

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 2019**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 1, 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 called upon Mayor Kelly for his presentation, “The Importance of the Census and its effect on our City.” The Mayor stated the City is a ‘hard to count’ community with less than 70% answering or participating in the last census, he further spoke of the importance of the census and finished with announcing the next Census 2020 meeting will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2pm at the Cumberland County College.

President Edwards presented the City Council Meeting Minutes, and Executive Session Minutes of September 17, 2019. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 – announced a fund raiser for the library October 21<sup>st</sup> at Green Olive.

Councilman Feinstein – said he did an extensive review of the Personnel Policy.

Councilman Bethea – said the second joint meeting with the Bridgeton Board of Education is still tentatively scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>, he asked Council and Administration to please keep it on your calendars. He then spoke of the recent audit review he and President Edwards attended, he thanked the CFO and Administration for their time also.

Councilman Gonzalez – None at this time

Council President Edwards –said the Finance Office and Administration did a great job with the audit process.

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

Business Administrator – referenced information she sent to Council regarding the Water Charges.

Mayor Kelly – spoke of code violations at Burlington Manor and the work the Code Enforcement Department has been doing, he said residents must file complaints with the Code Office. The Mayor distributed a handout to council showing recent violations, and the status of such. Councilman Bethea questioned the turn-around time of the violations with regard to notification to the complex, and the abatement of them. Mayor Kelly then noted the entry gate has been fixed, a license plate reader installed, tree removal and clean ups done, and heating boiler units were replaced through a decision at the corporate level. Lastly Mayor Kelly said he has been in contact with the Governor regarding the missing child, the Governor has voiced his concerns and offered all resources he has to the city. He then spoke of the recent bridge project in the park, noting Public Works Supervisor Dellaquila and Development & Planning Director Rabago were acknowledged by the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce for their help.

Solicitor – None at this time.

President Edwards announced one (1) ordinance for first reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 18-11 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS**

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 October 15, 2019.

**The Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilman Bethea	<b>X</b>			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Feinstein	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez	<b>X</b>			
Council President Edwards	<b>X</b>			

President Edwards announced three (3) ordinances for second reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF  
ANDREWS AVENUE**

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

Ms. Darla LaSure asked why the vacation is needed, what is it for? Mr. Rabago of Development & Planning explained the new county prison to be built. Ms. LaSure voiced her concerns with being “sandwiched” between two prisons, and the possible reduction in the assessed value of her home.

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

It was then moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Bethea 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:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilman Bethea	<b>X</b>			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Feinstein	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez	<b>X</b>			
Council President Edwards	<b>X</b>			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 19-15** the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF  
GARDNER AVENUE**

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilman Bethea 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 Gonzalez and second by Councilman Bethea the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilman Bethea 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:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilman Bethea	<b>X</b>			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Feinstein	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez	<b>X</b>			
Council President Edwards	<b>X</b>			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 19-16** the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$800,000 FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE CITY HALL ANNEX BUILDING IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$760,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

It was moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Gonzalez 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 Councilman Gonzalez the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Gonzalez 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:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilman Bethea	<b>X</b>			
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Feinstein	<b>X</b>			
Councilman Gonzalez	<b>X</b>			
Council President Edwards	<b>X</b>			

President Edwards declared the ordinance adopted becoming **ORDINANCE NO. 19-17** 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 Gonzalez 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.

Ms. Dolores Batten – spoke of the upcoming census and its importance, she asked how everyone can be accounted for in the city, and voiced her concerns for the missing child in the city.

Ms. Linda McFadden – Library Director, spoke of the Library’s involvement with the census, and announced upcoming events at the library for the month of October.

Mr. Tom Martin voiced his dismay with the Railroad Spur Leasing Auction, and what he considers flaws in the city ordinance. He also spoke of resolution M-7 regarding Quiet Title Action on former Municipal Port Authority properties.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Feinstein 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-9 with M-6 and M-8 being removed, and M-9 added 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. 205-19** certifying the 2018 Annual Audit

**RESOLUTION NO. 206-19** authorizing the execution of an emergency contract between the City of Bridgeton and A. C. Schultes, Inc. for emergency repairs to well pump no. two

**RESOLUTION NO. 207-19** accepting the Corrective Action Plan for the CY2018 Audit as presented by the Chief Financial Officer

**RESOLUTION NO. 208-19** amending the 2019 Capital Budget of the City of Bridgeton for the Bridgeton Municipal Port Authority settlement

**RESOLUTION NO. 209-19** adopting the third edition of the City of Bridgeton Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual

**RESOLUTION NO. 210-19** authorizing Quiet Title Action concerning former Bridgeton Municipal Port Authority Properties

**RESOLUTION NO. 211-19** authorizing sub-lease agreement between the City of Bridgeton and the Bridgeton Board of Education regarding firearms training facility

It was moved by Councilman Feinstein 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 October 1, 2019 in the amount of \$321,838.05.

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded 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 schedule may be found in the minute books.

President Edwards announced one (1) reports for approval.

#### 1. Vital Statistics Monthly Report August 2019

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Bethea 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 –spoke of the traveling Vietnam War Wall Memorial in Salem County, stating it was very emotional, and was visited by over ten thousand visitors. Councilwoman DeQuinzio said she has been selected to be on the Broad Street Student Leadership Council; she praised the school noting the caterpillar/butterfly and the community garden programs. Lastly Councilwoman DeQuinzio said she feels the city has passed the time allotted to award a contract for the solar panel project and is afraid the city could be sued for breach of contract.

Councilman Feinstein – said “Dulce” is out there somewhere and please continue to keep her in your prayers. He said the Vietnam War Wall Memorial will be in Buena October 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and urged everyone who has not seen it to go, it is very impressive.

Councilman Bethea – spoke of working for the census in the 1980’s, he is glad the Library has internet service available to those who need it to comply with the census. Councilman Bethea stated this is the beginning of the third week Dulce has been missing, and called for prayers to bring her back to her family safely. He spoke of the cloud this has put over the city; parents and children are frightened, and the work law enforcement is doing. Councilman Bethea said he is very proud of the city park, he hopes everyone continues their prayers and helps in any way they can. He thanked the Mayor, Administrator, and Code Enforcement for following up with the issues at Burlington Manor, and Administrator Bush-Baskette for her response to the water billing questions, and lastly praised the first responders and public works for continually doing an outstanding job.

Councilman Gonzalez –is very pleased to see the community’s passion and concern for the missing child, he noted area churches are holding prayer meetings for not only Dulce but for the city and the investigation. Councilman Gonzalez continued to praise all involved in the investigation and commended all law enforcement officers who continue to work diligently.

President Edwards – said he applauds everyone in the city for coming together to do all they can in the search for Dulce, and prays she comes home safely. He stated the library is in need of funds and is looking into what can be done to help. President Edwards said Mayor Kelly and Councilwomen DeQuinzio are being honored; Councilwoman DeQuinzio said the Hispanic Leadership Association of the NJ is honoring the Mayor for his work at Gateway and she is being honored as a community service worker October 19<sup>th</sup> at Rowen College. Lastly President Edwards thanked everyone for continually coming to council meetings.

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. 212-19**; 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. Public Safety – Police Chief Gaimari update.

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 6:50pm. 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 Councilman Gonzalez, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 7:23pm 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 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

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Kathleen L. Keen, RMC Municipal Clerk

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J. Curtis Edwards, Council President

Date Approved: October 15, 2019