

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 18, 2017

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 6:30 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 Gladys Lugardo-Hemple.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Keen, "Adequate notice of this meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 giving the time, date, location and agenda to the extent known has been given in the following manner:

1. By posting notice of said meeting on the bulletin board at City Hall Annex, 181 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey on July 12, 2017, at 4:30 pm
2. By mailing such notice to The Daily Journal, South Jersey Times, and The Press of Atlantic City on July 12, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Councilman Zapolski

The following answered to roll call:

Councilman Edwards

Councilman Spence

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Gladys Lugardo-Hemple

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Police Chief Gaimari for the police officers promotional oaths of office.

Chief Gaimari began by reading Resolution No. 137-17 Honoring Retired Detective Sergeant Anthony P. Calabrese Sr. Mayor Kelly then presented a framed version of the resolution to Retired Sergeant Calabrese, noting this will be the first time in 75 years there will not be a member of the Calabrese family amongst the Police Department. He thanked him for his service, hard work, and dedication to the City of Bridgeton.

Chief Gaimari thanked Mayor Kelly, City Council, the Administrator, and CMFO for allowing the police department to keep the pace with the demands of law enforcement and supervision. He acknowledged the newly promoted officers individually. New Lieutenants Earl Burgmann Jr., and Richard Zanni, and New Sergeants Kristopher Steffler and Keristan Lowe. Mayor Kelly then introduced State Senate President Stephen Sweeney whom offered his time to administer the oath of office to the promoted officers. He also introduced State Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli, noting they are both hard workers for the City of Bridgeton, and he is proud to have them here. Senate President Sweeney administered the oath of office to the officers and members of their families pinned their new badges.

Senate President Sweeney thanked Mayor Kelly for inviting him to the “Great City of Bridgeton” saying he is honored to swear in the men who protect the city. He spoke of attending a school board meeting earlier in the year, noting the district is severely underfunded and enlisted the Mayor and council to help in the fight to fix the problem. Senate President Sweeney said he attended the school board meeting earlier this evening to announce he with the leadership of Assemblyman John Burzichelli were able to secure \$2.2 million dollars for the school district this year, and next year they will pass a millionaires tax and hope to secure another \$5.5 million dollars for the district. Assemblyman Burzichelli then spoke of working on the state budget and the team effort that secured the school funding.

President Lugardo-Hemple presented the City Council Meeting Minutes and the Work Session Minutes of July 5, 2017.

It was moved by Councilman Zapolski 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 which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced two ordinances for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF CHURCH LANE AND ASSOCIATED ALLEYWAYS

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the ordinance was tabled during the work session.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 13-9

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards this ordinance be adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on August 1, 2017 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote

President Lugardo-Hemple announced one Ordinance for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CITY OF BRIDGETON IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the ordinance was tabled during the work session. She then explained to the audience in Spanish the ordinance was tabled during the work session, and the reasons why.

President Lugardo-Hemple 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 Spence and seconded by Councilman Surrency 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 Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard.

Mr. Mike Abbott asked Council to honor the commitment former Administrator Goodreau made to him regarding exemption from the vacant property ordinance. He questioned how much the ID program would cost, and if another employee would need to be hired. Lastly, he addressed the Deputy Clerk stating she did a fine job sitting through the discussion of the clerk position and has earned his admiration and respect and welcomed her to the city.

Ms. Palma Kristovich said she was requesting CDBG loan forgiveness, and asked council to consider it. Councilman Zapolski explained council agreed to a contingency based on the sale of the property.

Father David Rivera stated he and his parishioners came to support the ID program, he is of the understanding the program will move forward once the details are in place. He thanked council for considering the program and offered help from the parish if needed. Councilman Zapolski said there is no specific date for the approval of the ordinance; he stated moving forward with the ordinance is important and needs to be done correctly. President Lugardo-Hemple reiterated the importance of the having the ordinance done properly.

Ms. Cathy Rabbi spoke of the ID Program asking why it is moving so slowly and feels it is a good idea that would benefit the community members.

Mr. Al Marmero CCIA Solicitor spoke of the importance of the development project to CCIA and offered help to the city with the redevelopment plan. He spoke of lost time and financing of the project.

Mr. Jerry Velasquez stated the CCIA is spending a lot of money to move the project forward and feels there is no support from city council. Councilman Zapolski said supporting the project is not the issue; the redevelopment plan has to be done first by statute, then the project can move forward.

Mr. Carl Seabrook asked for a substation (police) to be put in the 2nd ward, he spoke of shoots fired in the area at different times and a possible location that could be used.

Mr. Tom Martin commended council for not advancing projects to quickly and following appropriate procedures. He remembers when there was a bank on the property and the city collected taxes for it.

Mr. Jerry Velasquez commented the taxes paid on the bank property were approximately \$3000 per year.

Father David Rivera remarked on the 2nd ward area, stating a police substation is needed and residents are scared.

Ms. Darlene Richmond retired City Clerk commented on the open City Clerk position; stating she was part of the review board for interviews and feels salary is the main factor in the hiring process. She praised both candidates stating they are excellent clerks, and are the top in the county. However she feels the city will have a hard time filling the position due to the low salary amount she was receiving. She stated the city is going to have to increase the salary to get the position filled. Ms. Richmond spoke of the street gospel application of Glory Tabernacle Church on the agenda. She noted the church has been doing this in the city for numerous years, originally

in the area of Broad and Pearl Streets, then in the developments of Burlington Manor and Amity Heights. She stated the church will find a location and resubmit the application. Lastly Ms. Richmond said she would like to publicly thank everyone for her retirement luncheon, she very much appreciated it. Ms. Richmond stated she loved working for the city, but it was time to leave.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Surrency that the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple closed the public portion of the meeting.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced all matters listed under the consent agenda J-1 through J-8 with J-6 and J-7 being removed 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 J-9 added during the work session will be voted on separately

- RESOLUTION NO. 137-17 honoring Detective Sergeant Anthony Calabrese Sr on his retirement
- RESOLUTION NO. 139-17 a resolution certifying the 2016 Annual Audit
- RESOLUTION NO. 140-17 authorizing the Municipal Alliance Agreement with the county
- RESOLUTION NO. 141-17 honoring the 50th year of the Puertorriqueno Festival
- RESOLUTION NO. 142-17 approving the FY2017 Community Development Block Grant Plan
- RESOLUTION NO. 143-17 authorizing an emergency contract with Ricky Slade Construction Inc. for demolition of an unsafe property located at 16-18 Parker Street.

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

President Lugardo-Hemple announced Resolution J-9 Appointing the City of Bridgeton City Clerk

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski that J-9 known as Resolution 144-17 be adopted.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Edwards			X	
Councilman Spence	X			
Councilman Surrency		X		
Councilman Zapolski	X			
President Lugardo-Hemple	X			

The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

President Lugardo-Hemple asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of July 18, 2017 in the amount of \$95,393.65.

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Zapolski 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 Lugardo-Hemple announced one application.

1. Street Gospel Services – Glory Tabernacle

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency that said application be received and filed which motion was carried unanimously.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the following reports.

1. Municipal Clerk's Monthly Report June 2017
2. Cash Receipts June 2017
3. Department of Public Works Quarterly Report
4. Police Department 2nd Quarter Report
5. Zoning Applications June - July 2017
6. Water & Sewer Department Report June 2017

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Surrency that said reports be received and filed which motion was carried unanimously.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Mayor Kelly for comments.

Mayor Kelly stated October 1st was the original date scheduled to implement the ID Program, he urged the committee to meet next week to get answers to the questions and move forward. He spoke of the CCIA downtown project, saying it would "jumpstart" the downtown merchants and community. He feels the longer council waits on the project the more expensive it could become. He urged council to talk about any of their objections, questions, or concerns regarding the project, and to continue to move it forward.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Council for comments.

Councilman Edwards congratulated Deputy Clerk Keen on the City Clerk position, he feels she will do a great job. He agrees with Mayor Kelly on moving the ID program forward, and does not want to see the downtown project leave Bridgeton.

Councilman Spence congratulated the police officers on their promotions, and Sergeant Calabrese on his retirement. He congratulated Deputy Clerk Keen as the new City Clerk, he feels it is well deserved and looks forward to working with her on city council.

Councilman Surrency congratulated Deputy Clerk Keen on the City Clerk position. He addressed Father David Rivera saying council will do their due diligence on getting the ID

program done. He thanked Mr. Velasquez and Mr. Marmero for attending the meeting, stating he wants the downtown project to move forward and get done.

Councilman Zapolski congratulated Deputy Clerk Keen, stating she will be an excellent City Clerk. He also congratulated the police officers on their promotion. He commented on the downtown project stating the issues brought forward regarding the redevelopment plan should have never been an issue. Steps should have been taken prior to make sure a redevelopment plan and redevelopment area was in place, he feels the project could have been further along by now had the requirements been recognized first.

President Lugardo-Hemple congratulated Deputy Clerk Keen on the City Clerk position; stating she is a pleasure to work with, will bring the office into a new era, and council is looking forward to working with her. She stated the city wants the downtown project to move forward and wants to see development in the downtown area. Lastly, President Lugardo-Hemple spoke of the ID program; she spoke in Spanish to the audience

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

President Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: _____