. He added that there should be a list of requirements for them.

Councilman Edwards discussed Angie's Diner and other locations that need to be taken over and get back up and running for the City.

Councilman Edwards stated that at one time downtown was named the "Culinary District". He stated that this no longer match what is there and hopes that the Main Street Association can take a look at this.

Councilman Edwards stated that a car and motorcycle show is in the works to be held on May 14, 2022.

Council President Bethea – Shared his gratitude for the numerous volunteers at the recent clean-up. He thanked them all for their continued support. Council President Bethea shared his frustrations that these areas become filled with trash within days of the clean-ups. He added that there has to be a solution and discussed possibly raising increasing fines.

Council President Bethea stated that there are two ladies in his neighborhood that pick up trash all over the City daily. He stated that he wants to invite them out to the next Council meeting to acknowledge them as Bridgeton Hometown Heroes. Council President Bethea stated he would like these to continue and assigned months to all of his colleagues to bring someone forth and acknowledge their dedication to the City.

Council President Bethea stated that there are a lot of eyesores within the City such as Angie's Diner and boarded buildings on Main Street. He stated that this is a reflection on each of us. He continued that we need to invest in our town or no one else will.

Council President Bethea saluted Mayor Kelly for his work and dedication with Code Blue.

Council President Bethea stated that the City has a long list of items for the County Commissioners to help with such as the jail, Code Blue, school and the culvert.

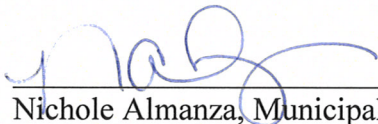
ADJOURNMENT:

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

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED



Nichole Almanza, Municipal Clerk



Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 4/19/2022

