

BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2022

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 3, 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 Deputy Clerk, Miriam Garcia;

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 David Gonzalez
Councilwoman Marian King
Council President Edward Bethea

ABSENT – Councilman J. Curtis Edwards

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Michele Gibson

Administrator Kevin Rabago
Deputy Clerk Miriam Garcia

PRESENTATIONS:

Bridgeton Hometown Heroes-

Council President called upon Mayor and Councilmembers to join him in presenting the awards to Tara Garton and Pamela Smith for their outstanding dedication commitment to volunteering their time and effort to the City of Bridgeton

Tara Garton stated we are called to take care of God's creation. She continued that they love Bridgeton.

Mayor Albert Kelly commented that they are a great example and thanked the work that they are doing.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio- appreciated their hard work.

Councilwoman King thanked Pamela Garton and Tara Garton for thinking about our City and keeping our City clean.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked mother and daughter for serving as an example to our youth and kids.

Council President Bethea commented that this will be done every month and this was his selection in addition that different Council will have a selection in the upcoming month.

Citywide clean-Up Poster Contest winners-

Council President Bethea called Christal Griner to come forward and announce the names of the Poster contest winners from Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Council President commented that they started couple years ago to do our citywide semi –annual clean up and ask the schools to get involved with a poster and essay contest and tonight they are honoring the winners.

Art Supervisor stated she is pleased to partner with City in this important initiative and that she was proud of all the students. She continued that hopefully all the yard signs around the city will inspire others to keep Bridgeton clean.

Phil Silva, Broad Street Principal commented that there are many ways to display your talents and that is something that they value.

Budget Presentation-

Administrator Kevin Rabago stated that a budget is numbered and it represents some of the hopes, aspiration and also the accomplishment of the different departments.

Police Chief Gaimari- reported that they are at 55 hundred monthly calls a 20% increase from last year. Overall crime increase 16 % from 2020 through 2021 and sexual assault increase 9%. He also stated that one of the biggest decreases was burglary at 48%.

Police Chief Gaimari stated that the upcoming year budget highlights all the average for the past five year of the budget. He continued that the budget also contains enough wages for 49 officers and 2 class II Officers

Fire Chief Bowen-reported that they respond to over 1,000 calls a year, he also stated that they part with the water department to do hydrant maintenance and that they have service under 800 hydrants last year.

Fire Chief Bowen-stated that fire prevention bureau last year services covered two hundred plus square mile for shared services area. He continued that EMS division in 2021 received 5,293 calls including 70 plus square miles of shared services area.

Administrator Kevin Rabago-reported on the Economic development side one thing will help us go forward is growing are ratable base in the emerging cannabis industry.

Administrator Kevin Rabago-commented on one new project of the formal Ethanol site putting it back into productive use.

Administrator Kevin Rabago- reported on the housing side and that they are looking at 387 units of housing being created over two specific development projects. He continued that one other major project is the relaunch of the UEZ.

Administrator Kevin Rabago stated that the Rutgers food innovation center is moving along and that it is growing to expand.

Comptroller Mary Jane Lake-stated that the budget project process starts in the fall where they meet with the departments.

Comptroller Mary Jane Lake- stated that are funding agreement for animal control services and it has increased sixteen thousand dollars for this year. She continued that the funding for the library has a set amount that they have to fund and that they are funding sixty seven thousand dollars to maintain the library, employees and their health insurance coverage.

Comptroller Mary Jane Lake-stated that there is no tax increase this year the rate will stay the same local tax rate is 2.846. She continued that are assessment is up by six million dollars.

Councilwoman Dequinzio stated it was a pleasure working with Mary Jane Lake.

Councilwoman King thanked Mary Jane Lake for her services.

Councilman Gonzalez-stated that Mary Jane Lake services has been appreciated during these challenging times.

Council President Bethea-thanked Mary Jane Lake for the worked she does and also thanked her for a phenomenal presentation of the budget. He continued to acknowledge her and the staff with the annual audit.

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2022. and Executive Meeting Minutes of April 19, 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 requested Council/Committee Liaison Reports:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio –stated that Councilman Edwards and her are meeting and working on the housing city code.

Councilman Gonzalez – None at this time.

Councilwoman King – stated that she has been working with the Housing Authority to make significant improvement there.

Councilwoman King – stated that the Historic Commission meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Court Complex

Council President Bethea – thanked the Public school for being at the Council meeting. He thanked Administrator Kevin Rabago for the Economic Development report.

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

Mayor Kelly stated that we are seeing more dirt bikes on major streets.

Mayor Kelly- commented on the merger of the sheriff department and the county correction department that’s been proposed and the county commissioners turned it down.

Mayor Kelly stated that they will have another meeting with animal sheltering

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 was two (2) Ordinance for First Reading. The Deputy Clerk read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 203, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 203-5 AND 203-20 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO LITTERING BY PERSONS AND VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

It was moved by Councilwoman Dequinzio 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 May 17, 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			
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**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING
CHAPTER 110 OF THE CITY CODE TO ALLOW FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS
INCUBATOR IN 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 May 17, 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			

PUBLIC PORTION:

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard. It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio the public portion be opened.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey reported the closing towards the end of the month one of the parcel land that's tied in with redevelopment.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue stated that he is looking forward to the wide line for the children to walk as they go home from school.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue questioned if they were going to knocked down the house on South ave. that's tumbling down.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue wished all the mother's a Happy Mother's day.

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

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. 82-22**; 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. **PRO Cap vs. City of Bridgeton** – *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 6:40 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 King seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council President Bethea announced all matters listed under the consent agenda; M-1 through M-18 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 Deputy Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

83-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Senior Citizen Tax Exemption (133 S. Burlington Road).

84-22 RESOLUTION, of the City of Bridgeton, Cumberland County, authorizing the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Shoreline Freezers Urban Renewal, LLC for Block 189, Lots 3.01, 3.02 and 3.05.

85-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Senior Citizen Tax Exemption (474 N. Burlington Road).

86-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Veteran or Widow of Veteran Tax Exemption (474 N. Burlington Road).

87-22 RESOLUTION, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to renew a Service Agreement to Bully Pest Management for Pest Control Services for various locations from June 18, 2022 – June 17, 2023, not to exceed \$6,060.00.

88-22 RESOLUTION, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Renewal Agreement to Woodruff Energy for Propane Gas and Heat for year two (2) pricing.

89-22 RESOLUTION, authorizing the City to advertise for city of Bridgeton Maintenance and Repair of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System (2022-2026).

90-22 RESOLUTION, authorizing the City to advertise for City of Bridgeton Water Treatment Chemicals – August 2022 – 2026.

91-22 RESOLUTION, authorizing the City to advertise for Water Meters and Handheld Data Collection Devices 2022-2026.

92-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton approving settlement of Hayes v. City of Bridgeton, et al.

93-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing certain utility account adjustments and taxes.

94-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton amending Collective Negotiations Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Bridgeton Supervisors Association Cumberland Council #18 (NJSCA) covering the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

95-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an Administrative Budget to fund the hiring of a Zone Coordinator and provide for necessary staff support.

96-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Bridgeton Public Library to facilitate After School Learning Center (ASLC) Program.

97-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton approving settlement of PCIII REO LLC, et al. v. City of Bridgeton, et al.

98-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing and congratulating Complete Care on the Grand Opening of its Corporate Offices and Adult & Specialty Health Center.

99-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council appointing Markida Taylor to the City of Bridgeton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

100-22 RESOLUTION, of the City Council appointing Eduardo Lopez to the City of Bridgeton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

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 King that Resolutions M-1 through M-18 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:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated May 3, 2022 in the amount of \$3,307,483.48. It was moved by Councilwoman King 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.

APPLICATIONS:

Council President Bethea announced there were four (4) applications for approval being:

1. Block Off Street Application – Fred G. Hovermann – Bridgeton Eagles Club Spring Fling/Cookout – May 21, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Sharp Street from Cohansey Street to Cohansey River.
2. Block Off Street Application – Fred G. Hovermann – Bridgeton Eagles Club Annual Picnic – September 17, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Sharp Street from Cohansey Street to Cohansey River.
3. Block Off Street Application – Deborah Boykin Greenberg – Cinco de Mayo Festival – May 28, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Commerce Street from Laurel Street to Atlantic Street, Alleyway from Laurel to the Riverfront.
4. Temporary Sign Permit Application – Bridgeton Main Street Association – Cinco de Mayor Cultural Fest – May 12, 2022 to May 31, 2022 – 6 Locations within the City – Tourist Center for the City of Bridgeton, Hopeloft, Feinstein Building, Complete Care Health Network, Inka Chicken Bar, and C-Town Supermarket.

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

REPORTS:

Council Presidents Bethea announced there were no reports

Council President Bethea called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:

Mayor Kelly – Stated that the next meeting he hopes to have a presentation about the realtor hope that is being build next to Kintock in the industrial park.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio- None at this time

Councilwoman King- congratulated the two young man that made the NFL draft Marques Bell who was a Bridgeton High School graduate and Isiah Pacheco born in Bridgeton and a resident of Bridgeton.

Councilman Gonzalez – was proud of seeing different participants of all the kids with the poster contest. He continued that it was good to see the budget presentation and is looking forward to people investing in our city

Councilman President Bethea – stated that he wants to establish this hometown heroes.

Council President Bethea – thanked our poster contest winners for their outstanding job.

Council President Bethea- congratulated complete care on their ribbon cutting.

Council President Bethea- wished all the mother's a happy mother's day. He continue to salute the first responders, police, fire EMS, public works and all civil servants.

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 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Miriam Garcia

Miriam Garcia, Deputy Clerk

Edward Bethea

Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 5/17/2022

