

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

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 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 Acting Council President Edwards.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Municipal Clerk, Nichole Almanza;

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.

Flag Salute and invocation was led by Councilman Gonzalez.

**The following answered to roll call:**

Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio  
Councilman J. Curtis Edwards  
Councilman David Gonzalez  
Councilwoman Marian King

**ABSENT** – Council President Edward Bethea

**Also in attendance:**

Mayor Albert Kelly  
Solicitor Michele Gibson

Administrator Kevin Rabago  
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

**Acting Council President Edwards stated that the Agenda needs to be moved around to allow some more of the family of the promotions to appear.**

**MINUTES:**

Acting Council President Edwards presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2022 and Executive Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2022. It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez 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:**

Acting Council President Edwards requested Council/Committee Liaison Reports:

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio** – None at this time.

**Councilwoman King** – None at this time.

**Councilman Gonzalez** – None at this time.

**Acting Council President Edwards** – None at this time.

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

**Mayor Kelly** – Discussed the upcoming ban on plastic and foam containers and bags on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for their prayers while he was in the hospital.

Mayor Kelly stated that on March 13, 2022 the prison early released 262 inmates. He continued that at least 12 of them were released within Bridgeton. He discussed trying to receive names of these inmates so the Police Department can be informed.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago** – None at this time.

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Police Department – *Promotions/Swearing In Ceremony***

Police Chief Michael Gaimari provided employment backgrounds for each of the promotions. He also acknowledged their hard work and dedication to the City. Mayor Kelly provided oaths for all promotions.

**Acting Council President Edwards stated that the second Presentation tonight was running late and will be held later tonight.**

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

Acting Council President Edwards announced there as one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING  
SECTION 284-4 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO FEES FOR RESIDENT  
IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on April 5, 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:**

Acting Council President Edwards announced there were no Ordinances for Second Reading.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

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

Alan Trzuskoski gave an updated on his Cannabis Incubator business. He discussed the possibility of working with others interested in coming to Bridgeton.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue stated he was happy to see everyone tonight. He discussed the need of walking spaces on South Avenue for children walking to school. He also suggested a playground for the area.

Mayor Kelly stated that he and Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago are looking into turning the Tin Can property into a City Park. Mayor Kelly also stated that Rowan College Cumberland County Campus is looking to start providing cannabis classes.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acting Council President Edwards announced all matters listed under the consent agenda; M-1 through M-7 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.

Acting Council President Edwards called upon the Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 57-22**, authorizing the City to advertise for City of Bridgeton Standby Power Generators Preventative Maintenance and Repair (June 2022 – June 2025).

**RESOLUTION NO. 58-22**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Change to Resolution 303-21, the NFAO Contract with Bianco Security Systems, Inc., to purchase upgraded cellular devices for twenty-five (25) units for the City of Bridgeton City Wide Fire and Burglar Alarm Systems for an amount not to exceed \$7,225.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 59-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of the 2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant for motorized scooters for use by disabled and elderly visitors to the Cohanzick Zoo.

**RESOLUTION NO. 60-22**, authorizing the Release of Performance Bond with respect to Wawa Food Market.

**RESOLUTION NO. 61-22**, authorizing contracts with certain approved State Contract Vendors for contracting units pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, County Co-Op Vendors approved by the County of Cumberland for use by municipalities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29, and National Co-Op Vendors approved by the State for use by municipalities pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 139.

**RESOLUTION NO. 62-22**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Valerie Smith on her retirement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 63-22**, authorizing a Contract Change Order No. #2 for Charles Marandino, LLC for reduction of final quantities for the Reconstruction of Existing Brick Sidewalks Laurel Street Phase I for a decrease of \$3,502.55 and the final closeout amount of \$410,961.85.

Acting Council President Edwards asked Council for any comments. There were no comments from Council.

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

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that Resolutions M-1 through M-7 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>

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Code Enforcement – *Retirement of Valerie Smith***

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago gave some employment background of Ms. Valerie Smith. He shared some fond memories between the two of them over the years working together. Mayor Kelly acknowledged Valerie's dedication to the City and to her job. Mayor Kelly read the details of Resolution No. 62-22.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio wished Ms. Smith luck in the future and stated that that it was a pleasure working with her over the years.

Councilwoman King stated that Council needed to make sure that she was honored for all that she has done and wished her well.

Councilman Gonzalez acknowledged her honesty and due diligence. He continued that he hopes others will carry on her example. He stated it is a pleasure to know her.

Councilman Edwards congratulated Ms. Smith on 37 years with the City. He stated he hopes that she enjoys retirement and some relaxation.

## **SCHEDULE OF BILLS:**

Acting Council President Edwards asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated March 15, 2022 in the amount of \$1,229,875.86. 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:**

Acting Council President Edwards announced there were three (3) reports for approval.

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – February 2022
2. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – February 2022
3. Tax Collector's Annual Statement of Receipts – CY2021

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

### **Acting Council President Edwards called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:**

**Mayor Kelly** – Stated that he will be having a meeting with NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) regarding a possible park at the old Tin Can and will provide an update to Council.

**Acting Council President Edwards called upon Council for comments:**

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio-** Stated it is always a pleasure to see Mr. Seabrook and thanked him.

**Councilwoman King-** Asked for prayers for Ukraine, Russia and all of the countries taking in refugees. She continued that we are all grateful, thankful and blessed that it is not here.

**Councilman Gonzalez –** Stated it is good to be here tonight and thanked everyone for the continued prayers. He stated that he suffered a stroke two weeks ago which left him unable to walk or move. Councilman Gonzalez stated that every day is a gift and sometimes it is easy for us to take life for granted.

Councilman Gonzalez congratulated Valerie Smith on her retirement and expressed that the City has loss one of its greatest workers.

**Acting Council President Edwards –** Welcomed back Mayor Kelly, Councilwoman DeQuinzio and Councilman Gonzalez.

Councilman Edwards asked questions Police Chief Gaimari regarding promotions and vacancies. Chief Gaimari explained that there is currently one recruit in the academy. He continued that the City will be in need when the next list comes out and that the next academy starts in August.

Councilman Edwards stated that he is having a meeting set up with the Recreation Department to speak about the football fields and parking lot. He continued that there is a groundhog problem right now.

Councilman Edwards provided best wishes to Valerie Smith on her retirement and best wishes to all that received promotions tonight.

Councilman Edwards stated that he visited Broad Street School for “Read Across America” and got to read to students.

Councilman Edwards stated that he is happy to hear that the Tin Can location may become something again. He added that the location holds a lot of memories for Bridgeton residents.

Councilman Edwards stated that the City should take the information provided by Mr. Seabrook tonight regarding the safety of children walking to school and see what options the City has.

**A resident entered the meeting stating she ran late but would like to speak to Council. Acting Council President Edwards allowed her to address Council with her concerns.**

Ms. Andrea Gillis of Cohansey Street explained that she is concerned with the materials being used on recent paving jobs. She continued that whether it is a patch job or a whole road repaving, the work is not holding up as long as it should be. She added that new paved roads should last a lot longer than they are.

Ms. Gillis stated that the sweeper has not come around Cohansey Street for a while and is in desperate need of same.

Ms. Gillis stated that there is a need for the Substation to come out during the week on Cohansey Street. Police Chief Gaimari responded that it was out of commission and the Department just received it back. He added that he will have Cohansey Street listed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Acting Council President Edwards adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:16 p.m.

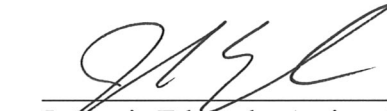
Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED



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Nichole Almanza, Municipal Clerk



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J. Curtis Edwards, Acting Council President

Date Approved: 4/5/2022

