

BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2022

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 21, 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 Councilman Gonzalez.

The following answered to roll call:

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

Also in attendance:

Mayor Albert Kelly
Solicitor Michele Gibson

Administrator Kevin Rabago
Municipal Clerk Nichole Almanza

PRESENTATIONS:

Retirement – Dean Dellaquila – Public Works

Mayor Kelly and Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago presented Dean Dellaquila a Resolution regarding his retirement. Mayor Kelly read the Resolution which listed the background details of Dean's employment with the City and various accomplishments.

Mayor Kelly spoke highly of the work that Dean and his department has done over the years. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with him over the past 12 years and wished him well.

Councilwoman DeQuinzio stated that she will miss him greatly. She continued that Dean always had a solution to problems brought before him. She also thanked him for his dedication to the City.

Councilwoman King stated that Dean is a great asset to the City and the Midget Football League. She expressed how greatly Dean would help the City and the children that live here.

Councilman Gonzalez stated it has been a pleasure working with him all of these years. He continued that Dean's heart is big and great. Councilman Gonzalez stated that even though his department had a limited budget, Dean fought the challenges before him to see that the work got done.

Councilman Edwards explained that whenever he had an issue that he knew he could call Dean and get it taken care of. Councilman Edwards stated that Dean will be hard to replace with the amount of knowledge and experience that he has. He continued that he is looking to Dean's staff to help keep the City moving forward. Councilman Edwards told Dean to stay away from work for a while and go travel and just live.

Council President Bethea stated that he always ends the meeting with thanking departments and explained that Public Works is an underappreciated department. He continued that when it snows heavily, our streets are the cleanest in South Jersey. He stated that when there has been issues with trash haulers, Dean stepped up and got right on it to help correct the situation. Council President Bethea stated that those will be big shoes to fill and wished him the best.

Dean Dellaquila stated that there is no better feeling than having colleagues, family and friends here to celebrate his retirement. Mr. Dellaquila gave an extensive list of various jobs that he held within the City and things that he learned along the way. Mr. Dellaquila spoke of his schooling where he was told, "When you come up the ranks, it is very lonely at the top. Make sure your employees understand you want them to work *with* you and not *for* you."

Mr. Dellaquila stated that the Public Works Department has suffered the most with its budget and the little resources it receives. He continued that the job still needs to get done and they always did the best they can with what they were provided.

Mr. Dellaquila thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for their support over the years. Mr. Dellaquila also thanked numerous employees and professional staff for working together.

Mr. Dellaquila thanked all of his family, friends and co-workers for coming to the meeting and allowing him to speak and to hear other speak about him.

Trisha McGahhey – Newly appointed CFO

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago introduced Trisha McGahhey as the new CFO who will fully take over in August.

MINUTES:

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2022. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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 – None at this time.

Councilman Edwards – None at this time.

Councilman Gonzalez – None at this time.

Councilwoman King – None at this time.

Council President Bethea – Stated that High School Graduation is set for tomorrow with doors opening at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Kelly – None at this time.

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 was one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PROVISIONAL ENTRY-LEVEL POLICE OFFICERS WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT FOR SAID OFFICERS TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION FOR AN ENTRY-LEVEL LAW ENFORCEMENT POSITION AS REQUIRED BY CIVIL SERVICE ON THE PROVISION THAT THE ENTRY-LEVEL OFFICER COMPLETE FULL BASIC COURSE FOR POLICE OFFICER (BCPO) TRAINING AT AN APPROVED NEW JERSEY POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION (PTC) ACADEMY WITHIN NINE (9) MONTHS OF THE PROVISIONAL ENTRY-LEVEL APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 11A:4-1.3 TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 18, 2022

Councilman Edwards asked if background checks and other regular requirements would still exist if this is passed. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago explained that nothing else changes.

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 July 19, 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 was one (1) Ordinance for Second Reading. He asked the Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 22-17

ORDINANCE RE-APPROPRIATING \$50,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE CITY HALL ANNEX BUILDING IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PHONE SYSTEM IN CITY HALL AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY

Councilwoman King asked if the replacement would be Citywide. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago explained that this is for City Municipal properties. He continued that the main hub is located in the Annex Building and this will correct issues with our satellite offices.

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

It was then moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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			

PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Police Chief Gaimari congratulated Dean on retirement. He stated that the City is losing an icon who was truly dedicated to the City.

Alan Trzuskoski of Edison, New Jersey congratulated Dean on his retirement and spoke of Dean's dedication and commitment to the community. Mr. Trzuskoski spoke to Mayor Kelly and Solicitor, Michele Gibson stating that the Planning Board needs to adopt or confirm the area in need of redevelopment regarding the location for his proposed Cannabis Incubator. He continued that he is hoping to confirm plans for the site, as well as a Redevelopment in July.

Damian Cheeks stated that he met with Alan Trzuskoski and stated it looks like things are moving right along. Mr. Cheeks congratulated Dean and stated he is a hard act to follow when it comes to speaking. Mr. Cheeks stated he wants to be an open book to Council and hopes to make a difference in the City.

Andrea Gillis provided Council a list of streets that have potholes that need to be taken care of. She also stated that Grove Street is beautiful now that it has been fixed, however, it is in need of sidewalks and curbing. Ms. Gillis listed streets that she feels could use red lights as there are issues for drivers being able to see as cars tend to park on the corners. Ms. Gillis stated that the City should consider having another street sweeper. Ms. Gillis provided an address on Cohansey Street where children are going into an abandoned house.

Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago stated that he has taken the address down of the abandoned house and will see that someone goes out and see if it can be secured.

Mayor Kelly stated that for the road repairs, the City is planning catch up where there has been many years of no repairs being done. He discussed hopefully being able to use more grant money in the future.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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-19 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. 136-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing Dean Dellaquila on his retirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 137-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Giles Road and Various Other Related Project Locations and authorizing Grant Agreement upon award of funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 138-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton granting disabled tax exemption. (131 Vine Street)

RESOLUTION NO. 139-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton designating Redeveloper for Block 159 Lot 20, AKA 328 S. Pine Street and authorizing Redevelopment Agreement and Purchase Sale Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 140-22, authorizing Shared Service Agreement between County of Cumberland and City of Bridgeton regarding Cohanzick Zoo.

RESOLUTION NO. 141-22, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the Interlocal Agreement for the Cohanzick Zoo with the County of Cumberland.

RESOLUTION NO. 142-22, requesting approval for the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue funded through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the 2022 Clean Communities Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 143-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to Complete Control Services, Inc. for Maintenance and Repair for the Water and Sewer Department SCADA System for two (2) years (September 5, 2022 – September 4, 2022) with an additional optional two (2) – One (1) year extensions (September 5, 2024 – September 4, 2026).

RESOLUTION NO. 144-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Renewal Contract to Action Uniform Company, LLC for Class “A” and “B” uniforms and accessories for the Fire Department for year two (2), July 22, 2022 – July 21, 2023, not to exceed \$31,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 145-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton recognizing and honoring Markquese Bell on the occasion of his joining the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

RESOLUTION NO. 146-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing certain utility account adjustments and taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 147-22, approving the FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for the City of Bridgeton.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton memorializing decision of City Council denying appeal of Rulyn’s Garage Towing Application and affirming City Clerk’s decision.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-22, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to Municipal Capital Finance, for the lease of three (3) Ford Interceptor PPV 4X4 marked Police vehicles and three (3) up-fits from Koch 33 (Cranford Cooperative #47-CPCPS) in the amount not to exceed \$155,202.75 (Finance total).

RESOLUTION NO. 151-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Allison Sutton as Bridgeton High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Kevin Cruz as Bridgeton High School Class of 2022 Salutatorian.

RESOLUTION NO. 153-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Anabel Chavez as Bridgeton High School Class of 2022 Early College High School Valedictorian.

RESOLUTION NO. 154-22, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Ashley Alfaro Torres as Bridgeton High School Class of 2022 Early College High School Salutatorian.

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

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards that Resolutions M-1 through M-19 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 June 21, 2022 in the amount of \$360,394.46. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and seconded by Councilman Edwards 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 were no applications for approval.

REPORTS:

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

1. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – May 2022
2. Treasurer's Monthly Report – May 2022
3. Vital Statistics Monthly Report – May 2022
4. Clerk's Monthly Report – May 2022

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

Council President Bethea called upon Mayor Kelly for comments:

Mayor Kelly – Stated he is working with the League of Municipalities regarding tax receipts. He continued that an estimated \$31 million will be provided Statewide. CFO, Mary Jane Lake explained that we do not know the specifics as to the amount to be provided to the City.

Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio- Stated it was nice to see Mr. Seabrook as usual. She stated it was nice to see Ms. Gillis as well and appreciated her reports.

Councilwoman King- Discussed various celebrations for three local gentlemen that have made it into the NFL. She thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting tonight.

Councilman Gonzalez – Thanked the public for coming to the meeting and stated that he knows it meant a lot to Dean to see everyone come. Councilman Gonzalez stated that Council wants what is best for the City.

Councilman Edwards – Stated there are a few “No Turn on Red” signs that need paint touch ups or replacements.

Councilman Edwards stated that on Manheim and Gilmore there is a hole where a house used to be. He stated that it needs to be protected and covered for safety.

Councilman Edwards stated he received the Water Contamination pamphlet in the mail. He asked if we can get some explanations as to the findings. Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago stated he can have Curt Morgan from the Water Department speak at the next meeting.

Council President Bethea – stated that today has been an interesting day. He discussed the hearings regarding January 6th. He described hearing the emotional testimony which went into detail of violating Oaths of Office, death threats, etc. Council President Bethea stated that we cannot take elections for granted. He added that he is there because residents put him there.

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

Council President Bethea welcomed Trisha McGahhey as the new CFO.

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. 155-22**; 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. **Dukes v. Marciano et al.-** *Litigation, Attorney/Client Privilege*

Upon a motion by Councilman Edwards and second by Councilwoman King the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote to convene into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book. Council left the dais to convene into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

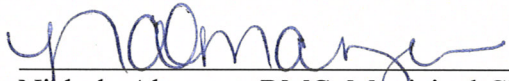
With a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman DeQuinzio, and all in favor, Council came out of Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

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 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED



Nichole Almanza, RMC, Municipal Clerk



Edward Bethea, Council President

Date Approved: 7/19/2022