

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MAY 2, 2017**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 2, 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 April 26, 2017, at 4:30 pm
2. By mailing such notice to The Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and The Press of Atlantic City on April 26, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Councilman Surrency.

The following answered to roll call:

Councilman Edwards

Councilman Spence

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Gladys Lugardo-Hemple

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Mayor Kelly regarding the CY2017 Budget. Mayor Kelly spoke of the power point presentation given when the budget was first introduced; noting the entire presentation is on the website for all to see, and shows the needs and goals of the departments for the future. He said the proposed budget has a .0525 tax rate increase which is equal to \$36.34 per year on the average assessed home in the city. At this time Comptroller Lake addressed council to review the budget. She explained funding had to be added for maintenance of aging infrastructure and older vehicles, due to no capital ordinances being approved. There is additional funding included above the minimum required for the library, and funding to support contractual severance requirements for employees at retirement and pension responsibilities. Existing capital funding is being used for the items in the capital plan and due to the emergencies last year at the Police Department for lightening and the water damage at the library totaling \$370,000 the city is required by law to raise in this year's budget.

Comptroller Lake then addressed Councilman Zapolski's concerns. She stated salary, wages, and operating expenses decreased from last year, though administrative operating expenses increased due to hiring a grant writer and city planner. The tax assessment operating expenses increased due to state tax court appeals, and housing salary and wages is due to union increases. She noted the police budget has not increased, and accumulated leave money must be budgeted for anticipated retirements and is needed to meet the obligation of the city.

Comptroller Lake spoke of the reserve for uncollected taxes, the tax collection rate, revenues in the city being lower, county and school taxes being increased which the city covers the uncollected portion of, and the cost of insurances. She said the budget is being funded with surplus, and the city has less of it than in the past. She stressed a tight budget has less surplus at the end of the year; thus not allowing it to build up to help in the future. Lastly she spoke of utility money being used to help fund the budget, allocating expenses to where they belong, and revenues being low. Council questioned some of the items discussed, Comptroller Lake explained and clarified for them. Mayor Kelly finished by saying the CFO is very capable and knowledgeable when it comes to putting together a budget. He spoke of the Economic Development Department and what they do for the city, noting they write and monitor grants, administer the Planning/Zoning Board, CDBG, and marketing. Lastly Mayor Kelly said Bridgeton is very different from Millville and Vineland, and they should not be compared. He feels the county needs to increase their contribution to the park, and he will speak with the school system for help also. Mayor Kelly said the city budget is lean, the services given to residents are worth the small increase.

Councilman Zapolski said the city needs to do an analysis and review to help with the budget in the future. He agrees the budget was cut to the “bare bones” and revenue is a problem for the city. He feels the city should not allow any projects that do not create a ratable within a five (5) year period. He suggested the city council finance committee participate in the budget processing and meetings. Councilman Spence said everyone did a great job working on the budget but it is frustrating not having money to work with, and nobody want to talk about cuts, furloughs, or layoffs. He suggested there be a group to sit down to work on the budget together. Councilman Edwards said everyone did a great job on the budget and Councilman Zapolski’s presentation was great, though he feels all information should have been distributed. Councilman Surrency said he had no comments at this time. President Lugardo-Hemple said she would like Councilman Zapolski to work with the Administrator and CFO starting in November to work on next years’ budget.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced RESOLUTION NO. 69-17 authorizing the CY2017 Budget be read by title only.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency the Resolution 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 announced this is the time for the Public Hearing on the CY2017 Budget.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Surrency that the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to any one desiring to be heard on the 2017 Municipal Budget only.

Mr. Mike Abbott said fees for use of the city parks should not be waived, many groups use the parks and do not pay anything, although the city pays the workers to maintain all of the parks.

Mr. Tom Martin questioned the adoption of the CY2017 budget being late. Comptroller Lake responded it is late, however the city is in compliance. He also spoke of Mr. Zapolski's presentation and urged council to start earlier next year.

No one else desiring to be heard it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Surrency that the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget be closed which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced RESOLUTION NO. 70-17 to adopt the Calendar Year 2017 Municipal Budget.

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards the Resolution 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 presented the City Council Meeting Minutes, Work Session Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 18, 2017.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and seconded by Councilman Surrency 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 one ordinance for second reading.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 251 PEACE AND GOOD ORDER SECTION 5. FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES**

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency 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 Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to the public for a hearing on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

No one desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency that the public portion be closed which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple closed the public portion.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency that 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 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			

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the ordinance adopted becoming ORDINANCE NO. 17-5, the original ordinance may be found in the Ordinance Book.

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 Edwards 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.

Mrs. Dolores Batten spoke of Mr. Warren Richmond, stating they were very close; she and her husband had lunch with Mr. Richmond on Tuesdays and Fridays, and took care of him toward the end. She urged council to respect, listen, and look out for one another. She said Mr. Richmond spoke very highly of Mr. Zapolski and Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple. Lastly reminded council you do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Mr. Steven Paul of Bridgeton Main Street spoke of the does & don'ts pamphlet and surveying store owners in the downtown. He said 32 businesses were surveyed and most did not have a website, therefore people don't know what downtown Bridgeton has to offer. He is

hopeful social media will help. Lastly Mr. Paul spoke of upstairs living, noting most of the business owners are not aware of this.

Ms. Rosemary DiQuinzio Chair of the Free Public Library said a new Library Director has been hired, as well as an Assistant Director. A grant was applied for "World War I and America" a traveling show that is only in two (2) cities in the state, Bridgeton and Hoboken. She spoke of events at the Library through the end of May and handed out a schedule.

Mr. Mike Abbott said tune in Saturday at 11am to 92.1 Radio. Representatives from the Bridgeton City Police Department will be on the air. The idea of the show is to help the police help the city. He said he will take no adversary calls.

Ms. Carmen Sanchez said she recently moved to the area and lives near Burlington Manor. She is concerned for her safety with the shootings and drug dealings in the area. She would like a more secure fence put up by the owners of Burlington Manor.

Mayor Kelly said he and Police Chief Gaimari have spoken with representatives of Burlington Manor and other apartment complexes to be pro-active before this summer. Chief Gaimari noted the managers/owners have been very cooperative in the past, they put a camera system in which has helped a lot.

Ms. Mary Chan said code enforcement came to her home recently because her car was parked in her yard on the grass. She said there are many cars parked in yards throughout the city, and as a taxpayer she should be allowed to park in her own yard. Councilman Surrency said he also had an issue years ago for parking on his grass when he was waxing his car under a tree for shade. The Administrator responded there numerous complaints daily of cars parked in yards.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards 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 items J-1 through J-4, are considered routine and 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. 71-17 authorizing the purchase of electricity supply services for public use on an online auction website.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-17 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for procurement consultant services

RESOLUTION NO. 73-17 authorizing a coop agreement with National Joint Powers Alliance.

RESOLUTION NO. 74-17 approving the renewal of a liquor license held by El Rodeo Corp.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilman Surrency 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 asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills of May 2, 2017 in the amount of \$1,957,443.47.

It was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Edwards that the Schedule of Bills be approved 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 the following applications will be accepted as represented on the record as they will be modified subject to the Recreation Directors Approval.

1. Catering Permit – M. Arellano (Las Palmas) May 7<sup>th</sup> Cinco de Mayo Festival
2. Catering Permit – M. Arellano (Las Palmas) May 20, 21, 22 Softball Tournament

It was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Spence that said applications be approved which motion was carried and licenses granted subject to the Recreation Directors final approval.

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the following reports.

1. Zoning Board – 2014, 2015, 2016 Yearly Reports
2. Development & Planning Status Report April 2017
3. Tax Collectors Statement of Uncollectables

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

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Mayor Kelly for comments – None at this time.

President Lugardo-Hemple called upon Council for comments.

Councilman Zapolski said he would like to acknowledged and remember Mr. Warren Robinson, he was fortunate to have known him and been given an autographed copy of his book. He spoke of the budget, saying it is complex and takes time to study. He noted revenue is a problem for the city and it will not change unless something changes,

Councilman Edwards offered his condolences to the family of Mr. Warren Robinson, saying he only knew him for a short period but has fond memories of him.

Councilman Spence said he thinks the Mayors idea to honor Mr. Robinson and Mr. Kates is great, and noted the city previously honored Mr. Kates' brother at the zoo. He said Mr. Robinson was a big part of the city and he is honored every day.

Councilman Surrency said his thoughts are with the Robinson family; he remembers meeting Mr. Robinson before he was on city council, he was always a figure in the community. He then shared a memory of Mr. Robinson coming to council meetings and chastising council if they started late.

President Lugardo-Hemple stated a few people sent emails to the Mayor to honor Mr. Robinson and it is a good idea, she then spoke of two (2) books he gave her to read. She thanked Councilman Zapolski for his presentation on the budget and the CFO and BA for their work also. She said next year she wants a group to meet early to work on the budget. President Lugardo-Hemple finished by acknowledging each of the residents who spoke tonight, and thanking everyone who participated in the Autism Walk.

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilman Spence 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: \_\_\_\_\_