

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 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 Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia;

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 to the South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal on January 8, 2022 and on the City Website setting forth the date, time and place of this meeting of the Bridgeton City Council.

Invocation and flag salute was led by Mayor Kelly.

**The following answered to roll call:**

Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio  
Councilman J. Curtis Edwards  
Councilwoman Marian King  
Council President Edward Bethea

**ABSENT** Councilman David Gonzalez

**Also in attendance:**

Mayor Albert Kelly  
Solicitor Michele Gibson

Administrator Kevin Rabago  
Deputy Clerk Miriam Garcia

**MINUTES:**

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2022. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

Council President Bethea requested Council/Committee Liaison Reports:

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio**—stated that she is working with the Library Director putting together a three year plan and hopefully it can be presented.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio-stated she also meet with the Housing regarding a few ideas and that she will keep everyone posted.

**Councilman Edwards** –gave an update on a few projects going on that the moment from the Recreation department. He stated that the new youth Coordinator John Fuqua is developing a game plan for youth sports activity for spring and summer. He also stated that Mr. Fuqua is creating a youth soccer during the summer as well.

Councilman Edwards- thanked Melissa Hemple for sharing the update.

Council Edwards-also gave an update on the zoo going under some season repairs after glass was shattered last year in November. Door has been replaced and new roof was just completed.

**Councilwoman King** – met with the Housing Authority in regards to the parade and future planning and she will update everyone.

**Council President Bethea** –stated he would like to get a full list of teachers of the year for Cherry Street School.

Council President Bethea-directed Mayor Kelly to obtain that list to be announce at the next Council meeting an also to announce a joint meeting with the school board and Council. He stated he would like to do it once or twice every year.

**Council President Bethea referred to the Business Administrator, Mayor, and Solicitor for their reports.**

**Mayor Kelly** – stated he was invited to a meeting March 1<sup>st</sup> with the school board about the new school versus the jail on Buckshutem Road.

Mayor Kelly- stated that he is opposing a new jail at that site.

Mayor Kelly commented we need a new school rather than a new jail

Council President Bethea stated that he had the impression that the prison decision was finalized on that site and questioned if it was back on the table.

Mayor Kelly- responded that his understanding is that the Commission Board are pushing for a new jail on that site.

Mayor Kelly- received a call from the Governor's office concerning early release of inmates.

Mayor Kelly-commented that he is pushing for information concerning inmates that are coming back to our City.

Mayor Kelly- Discussed information about the Single-Use Plastic Ban that goes in effect very soon.

Mayor Kelly- spoke to the school system in reference to the poster contest, poster contest are due March 4, 2022.

Mayor Kelly-commented on the ATV and Dirt bikes and how he is working with Police Chief Gaimari to see what can be done to get these dirt bikes off the streets.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago** – acknowledge officers Martorana, Keener and officer Giacomelli for their quick action on the scene involving a shooting of a 11 year old.

**City Solicitor, Michele Gibson** – None at this time.

**ORDINANCES ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:**

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on March 1, 2022.

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

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

**ORDINANCES ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING:**

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinances for Second Reading. He asked the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 22-05**

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 149-14 OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON CODE PERTAINING TO DOG AND CAT LICENSE AND RELATED FEES.**

It was moved by Councilwoman Dequinizio and second by Councilman Edwards 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.

Council President Bethea 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 King the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.



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

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard. It was moved by Councilman Edwards motioned and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio the public portion be opened.

Alan Truskowski-spoke on the consent agenda with additional redevelopment agreement and stated it will be an opportunity for them to work together. Alan commented about the cannabilities and that Gary will be the anchor for the redevelopment project that he is working on.

Gary Gershuny-commented that he has been working with Alan for a few months on the incubator and that they are going to apply for a licensure on that property to set up a training program to allow the incubator. He stated he has 4 years of owning and running three cultivation in California.

Carl Seabrook-thanked Council Edwards for doing what he said he was going to do with complete care.

Carl Seabrook-discussed if lines can be put back in place where kids cross every day. He stated that there is no line crossing on Matthew way.

Police Chief Gaimari-receive calls on the new bar on Burlington Road and 49 being open prematurely. Police Chief Gaimari stated that it was discussed with Administrator Kevin Rabago about the business and what needs to be taken care of prior to opening.

Police Chief Gaimari-stated problems with the jail. Jail is closing every night due to lack of personnel.

Coordinator of Southeast Gateway neighborhood-spoke about the annual clean up on March 25, 2022 and that flyers are available.

Coordinator of Southeast Gateway neighborhood-stated that they are thinking of getting a billboard to get resident to participate on the annual clean up.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the public portion be closed, which motion was carried. Council President Bethea closed the public portion of the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council President Bethea announced all matters listed under the consent agenda; M-1 through M-8 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.

Council President Bethea called upon the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions M-1 through M-6 and indicated that M-7 and M-8 will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately

**RESOLUTION. 31-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing up to five (5) monthly Mobile Food Vending Agreements per month with mobile food vendors to operate at Block 124 Lots 1 & 2 and/or approved locations within Bridgeton City Park during 2022.

**RESOLUTION. 32-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing Rights-of-Way Use Agreement with Cross River Fiber, LLC.

**RESOLUTION. 33-22** authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Renewal Contract to Marlee Contractors, LLC for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Maintenance and Repairs Services to the City of Bridgeton Public Works/Public Buildings for the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) year.

**RESOLUTION. 34-22** amending Resolution No. 323-21 authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award the Professional Service of Municipal Prosecutor and authorizing the Professional Service Agreement for the CY 2022.

**RESOLUTION. 35-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and directing the Bridgeton Planning Board to prepare a parcel-specific Hope VI Redevelopment Plan Amendment for Block 103 Lot 64.

**RESOLUTION 36-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton expressing support for Cannabilities, LLC to be part of proposed Cannabis Incubator on Block 189 Lots 3.03 and 3.04.

Council President Bethea asked Council for any comments. There were no comments from Council.

Council President Bethea asked for a motion to accept the resolutions under the consent agenda.

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilman Edwards that Resolutions M-1 through M-6 be adopted which motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.

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



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

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 37-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton designating Royal Dynastics as Conditional Redeveloper for Block 71 Lot 2 aka 467 Bank St. and authorizing the City of Bridgeton to negotiate a Redevelopment Agreement and Purchase/Sale Agreement with Royal Dynastics, LLC.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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.

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

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

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 38-22** of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting Veteran or Widow of Veteran Tax Exemption (25 Dare Avenue).

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

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

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

**SCHEDULE OF BILLS:**

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated February 15, 2022 in the amount of \$1,869,296.94. It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio 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.

## **REPORTS:**

Council President Bethea announced there were two (7) reports for approval.

1. Clerk's Monthly Report – December 2021
2. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – January 2022
3. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – December 2021
4. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – January 2022
5. Treasurer's Monthly Report – January 2022
6. Clerk's Quarterly Resident ID Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021
7. Clerk's Monthly Report – January 2022

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman Dequinzio that said applications be approved and filed, which motion carried unanimously.

### **Council President Bethea called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:**

**Mayor Kelly** – Not at this time

### **Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:**

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio** – not at this time.

**Councilwoman King**- not at this time.

**Councilman Edwards**- requested that we keep the Gould family and Hadley family in our prayers. He stated that this family has done a lot for this city.

Councilman Edwards- agreed with Mr. Seabrook about the sidewalks and we need to make sure that the kids on the sidewalks get to their destination.

Council Edwards-stated as far as trash we need to make sure we get as many people out there as we can because trash is a major concern to the people in our community. He stated we need to start hitting people pockets with fines.

**Council President Bethea**-expressed his concern about the prison released programs especially for Bridgeton Cumberland County.

Council President Bethea- stated he is not too thrilled about more prison days in Bridgeton.

Council President Bethea- stated City wide cleanup is March the 25, 2022. He stated we need to get more people to participate from the neighborhood and as well around the City.



Council President Bethea-asked Councilwoman DeQuinzio if she can work with Administration to take a look at the fines that we have in our Ordinance and proposed something a little different so that we can send a clear message.

Council President Bethea thanked all 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works and all Civil Servants for their outstanding jobs for the citizens.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council President Bethea announced that Council will convene into Executive Session after which the Council Meeting will resume in public to continue the regular portion of the meeting.

Council President Bethea read **RESOLUTION NO. 39-22**; 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. Riverfront Café Agreement-contracts**

Upon a motion by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and second by Councilwoman King the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. Council left the dais to convene into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**


With a motion by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, seconded by Councilwoman King, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

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

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

  
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Miriam Garcia, Deputy Municipal Clerk

  
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Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 3/1/2022