

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 20, 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:

Councilman J. Curtis Edwards
Councilman David Gonzalez
Council President Edward Bethea

ABSENT: Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
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 August 16, 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:

Councilman Edwards – None at this time.

Councilman Gonzalez – Provided statistics of Public Works Department on various duties. Discussed report received from Main Street which explained their recent working with Latino merchants of the community. He also discussed a brochure that provides a list of businesses located in Bridgeton.

Council President Bethea – Provided a report on Unity Day which was held together with Bridgeton Public Schools. He continued that they also honored Markquese Bell who was recently drafted to the Dallas Cowboys. He stated it was an outstanding event seeing everyone celebrate together.

Council President Bethea reminded residents that the 2nd Semi-Annual Citywide Clean-up is scheduled for this Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He continued that anyone interested in volunteering should report to Gateway, Building A and sign up at 8:30 a.m.

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

Mayor Kelly – Discussed a recent meeting with the State regarding various remediation sites within the City. He continued that there are about 10 to 12 sites in need of investigation and possible remediation.

Mayor Kelly discussed options that the County is facing regarding the County Jail. He continued that no decision has been made to date.

Mayor Kelly spoke of the culvert rebuild. He explained that bids are in process and he discussed various DEP and Tidelands permits.

Mayor Kelly discussed a Tiny Home Project that will be in connection with Kintock. He explained that 6 houses have been purchased and will be fenced in for qualified residents to use as a temporary shelter. Mayor Kelly stated he is hoping the project will be successful and be able to expand.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – Provided an update to Councilman Edwards regarding a home that was recently torn down. He stated that the hole has now been filled.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago discussed the Certificate of Business Compliance for the City and explained that once fully in place, regular reports will be made to Council regarding new businesses within the City.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago discussed signage issues that have been brought to Council by Mr. Carl Seabrook. He stated that lines and signage are in the works and should be completed within a couple of weeks. He continued that Public Works is working with the County regarding the South Avenue sidewalks.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were two (2) Ordinances for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING ARTICLE V CHAPTER 40-12 (A) ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PERTAINING TO RANKS AND NUMBER OF OFFICERS

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 October 4, 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 149, ARTICLE II, SECTION 27 SUBSECTIONS J (1) THRU (4) OF THE CITY CODE

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on October 4, 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 seven (7) Ordinances for Second Reading. City Solicitor, Michele Gibson, asked that K-4 and K-5 be tabled until the next meeting being October 4, 2022. Council President Bethea asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 22-21
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
AMENDING MUNICIPAL SECTION 77-4 OF THE CITY CODE TO EXTEND HOURS
OF SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION AND
DISTRIBUTION ON SUNDAYS

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 Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards 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:

| COUNCIL | YEA | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Councilwoman DeQuinzio | | | | X |
| Councilman Edwards | X | | | |
| Councilman Gonzalez | X | | | |
| Councilwoman King | | | | X |
| Council President Bethea | X | | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 22-22
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
RELEASING, VACATING, AND EXTINGUISHING THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC IN
A 10' X 62.23' UNUSED RIGHT-OF-WAY SITUATED BETWEEN LOT 5 AND LOT 28
IN BLOCK 154

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

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards 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:

| COUNCIL | YEA | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Councilwoman DeQuinzio | | | | X |
| Councilman Edwards | X | | | |
| Councilman Gonzalez | X | | | |
| Councilwoman King | | | | X |
| Council President Bethea | X | | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
RELEASING, VACATING, AND EXTINGUISHING THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC IN
A 10' X 40' UNUSED RIGHT-OF-WAY SITUATED BETWEEN LOT 2 AND LOT 1.01
IN BLOCK 125 ON SOUTH LAUREL STREET**

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.

Joseph Frost of Holden Road representing Smith and Richards Lumber thanked Council for their consideration. He explained that he has been working with the adjoining lot owner to get a developer on this corner lot for almost 5 years.

No one else 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 Councilman Gonzalez 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 | | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 22-24
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON ADOPTING
THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN – SHORELINE FREEZERS URBAN
RENEWAL EXPANSION FOR BLOCK 189, LOTS 3.01, 3.02, 3.05 AND BLOCK 189.01
LOTS 1, 3, AND 4

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

It was then moved by Councilman Edwards 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:

| COUNCIL | YEA | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Councilwoman DeQuinzio | | | | X |
| Councilman Edwards | X | | | |
| Councilman Gonzalez | X | | | |
| Councilwoman King | | | | X |
| Council President Bethea | X | | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 22-25
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING
ORDINANCE 21-28 FIXING THE SALARIES AND RATES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES

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 Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 gave a progress report of this proposed cannabis incubator site. He discussed preparations of a security plan.

Chavela Green-Alston of Colfax Street discussed a kicked up sidewalk and possible dangerous tree located on Henry Street and South Avenue near the old Russell Cleaners building. She explained that the tree looks like it is going to fall and it has also kicked up the sidewalk making a possible tripping hazard. Ms. Green-Alston also discussed potholes on Garfield. She stated that it would be best if these get fixed before winter.

Damian Cheeks of Cedardell Avenue stated he is working with Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago in regards to submitting his application for his dispensary to the State and the City. He discussed working on a real estate project with Alan Trzuskoski and is excited to report back with more information soon.

Crystal Griner from Broad Street School stated that most events are running back to normal and in-person. She stated that Back-to-School night for broad Street School is scheduled for tomorrow and invited Council to attend. Ms. Griner stated that Unity Day was great.

Markida Taylor representing the Bridgeton Housing Authority showed her gratitude to the Bridgeton Fire Department for their quick response for a recent fire at the High Rise. She gave an update on the residents that were displaced and the one that was injured.

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-14 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. 207-22, of the City of Bridgeton authorizing an Accelerated Tax Sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-19 and Chapter 99 P.L. 1997 and Electronic Tax Sale pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:33-1.1.

RESOLUTION NO. 208-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Senior Citizen Tax Exemption (213 West Commerce Street).

RESOLUTION NO. 209-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award an Agreement by Purchase Order with Realauction.com, LLC, for one (1) day online tax sale services.

RESOLUTION NO. 210-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Disabled Tax Exemption (25 N. West Drive).

RESOLUTION NO. 211-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and approving Provisional Employment Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Chief EMT.

RESOLUTION NO. 212-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authoring submission of the FY2022 UEZ Administrative Budget to fund UEZ staff support and rescinding Resolution 95-22.

RESOLUTION NO. 213-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a UEZ project to fund Archeology Studies and Historic Preservation Mitigation measures pertaining to Shoreline Freezer Expansion Project and former Eli Gould Farmstead on Block 189.01 Lot 1 (HOP PROJECT#22-0492).

RESOLUTION NO. 214-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to amend Resolution NO. 200-22, awarding an Agreement with Garrison Enterprise Inc. for Emergency Repairs of Water and Sewer Systems (Streets) from 2022-2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 215-22, authorizing the Request for Proposals for Professional Services for the 2023 Calendar Year.

RESOLUTION NO. 216-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award an Addendum to Resolution #41-22 for the Contract with Edmunds and Associates, Inc. (Edmunds Govtech) for 2022 Software Usage and Maintenance, to add the Fleet Module from September 21 – December 31, 2022 at a prorated amount.

RESOLUTION NO. 217-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License for Cortes Sandoval, LLC (Pocket License).

RESOLUTION NO. 218-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Bay Hill Environmental for Lead Assessment Services from September 26, 2022 – September 25, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 219-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing the Bethel Othello African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Veteran or Widow of Veteran Tax Exemption (81 Spring Street).

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-14 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 September 7, 2022 in the amount of \$335,482.24 and Schedule of Bills dated September 20, 2022 in the amount of \$467,930.78. 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.

APPLICATIONS:

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

1. Raffle License – Parish of the Holy Cross, 46 central Avenue– 50/50 Raffle – November 5, 2022 from 12:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M.

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

2. Raffle License – Parish of the Holy Cross, 46 Central Avenue – Gift Baskets – November 5, 2022 from 12:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M.

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

3. Bingo License – Parish of the Holy Cross, 46 Central Avenue – Bingo – November 5, 2022 from 12:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M.

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

4. Rally for Our Democracy – Lecture/Speaking engagement – 168 E. Commerce Street – September 24, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

REPORTS:

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

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – August 2022
2. Clerk's Monthly Report – August 2022
3. Clerk's Resident ID Quarterly Report – August 2022
4. Vital Statistic's Monthly Report – August 2022

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

Council President Bethea called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:

Mayor Kelly – Thanked the Bridgeton Fire Department on their great job helping the residents of the High Rise and securing the building. He added that the misplaced residents were provided a debit card for a hotel stay.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilman Gonzalez- Stated that Unity Day was a great event. He continued that it was great to see families out and spoke of the excellent music and vendors.

Councilman Gonzalez commended all 1st Responders who help protect our City. He wished all the new recruits success and welcomed them to help set great examples in the community.

Councilman Edwards – Thanked Mr. Rabago for the update of the leveled home.

Councilman Edwards stated that the Tiny Home project located within Kintock is a great location.

Councilman Edwards congratulated Markquese Bell and his team.

Councilman Edwards asked questions regarding trash cans that have been taken away from downtown areas. He also discussed panhandlers and homeless population located around Hummel's Liquor which is causing issues behind the store.

Councilman Edwards discussed the publication requirements regarding the 2nd Reading Ordinance changing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages at local bars.

Council President Bethea – Thanked the owner of the Draft Bar for coming out tonight and hopes that they can talk soon.

Council President Bethea quoted the 2016 Ms. USA stating “Do not fear failure but please be terrified of regrets. Giving up is birth place of regrets.”

Council President Bethea thanked Public Works for their quick response regarding dead deer at the old Tin Can location.

Council President Bethea asked Mayor Kelly to continue to press the County regarding the culvert. He stated that both this and the old Tin Can site give frustrations to residents and Council regarding the talks of what can be done and what can't be done and the amount of time for things to happen.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago stated that there are applications in process right now regarding \$168,000 for site remediation phases. He continued that they are slow and steady but absolutely necessary.

Council President Bethea stated that he is disappointed that now the need of permits are required. He continued that the City already knew that and expressed his frustrations of that only now are the permits being handled by the County when they could have already been processed. He added that many have promised to aide but not much has really happened. Council President Bethea stated that if the culvert situation was in another City, it would have been handled by now. Council President Bethea asked Mayor Kelly to talk to State Senator to expedite the process.

Council President Bethea invited all to attend the 2nd Semi-Annual Clean-up this Saturday. He thanked Ms. Griner and her team for always participating.

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

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 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED


Nichole Almanza, RMC, Municipal Clerk


Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 10/4/22