

BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2022

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 17, 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 Council President Bethea.

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.

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
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

PRESENTATIONS:

LAEDA (Latin American Economic Development Association) – UEZ Services

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago explained that the UEZ program is getting back up and running. He discussed the need of a full time Coordinator to help revitalize the business community. Mr. Rabago continued that recruitment and projects will be needed and discussed the idea of bringing LAEDA in to assist.

Ray Lamboy of LAEDA provided a handout with background information of the organization which has been running for 35 years. Mr. Lamboy discussed LAEDA's strategy of growing a marketplace, build businesses, and building the marketplace which results in increased economic opportunity, jobs and tax base.

Mr. Lamboy discussed the success in other towns such as Camden, New Jersey. He continued that the strategy is to follow a Main Street program to help develop a strategic plan to revitalize downtown.

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2022 and Executive Minutes of May 3, 2022. It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King 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 – None at this time.

Councilman Edwards – None at this time.

Councilwoman King – Stated that the Housing Authority is looking to have improvements done at complexes.

Council President Bethea – Spoke of Economic Development and how he would like to utilize UEZ funds in the Central Business District.

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

Mayor Kelly – Spoke of a Bill regarding energy tax receipts.

Mayor Kelly stated that Jeff Van Drew has written a letter to the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection asking for the culvert to be prepared quickly.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago – None at this time.

City Solicitor, Michele Gibson – None at this time.

ORDINANCES ON 1ST READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were three (3) Ordinances for First Reading. He stated that J-3 would be pulled from the Agenda at this time leaving only two Ordinance for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinances.

ORDINANCE DECLARING AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR DIRT BIKE OPERATED ON A PUBLIC STREET, HIGHWAY OR RIGHT OF WAY IN VIOLATION OF N.J.S.A. 39:3C-17 AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE AND DESIGNATING SUCH VEHICLES AS CONTRABAND SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on June 7, 2022.

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the CY2022 Municipal Budget which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to anyone desiring to be heard on the CY2022 Municipal Budget only.

With no one desiring to be heard it was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that the public hearing on the CY2022 Municipal Budget be closed, which carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea announced **RESOLUTION NO. 102-22** amending the CY2022 Municipal Budget.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that the Resolution be adopted.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

Council President Bethea announced **RESOLUTION NO. 103-22** adopting the CY2022 Municipal Budget.

It was moved by Councilwoman King and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that the Resolution be adopted.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

Mr. Lamboy stated that the cost to the City would be \$102,000.00. Councilwoman King stated that current merchants need education. She continued that we need ground breaking work and not just words.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated that she agrees. She continued that the Main Street program has been shaded. She encouraged a Hispanic Merchant Association be created instead.

Councilman Edwards stated he would like to see money go towards businesses instead. He stated that he likes what LAEDA has to offer but does not want to see Main Street included.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago explained that the funding in this proposal has nothing to do with Main Street Association. He continued that the framework of the program is used as a way to revive the model correctly.

Council President Bethea asked what cities they have worked in. Mr. Lamboy answered with Camden and Atlantic City. Council President Bethea asked about demographics of nationalities. Mr. Lamboy stated African women, African men and Latino men.

Mr. Lamboy stated that LAEDA would go door-to-door to help create a database of businesses in the downtown area.

Mr. Lamboy stated that he will play a smaller role but will be involved in planning. He continued that a Higher Coordinator and a Counselor will be assigned just to Bridgeton.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Council President Bethea announced **RESOLUTION NO. 101** allowing the CY2022 Budget to be read by title only.

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilman Edwards that the Resolution be adopted.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

Council President Bethea announced this is the time and place set forth for the Public Hearing of the CY2022 Municipal Budget.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE AND DISPENSING OF GASOLINE OR OTHER TYPE OF FUEL INTO THE FUEL TANK OF AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR DIRT BIKE WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF N.J.S.A. 39:3C-17 AND DRIVEN TO SUCH FUELING STATION UNDER ITS OWN POWER

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that the Ordinance be introduced on first reading and that the second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on June 7, 2022.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

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

ORDINANCES ON 2ND READING:

Council President Bethea announced there were two (2) Ordinances for Second Reading. He asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 22-13

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 203, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 203-5 AND 203-20 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO LITTERING BY PERSONS AND VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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.

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 King and second by Councilman Edwards the public hearing be closed which motion was carried.

It was then moved by Councilwoman King 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
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez				X
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

ORDINANCE 22-14

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING CHAPTER 110 OF THE CITY CODE TO ALLOW FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS INCUBATOR IN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON

It was moved by Councilman Edwards 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.

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 Councilman Edwards 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:

COUNCIL	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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 Councilwoman King motioned and seconded by Councilman Edwards the public portion be opened.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey stated that the passing of Ordinance J-2 is one of the last items to allow him to close on the real estate for his business. He stated that he took the contact information from LAEDA. He stated that he also has been speaking with a Miss Jones from Volunteers of America to possibly help with reentry programs.

Carl Seabrook of Baltimore Avenue stated there is a need for school signs along Baltimore Avenue, Sharp and South Avenue. He continued that he would like to see a place for the neighborhood children to be able to play safely.

Charles Wynder, John Fuqua and Marty Sherwood discussed an ATV event that they held last year with the permission and help of the City. They would like to have another this year on August 13, 2022. Mr. Fuqua discussed ideas that Baltimore area has used such as blocking off areas to have a controlled location for ATV riders. Mr. Sherwood stated that would ultimately like to hold a three day event but they need more land and room to prosper. Mr. Fuqua discussed Mr. Wynder and Mr. Sherwood making a Ride Club to help get these riders registered. Mr. Fuqua provide a couple locations that could be considered to allow them to hold these events.

Esau Martin and Josue Ruiz discussed the American Littoral Society and Excel Program holding Civic Engagement Day on June 22nd and asked Council to come and speak regarding the Semi-Annual Clean-ups.

John Morris of Coral Avenue stated that the Bridgeton Midget Football field is in need of desperate help. He discussed the importance of having the program running full force in order to give kids something to do and keep them off the streets. He would like to come up with a plan to help the City get this done.

John Fuqua discussed while at the Car Show this past weekend a rival baseball Coach was shocked to see how far gone the fields are. Mr. Fuqua stated that he has joined the County Committee to see if there is any funding that could be available.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Edwards 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 Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 104-22, authorizing a Contract Change Order No. 1 for a reduction of \$130.30 to Ricky Slade Construction Inc. for the 2020 Road Restoration and Re-Paving Program to adjust for the as-built quantities now being known.

RESOLUTION NO. 105-22, authorizing a Contract Change Order No. 1 for additional tree removal for the NJTTF Reconstruction of Westwood Avenue and Various Locations Project for an increase of \$6,000.00 to Ricky Slade Construction, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 106-22, of the City council of the City of Bridgeton imposing liens on various properties for remediation of certain code violations impacting public safety, health or welfare April 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 107-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing refund of a Solar Permit Fee to Trinity Solar.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to appoint Matthew J. Behr, Esq. of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Coggin, P.C. as Special Counsel for complex litigation from June 2, 2022 – June 1, 2023 as a Non-Fair and Open (NFAO) Contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton approving Subordination of Financial Agreement for AH Preservation Urban Renewal, LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 110-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing agreement with the Cohansey Soccer Club for use of two (2) soccer fields in Bridgeton City Park pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-22 et. seq.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton agreeing to continue in a Consortium with Vineland, Millville, Fairfield Township, and Pittsgrove Township for the purpose of receiving Home Investment Partnership Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio that Resolutions M-1 through M-8 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:

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

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

Council President Bethea asked Council for a motion to approve the Schedule of Bills dated May 17, 2022 in the amount of \$317,989.67. 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.

APPLICATIONS:

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) application for approval being:

1. Block Off Street Application – Josue Ruiz-Ramirez – Gateway Community Action Partnership- UNITY Day – September 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Babe Ruth Street.

It was moved by Councilwoman DeQuinzio and seconded by Councilwoman King that said application be approved and filed, which motion carried with unanimously with Council President Bethea abstaining.

REPORTS:

Council President Bethea announced there were four (4) reports for approval.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – April 2022
2. Tax Collector's Cash Receipt Totals – April 2022
3. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – April 2022
4. Clerk's Monthly Report – April 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- Discussed the LAEDA presentation.

She stated it was nice to see Mr. Seabrook.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated we need to come up with a solution for the football fields.

Councilwoman King- Thanked Mr. Wynder, Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Fuqua for coming to Council again asking to work with the City.

Councilwoman King discussed the signage issue that Mr. Seabrook spoke of and asked if this would be something that would actually come from the School Board.

Councilwoman King discussed the football fields. She stated that the program is outstanding and works off the dedication of volunteers. She continued that more need to be involved to help it be self-sufficient.

Councilman Edwards – Asked Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago if he can provide staffing statistics for both the Police Department and Fire Department (ex: staff shortages).

Thanked John Fuqua for putting together the Car Show.

Councilman Edwards discussed last year's event were the City blocked off a street for ATV riders and stated that he would be in favor of having it again. He stated that he will look into the Baltimore ideas that Mr. Fuqua discussed earlier.

Councilman Edwards thanked Mr. Trzuskoski and Mr. Seabrook for coming to the meeting.

Councilman Edwards discussed the various housing complexes and the need to stay on top of them regarding upkeep such as paint, banisters, etc. He stated specifically that Burlington Manor needs to be looked at.

Councilman Edwards stated that there are a few donations coming for the football fields. He stated that the area in whole needs to be looked at including the parking lot.

Council President Bethea – Provided a Resolution to Councilman Edwards that was adopted at the last meeting during his absence regarding the ribbon cutting for CompleteCare. He continued that he hopes this opening helps motivate and inspire others downtown.

Council President Bethea stated that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. He encouraged everyone to reach out to professionals for help when needed. He spoke of incidents of shootings and loss of many innocent lives and the need for change.

Council President Bethea stated that this is Mary Jane Lake's last budget and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

Council President Bethea stated that Life Worth Living held an outstanding Car Show this past weekend.

Council President Bethea discussed the dirt bike event last year and stated that the effort was good. He stated that he did visit the last event held and hopes to continue to support it in the future. He stated that we need to work out details with the Administrator, Police Department and EMS. He continued that the right location needs to be decided.

Council President Bethea discussed the challenges of getting funding to fix the fields. He stated that quotes have been asked for regarding eh field, paving, striping, lights and the Field House. He continued that the numbers came back very high. He discussed possibly doing fixes in phases.

Council President Bethea stated that a public/private partnership needs to be developed and patience will be needed to getting this done. He discussed how grants have been considered, however, they require a match of the money being donated.

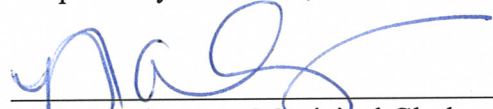
Council President Bethea saluted all 1st Responders – Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, Public Works and all Civil Servants for their outstanding jobs.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nichole Almanza, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED



Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 6/7/2022