

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 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 February 7th, 2018 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 Councilman Feinstein

The following answered to roll call:
Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
Councilman Samuel Feinstein
Councilwoman Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President Edwards

Absent:
Councilman Michael Zapolski, Sr.

Also in attendance:
Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Rebecca J. Bertram
Municipal Clerk Kathleen L. Keen

Council President Edwards welcomed the Swedish Exchange Students to the City of Bridgeton, and asking them to step forward. Mayor Kelly had them introduce themselves, then read and presented a resolution, a city pin, and a packet filled with information about the city to Ms. Ebba Oscarsson and Ms. Clara Bloomberg of Eskilstuna, Sweden.

Mayor Kelly stated three of the finest police officers in the city are retiring, he then asked the officers to step forward. Chief Gaimari read and presented a resolution to retiring Police Lieutenant Thomas Speranza honoring his 18 years of service to the city. Council President Edwards read and presented a resolution to retiring Police Detective Thomas C. Gramp honoring his 18 years of service to the city. Mayor Kelly then read and presented a resolution to retiring Police Lieutenant Michael Speranza honoring his 18 years of service the city.

President Edwards announced the February 6, 2018 minutes will be on the March 6, 2018 agenda.

President Edwards announced three (3) ordinances for first reading.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2018 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Feinstein the ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 6, 2018 which motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF CHURCH LANE AND
ASSOCIATED ALLEYWAYS**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Feinstein the ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 6, 2018 which motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 321, TAXICABS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY
OF BRIDGETON**

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 6, 2018 which motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

President Edwards announced there were three (3) ordinances for second reading.

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE CITY LANDFILL IN
AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW
JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,075,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE
ISSUANCE OF \$575,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART
OF THE COST THEREOF.**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Feinstein 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.

President Edwards 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 Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the third and final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote, which motion was carried.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple	X			
Councilman Zapolski				X
President Edwards	X			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 18-1** the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND RATES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

It was moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

President Edwards 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 Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the third and final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote, which motion was carried.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple	X			
Councilman Zapolski				X
President Edwards	X			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 18-2** the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 265-23 et seq.
VACANT PROPERTIES**

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

President Edwards opened the meeting to the public for any one desiring to be heard on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

Mr. Mike Abbott, thanked council for the opportunity to speak regarding the ordinance. He asked for clarification on the possibility of a two (2) year exemption in the ordinance. Council President noted the wording in the ordinance is “up to a two (2) year exemption”. Mr. Abbott then questioned the fees, noting he paid \$250 for the year to have a vacant property and asked if that would increase. Solicitor Bertram said if an application is made to be exempt from the list and is approved, her understanding is you would not be on the list and would not be paying a fee. Council President Edwards clarified the \$250 is for those on the vacant and abandoned property list. Lastly, Mr. Abbott asked if he is correct in understanding if he makes the application and is approved he will be exempt from the \$250 fee. Council President Edwards said yes.

Mr. Tom Martin voiced his concerns regarding changes to the ordinance between the first and second reading, noting the public did not have the opportunity to see the changes. He asked if this is final adoption or if there would be a third hearing. Solicitor Bertram stated the changes were not substantial therefore it is council’s option. A discussion ensued, and council agreed this would be the final hearing and adoption.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio this be considered the third and final reading of said ordinance and that it be taken up for adoption or rejection by roll call vote, which motion was carried.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple	X			
Councilman Zapolski				X
President Edwards	X			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 18-3** the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

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 Feinstein 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.

Mr. Mike Abbott, requested when ID cards are issued that other citizens of the city be considered, stating residents trying to do daily business were denied access to the city offices. He then spoke of homeless persons using the library for bathing, and reiterated his concerns for security at the library.

Mr. Dwight Saunders, thanked everyone for the allowing Borger's, Saunders, and Taylor the opportunity to come to the city.

Mr. Kris Taylor, also thanked everyone for the opportunity to work in the city and is confident they will have great results.

Mr. Carl Seabrook, said he is still concerned with tractor trailers on Baltimore Avenue, due to them breaking and pulling tar off the road. He asked when a sign will be erected stating "no jake brake", and noted he is here to help not criticize.

Ms. Linda McFadden, Library Director thanked Councilmembers DeQuinzio and Feinstein for attending the African Dance and Drum program, and Councilman Feinstein to taking pictures. She thanked the Police Chief Gaimari and Mayor Kelly for "patrolling" the library, noting discussion are ongoing regarding security. Ms. McFadden then announced many upcoming events at the library for the month of March and thanked the public works department for their help with moving many boxes of books.

Ms. Goldie Wulderk spoke of her water and sewer bill going up as well as her taxes. She also spoke of living in the city since 1947, and the food program she established.

Mr. Tom Martin commented on the property offers made to the city and the person having a good track record of rehabbing properties, stating he feels the city should reconsider.

Mayor Kelly addressed Mr. Abbott's concerns regarding the municipal ID's, stating he emailed every department head today asking if anyone was turned away from their office, and assured council no business was disrupted. Mayor Kelly said the company handling the vacant and abandoned properties will teach the city staff how to implement the ordinance. Mayor Kelly said he and Chief Gaimari have been speaking regarding security at the library and city warming centers. Lastly he thanked Mr. Gerard Velazquez of CCIA for being patient with the city and looks forward to seeing the downtown moving in a positive direction.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilman Feinstein that 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 J-1 through J-13 with J-14 added during the work session will be enacted upon by one motion unless a council member desires to discuss an item, in that case the items will be removed from the consent agenda and acted upon separately.

RESOLUTION NO. 51-18 welcoming guest of the Swedish Exchange Program to the United States and the Great City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 52-18 honoring retired Bridgeton Police Department Detective Thomas C. Gramp for his 18 years of service to the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 53-18 honoring retired Bridgeton Police Department Lieutenant Michael Speranza for his 18 years of service to the City Of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 54-18 honoring retired Bridgeton Police Department Lieutenant Thomas Speranza for his 18 years of service to the City of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 55-18 forfeiting deposit paid and placing property back on list of city owned properties for sale

RESOLUTION NO. 56-18 authorizing the sale of certain property owned by the city of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 57-18 designating redeveloper and authorizing execution of a redevelopment agreement with respect to a certain properties in the downtown area of the city of Bridgeton

RESOLUTION NO. 58-18 resolution approving participation with the State of New Jersey in a safe and secure communities program administered by the division of criminal justice, department of law and public safety

RESOLUTION NO. 59-18 authorizing the release of performance bond with respect to Tri-County Community Action agency, Inc. t/a Gateway Community Action Partnership

RESOLUTION NO. 60-18 authorizing the release of performance bond with respect to Tri-County Community Action agency, Inc. t/a Gateway Community Action Partnership

RESOLUTION NO. 61-18 authorizing the execution of an agreement by and between the City of Bridgeton and the Cumberland County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for Animal Shelter Services

RESOLUTION NO. 62-18 authorizing execution of Radium Removal System Agreement between the City of Bridgeton and Water Remediation Technology, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 63-18 imposing liens on various properties for abatement of property maintenance violations for the month of January 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 64-18 authorizing to advertise for rail inspections and evaluation services

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Feinstein that said Resolutions be adopted which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

President Edwards asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of February 20, 2018 in the amount of \$243,407.36.

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

President Edwards announced there were no applications.

President Edwards announced seven reports.

1. Economic Development - Project Status Report
2. Treasurers Monthly Report January 2018
3. Zoning Report January 1 – February 8, 2018
4. Annual Zoning Report 2017
5. Police Department Reports – 4th Quarter 2017
6. Municipal Clerk Monthly Report – January 2018
7. Water & Sewer Monthly Report – January 2018

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

President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for his comments. The Mayor spoke previously in the meeting.

President Edwards called upon Council for comments.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – none at this time.

Councilman Feinstein – said he is glad to be citizen of the great City of Bridgeton, and is proud to announce this is his 42nd anniversary of practicing dentistry since he came back to town.

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple – thanked everyone for being at the meeting, and thanked all the presenting information council requests. She thanked Mr. Abbott for his hard work and looking out for the city.

President Edwards – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Welcomed Borger's, Saunders, and Taylor to the city. Suggested Ms. Wulderk check with the tax office regarding her water and sewer bills being estimated. Asked to keep everyone in prayer with the events happening throughout the country. Thanked Mr. Velasquez of CCIA for the work to be done downtown, and acknowledged Mr. Seabrook, noting the jake brake sign will be looked into. Lastly, thanked Mr. Martin for his comments and concerns.

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

President Edwards adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards
Council President

Date Approved: March 6, 2018