

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2019**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 20, 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 Councilman David Gonzalez

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 presented the City Council Meeting Minutes, and Executive Session Minutes of July 16, 2019. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Bethea 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 called upon Council for their Committee Liaison Reports:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio –None at this time.
Councilman Feinstein – None at this time
Councilman Bethea – the next Joint School Board/City Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last Tuesday in October, more information will follow.
Councilman Gonzalez – None at this time
Council President Edwards – None at this time

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

Administrator Bush-Baskette explained resolution M-20 with regard to erecting a fence for a dog park, and different rules coming into effect for recycling, and how the city will handle them. Administrator Bush-Baskette asked Fire Chief Bowen to speak of the upcoming smoke detector event, he stated this is the second time the city has been selected by the American Red Cross to do a free Smoke Detector Drive in the City the event will Saturday September 28th.

Mayor Kelly spoke of the need for reusable bags, a report from the state regarding the statewide municipal court systems and reforms that are being imposed. He then encouraged all to attend the Sunday night concerts at the waterfront.

President Edwards announced a property offer for 61 Ellis Street; Councilwoman DeQuinzio noted the prospective buyer wants to use it as his own residence. With no further questions or comments, President Edwards announced a resolution to approve the offer is on the consent agenda.

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 19-4 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF
BRIDGETON TO ADD THE TITLE CITY SOLICITOR**

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the ordinance be introduced on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 17, 2019. Councilman Bethea asked for an explanation of the ordinance. The Administrator noted this would allow the city to post the position for an in house employee.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Bethea	X			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Council President Edwards	X			

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 19-4 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF
BRIDGETON FOR SCHOOL TRAFFIC GUARDS**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez the ordinance be introduced on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 17, 2019. Councilman Bethea questioned the ordinance referring to “being in compliance” with the new state minimum wage, he specifically asked if the city is currently in compliance? The Administrator explained the increases in minimum wage with regard to hourly wages and per diem wages for school crossing guards.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Bethea	X			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Council President Edwards	X			

**ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCES ____ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY
OF BRIDGETON WITH RESPECT TO SEWER RATES AND CHARGES
FOR INDUSTRIAL USAGE**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Feinstein the ordinance be introduced on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on September 17, 2019.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Bethea	X			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Council President Edwards	X			

President Edwards announced one (1) ordinance for second reading:

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY APPROVING \$1,250,000 TO FUND AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF THE CITY TO FINANCE THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF THE BRIDGETON MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY AND TO FUND THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY RIGHTS OF CLAIMANTS THERETO AND THEREBY PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION BY AND TO THE CITY OF ALL PROPERTIES AND ASSETS OF THE PORT AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,250,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF.

It was moved by Councilman Bethea 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 unanimously.

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 Councilman Bethea and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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
Councilman Bethea	X			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Feinstein	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Council President Edwards	X			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 19-12** 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 Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Bethea 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. Tom Martin voiced his concerns about Ordinance J-3, noting the ordinance is not consistent with prior ordinances that date back to 2006, he suggested it be reviewed and updated. He then questioned the CCUA increases vs the increase the city is proposing.

Police Chief Gaimari clarified an issue discussed at the last meeting regarding recent police activity on Nichols Street, he noted the City Police Department was strictly assisting the Prosecutors office and the State Police in their investigation.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded 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-21 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. 172-19 authorizing the release of escrow with respect to Feng Zhang (A-A Laundromat)

RESOLUTION NO. 173-19 to adjust tax accounts for senior citizen addbacks

RESOLUTION NO. 174-19 to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Garfield Avenue Pedestrian Sidewalks.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-19 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton amending Resolution 05-19 designating an additional investment group for the City of Bridgeton for the year 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 176-19 authorizing filing an application with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding under the FY 2019 Local Justice Assistance Grant Program and authorizing a shared services agreement between the City of Vineland, City of Millville, City of Bridgeton and County of Cumberland for such funding

RESOLUTION NO. 177-19 requesting approval for the insertion of a special item of revenue for the 2019 Drive Sober Labor Day Crackdown Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 178-19 requesting approval for the insertion of a special item of revenue funded through the Interlocal agreement for the Cc-Thrive Pop-Up Play Streets with the County of Cumberland

RESOLUTION NO. 179-19 consenting to the proposed Lower Delaware Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan Amendment and Cumberland County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) for the Downe Township Municipal chapter and County Septic Management Plan WMP Components

RESOLUTION NO. 180-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a renewal contract to Garrison Enterprises, Inc. for emergency water and sewer systems for year three (3)

RESOLUTION NO. 181-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a renewal contract to Complete Control Services, Inc. for maintenance and repair services to the City of Bridgeton Water and Sewer Department SCADA System for year three (3)

RESOLUTION NO. 182-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a contract to GPM Associates an Advanced GeoServices Company for water system engineering services

RESOLUTION NO. 183-19 authorizing a contract Change Order No. 2 for Ricky Slade Construction, Inc. for additional clearing operations approved by the NJDEP at the Bridgeton Landfill closure

RESOLUTION NO. 184-19 authorizing contracts with certain approved State contract vendors for contracting units pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-12, county co-op vendors approved by the County of Cumberland for use by municipalities pursuant to NJAC 5:34-7.29, and National co-op vendors approved by the State for the use by municipalities pursuant to PL 2011, c.139

RESOLUTION NO. 185-19 extending the grace period to pay third quarter 2019 tax and solid waste bills

RESOLUTION NO. 186-19 authorizing the sale of certain property owned by the City of Bridgeton known as block 138, lot 10, 61 Ellis Street

RESOLUTION NO. 187-19 authorizing the execution of an emergency contract between the City of Bridgeton and A. C. Schultes, Inc. for emergency repairs for well #19 in an amount not to exceed \$39,840.00

RESOLUTION NO. 188-19 authorizing utility account adjustments and taxes

RESOLUTION NO. 189-19 authorizing the city to advertise for water main improvements

RESOLUTION NO. 190-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a contract to George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc and Miracle Chemical Company for water treatment chemicals to the City of Bridgeton Water Department for one (1) year with an option to renew for two (2) years

RESOLUTION NO. 191-19 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to Award a contract to EB Fence, LLC for fencing materials and installation for the dog park in the amount not to exceed \$37,167.66

RESOLUTION NO. 192-19 authorizing municipal partnership agreement with the County of Cumberland as part of a joint application for opportunity zone challenge grant funding from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Bethea 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 August 6, 2019 in the amount of \$4,274,802.71, and August 20, 2019 in the amount of \$765,175.64.

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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 schedules may be found in the minute books.

President Edwards announced five (5) reports for approval.

1. Monthly Treasurers Report June 2019
2. 2019 2nd Quarter Budget Report
3. Monthly Cash Receipts Report July 2019
4. Police Department Report 2nd Quarter 2019
5. Municipal Clerk Monthly Report July2019

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

President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for comments: None at this time.

President Edwards called upon Council for comments.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio – None at this time

Councilman Feinstein –None at this time.

Councilman Bethea – clarified for the record he is a non-voting treasurer for the CCUA. He requested Councilmembers be notified when outside law enforcement entities are in the city in force as it alarms the residents. Police Chief Gaimari stated if he can give information out without jeopardizing any investigations he certainly will. Councilman Bethea also requested notification of utility work and/or road closures commencing, and acknowledged the stonework being done on the wall on Commerce Street. Lastly, he continues to commend the first responders; Police, Fire, EMS, and Public Works who do an outstanding job.

Councilman Gonzalez – was pleased with the turnout at a recent church community event, and to see the interest children had in the fire trucks and other equipment there. He also suggested the city have music in the park namely Sunset Lake area and utilize the amphitheater.

President Edwards – thanked everyone for coming out to the meetings, and Mr. Tom Martin for bringing his concerns to the attention of the council. He spoke of the Play Streets Program and what a great event it is. Lastly, President Edwards spoke of the future use of reusable bags and the necessity of such.

President Edwards announced Council will now convene into Executive Session after which the council meeting will resume in public to continue the regular portion of the meeting.

President Edwards read **RESOLUTION NO. 193-19**; 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 – Scurry v City of Bridgeton

Upon a motion by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Gonzalez the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session at 6:18pm. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. Council left the dais to convene into Executive Session.

With a motion by Councilman Bethea and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 6:26pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

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

President Edwards adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards, Council President

Date Approved: September 17, 2019