

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2019**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 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 Edwards

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Municipal Clerk, Kathleen L. Keen; 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 by a public advertisement to the South Jersey Times and the Daily Journal on January 11, 2019 of a schedule adopted by resolution setting forth the time, date and place of all the meetings of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Mayor Kelly

The following answered to roll call:
Councilman Edward Bethea
Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
Councilman Samuel Feinstein
Councilman David Gonzalez
Council President J. Curtis Edwards

Also in attendance:
Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Solicitor Rebecca J. Bertram
Municipal Clerk Kathleen L. Keen

President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly and Fire Chief Bowen for the swearing in of Battalion Chief Michael B. Hitchner who was accompanied by his family.

Construction Code Official Dennis Sharpe read Resolution No. 17-19 recognizing Maria Lopez on her retirement, Mayor Kelly spoke highly of Ms. Lopez as she was presented the resolution.

Police Chief Gaimari addressed Council regarding the Use of Force among police departments statewide. He spoke of data collected of which the City of Bridgeton Police Department fared well and an upcoming community meeting with the State Attorney General to address such matters.

President Edwards presented the Work Session, Council Meeting, and Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2018. It was moved by Councilman Bethea and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez that said minutes be approved and to dispense with the reading of said minutes as all members have received copies. The motion carried with Councilman Gonzalez abstaining.

President Edwards presented the minutes of the January 1, 2019 Reorganization Meeting. It was moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Feinstein that said minutes be approved and to dispense with the reading of said minutes as all members have received copies. The motion carried unanimously.

President Edwards announced he is working on the committee liaison appointments as there will be new committees added; Economic Development and Bridgeton Public Schools.

President Edwards referred to the Business Administrator, Mayor, and Solicitor for their reports. The Administrator praised the Public Works Department for their work during the recent snow. Mayor Kelly echoed the praise for the Public Works Department regarding the recent snow, he then spoke of the city receiving a \$500,000 grant to replace bricks in the sidewalks downtown, and the new rules for recycling. Lastly Mayor Kelly announced the community meeting regarding Use of Force with the Attorney General will be January 23rd 6pm at the Union Baptist Temple, the County Prosecutors Office will be presenting an informational session on the Attorney General Directive 2018-06 "Strengthening Trust between Law Enforcement and Immigrant Communities" on January 31st 7pm at St. Teresa of Avila, and on February 12th at 6:30pm at the Police and Municipal Court Complex there will be a meeting for the Governors new initiative on Environmental Justice, representatives from the NJDEP and other state departments will be present.

President Edwards questioned Solicitor Bertram about 165 Atlantic Street under other business, it was agreed to discuss the matter further in executive session. At this time Mr. James Grace Solicitor for the CCUA addressed council regarding their plan to construct a solar field and the need for an easement/right of way on Block 194 Lots 28 & 29, a 9.6 acre parcel from the city.

There were no ordinances for first reading or second reading.

President Edwards announced this is the time for anyone who desires to address council on the consent agenda or any other matter.

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the meeting be opened to the public for anyone desiring to address council on the consent agenda or any other matters, which motion was carried.

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

Ms. Linda McFadden, Library Director congratulated council and the mayor on the recent election, stating she looks forward to working with them. Ms. McFadden then announced upcoming events at the library including a program with the zoo. She spoke of an article written by a Bridgeton Library worker published in the NJ Library Association Newsletter, and reminded all the library will be closed on Saturday January 19th for the observance of MLK Jr. and on Presidents Day.

With no one else 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 announced all matters listed under the consent agenda M-1 through M-7 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-19 recognizing Maria Lopez on her retirement

RESOLUTION NO. 18-19 authorizing an addendum to the agreement for police services for NIA Associates (Amity Height Complex)

RESOLUTION NO. 19-19 authorizing submission of strategic plan for Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

RESOLUTION NO. 20-19 authorizing the city to advertise for printing services

RESOLUTION NO. 21-19 authorizing the city to advertise for janitorial supplies

RESOLUTION NO. 22-19 to refund a tax sale certificate

RESOLUTION NO. 23-19 granting a senior citizen tax discount for a construction permit fee

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 January 15, 2019 in the amount of \$1,562,960.04.

It was moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Feinstein that 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.

There were no applications for approval.

President Edwards announced three (3) reports for approval.

1. Municipal Clerks Monthly Report December 2018
2. Resident ID Report 4th Quarter/Yearly 2018
3. Cash Receipts Report December 2018

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Feinstein that said reports be received and filed which motion carried unanimously.

President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for comments – The Mayor commented on the Resident ID report noting the number of ID's issued and the success of the program.

President Edwards called upon Council for comments.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – None at this time

Councilman Feinstein – acknowledged with sadness the passing of Mr. Jack Hummel whom always managed to get the local news out to everyone.

Councilman Bethea – announced the celebration of MLK Jr. is on January 21st, though today is actually the 90th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Councilman Bethea gave kudos to the

public works department during the recent snow, and asked for continued support for the police and fire departments who do a fine job.

Councilman Gonzalez – praised the Resident ID program stating it would be good for local churches to help those understand the application form and process. He looks forward to the Attorney General coming to the City and hopes everyone realize the effort of the police force and all that work in the city are trying to make this a safe and clean place to live.

President Edwards – welcomed Councilman Gonzalez to his first council meeting, noting this was the first meeting without a work session and he feels it ran very smooth. He thanked the Public Works Department for their work during the recent snow, and acknowledged the Police Department for their presence on the streets downtown which has helped with panhandling. President Edwards then spoke of the City Zoo Keeper attending the recent Rotary luncheon, and the “lessons” everyone learned that day regarding the animals at the City Zoo. He acknowledged the new minimum wage hike may have an impact on the city budget and having continued conversations and a workshop to discuss the use of medical/recreational marijuana. Lastly President Edwards asked for the date and time of Mr. Hummel’s services, Councilman Feinstein said there would not be a public funeral per Mr. Hummel’s wishes.

President Edwards announced Council will now convene into Executive Session, after which the regular council meeting will resume in public where formal action may or may not be taken followed by adjournment.

President Edwards read **RESOLUTION NO. 24-19**; 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. Litigation /Contracts – 165 Atlantic Street

Upon a motion by Councilman Bethea, and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. The regular portion of the meeting ended at 6:35pm.

With a motion by Councilman Bethea and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 6:47pm.

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

President Edwards adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards, Council President

Date Approved: February 5, 2019