

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 1, 2019**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 12:00 noon, at the Bridgeton High School Library 111 West Avenue, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Cumberland County Freeholder Jack Surrency welcomed everyone to the City of Bridgeton Reorganization Meeting.

The invocation was given by Bishop David Hadley of Glory Tabernacle Church.

The meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Kathleen Keen

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Municipal Clerk, Kathleen Keen; Notice of this reorganization 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 and the Daily Journal on December 20, 2018 setting forth the time, date, place and agenda to the extent known of said meeting of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Bridgeton High School ROTC and the National Anthem was sung by Ms. Valerie Sparacio.

The Municipal Clerk announced this being the time and place for the swearing in and administering of Oaths of Office of the newly elected officials and called upon Honorable Senate President Stephen Sweeney to swear in the Councilmembers Elect.

Senate President Sweeney administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers as their family members stood beside them.

Senate President Sweeney then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Kelly as the Mayor's sister stood by his side.

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll of the Bridgeton City Council:

The following answered to the call of the roll:

Councilman Edward Bethea
Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
Councilman J. Curtis Edwards
Councilman Samuel Feinstein
Councilman David Gonzalez

The Municipal Clerk welcomed all Councilmembers, Mayor Albert Kelly, and Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette.

The Municipal Clerk announced nominations are now in order for the President of City Council.

Councilman Bethea nominated Councilman J. Curtis Edwards for President of the City Council. There being no other nominations for President of City Council, the nominations were closed.

A roll call vote was then taken for J. Curtis Edwards for Council President for the Year 2019.

Bethea Y DeQuinzio Y Edwards Y Feinstein Y Gonzalez Y

The Municipal Clerk announced the vote of 5-0, Councilman Edwards was elected as City Council President for the Year 2019.

President Edwards thanked all of his colleagues for their confidence in him and electing him President of Council for another term.

President Edwards announced this is the time for a public portion for anyone who desires to address council.

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and seconded by Councilman Bethea the meeting be opened to the public for anyone desiring to address council which motion was carried.

President Edwards opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard.

With no one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilman Bethea the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

President Edwards closed the public portion of the meeting.

President Edwards stated all matters listed under item K-1 through item K-16 are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be acted upon separately.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-19 designating the date, time, and place of the meetings of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton for the year 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 02-19 designating the official newspapers for City of Bridgeton for the year 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 03-19 designating the official radio stations for City of Bridgeton for the year 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 04-19 authorizing the adoption of a cash management plan for the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 05-19 designating the official depositories and investment groups for the City of Bridgeton for the year 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 06-19 designating the official check signors for the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 07-19 setting the rate of interest and penalties to be charged for nonpayment of taxes

RESOLUTION NO. 08-19 appointing Kathleen Keen as Public Agency Compliance Officer for the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO 09-19 making temporary appropriations for the calendar year 2019 pending final adoption of the calendar year 2019 budget

RESOLUTION NO. 10-19 re-appointing Dean Dellaquila to the City of Bridgeton Planning Board as the official city representative

RESOLUTION NO. 11-19 authorizing the adoption of Roberts Rules of Order as the Parliamentary Procedure for City Council for the year of 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-19 appointing department heads for departments of the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 13-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a contract to ALS Group USA Corporation dba ALS Environmental for water sample services in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for one (1) year

RESOLUTION NO. 14-19 appointing a tax assessor for the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 15-19 authorizing shared service agreement between Maurice River Township and City of Bridgeton regarding Tax Assessor Services

RESOLUTION NO. 16-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award various professional services and appointing professional service agreements for the CY2019

It was moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that said Resolutions be adopted which motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

President Edwards asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated December 28, 2018 in the amount of \$207,617.42.

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Bethea 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 schedules may be found in the Clerk's Files under "S" Schedule of Bills.

A poetry recital was then read by Ms. Cheryl White

President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for his Mayoral Address.

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for attending today, stating the support of the community means a lot to him. He is thankful for another chance to serve the GREAT City of Bridgeton and for the team elected to serve with him. Mayor Kelly thanked the hard working employees of the City, and asked those in attendance to stand to be recognized; he acknowledged and thanked Senate President Sweeney for everything he does for the City of Bridgeton. Mayor Kelly then said he is not oblivious to the negative perceptions of the city, he knows the potential of the city and chooses to speak positive word of encouragement. He spoke of no longer having a local newspaper in the city, and the lack of information the residents now receive.

Mayor Kelly said there are \$200 million dollars plus in projects happening in the city. He went on to speak list and speak of the numerous projects coming to fruition in the city; Wawa, the Cumberland Dairy Expansion, Rutgers Food Specialization, Bridgeton Villas expansion, River Grove Housing, the Tin Can becoming a city park, the ethanol facility, and a new county correctional facility. He said these projects will help provide jobs, and help the city tax rates, he also thanked Senate President Sweeney for advocating for funding for the city school system. Mayor Kelly stated “mount trashmore” is no more, the old landfill in the park has been closed and will be converted to expand the city park area. Lastly Mayor Kelly acknowledged and thanked members of the Clergy in attendance for their continued support and prayers for the city, he spoke of a hashtag he continually uses; #PUSH meaning Peace, Unity, Service, Humility. Mayor Kelly encouraged everyone to continue to push forward.

President Edwards called upon Council for comments.

Councilman Feinstein – said his first year on council far exceeded his expectations with all of the projects coming or those that have come to fruition. He is thankful for being elected to council and will serve the best that he can for Bridgeton. Lastly Councilman Feinstein stated there is much more to come and there will be many changes to the city in the upcoming year.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – thanked everyone stating she is very appreciative of being elected to council. She thanked Ms. White for her fantastic poem and looks forward to the future working together with the team and the Mayor. Councilwoman DeQuinzio said great things are happening, there is more on the horizon, and everyone continue to push forward and work together.

Councilman Bethea – acknowledged his daughters and wife stating how very proud he is of them. He said he is involved in community projects and organizations that sometimes take him away from home, but he does it because he enjoys working in the community and giving back. He thanked all in attendance stating he appreciates being elected to council. Councilman Bethea thanked the Mayor for his support and encouragement and his council colleagues for their support and working together. He thanked Senate President Sweeney for attending and his continued support of the city.

Councilman Gonzalez – said he is honored to be here and is thankful for the support of his wife and family. He said he is thankful for the years he served on the city zoning board and the school board, and is honored to have been elected to the City Council. Councilman Gonzalez asked for continued wisdom and prayer for the Mayor and Council as they move forward.

President Edwards –thanked everyone for attending today; he thanked his campaign manager, Senate President Sweeney administering the Oaths of office, and Freeholder Surrency as a former councilmember he worked with. He spoke of working together as a team of five and moving forward together for the vision of the city. President Edwards spoke of the forthcoming year meeting schedule, noting the summer schedule of one meeting per month, there will no longer be a work session and Council meetings will start at 5:30. He encouraged everyone to attend the Council meetings noting help is needed from everyone to make the Bridgeton better. Lastly President Edwards thanked his council colleagues, Mayor Kelly and everyone who participated in the reorganization today.

President Edwards then introduced Reverend James Dunkin of Shiloh Baptist Church for the benediction.

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

President Edwards adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards
Council President

Date Approved: January 15, 2019