

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 17, 2018
4:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio
Councilman Feinstein
Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple
Councilman Zapolski
Council President J. Curtis Edwards

Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram
Municipal Clerk Kathleen Keen

CALLED TO ORDER: Council President Edwards called the meeting to order.

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: Read by the Municipal Clerk

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 by a public advertisement to the South Jersey Times and the Daily Journal on February 7th, 2018 of a schedule adopted by resolution setting forth the time, date and place of all the meetings of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton.

AGENDA REVIEW:

G-1 Ordinance amending chapter 149-34 of the code of the City of Bridgeton. Councilman Zapolski questioned specific additions to the ordinance, a discussion then ensued. Additional wording based on the state code will be added to the ordinance.

J-4 Resolution governing body certification of compliance with the United States Equal employment opportunity commission’s enforcement guidance on the consideration of arrest and conviction records in employment decisions under title vii of the civil rights act of 1964. Councilman Zapolski asked if this was something new. Municipal Clerk Keen answered yes, this a requirement for submitting the final adoption of the municipal budget.

ADD-ON:

J-5 Resolution proclaiming April 2018 national autism awareness month.

J-6 Resolution authorizing shared service agreement between the City of Bridgeton and the City of Salem regarding emergency water department services.

APPLICATIONS:

L-1 & L-2 Block off Street and Catering Permit for Main Street Cinco De Mayo Cultural Event May 6th 1pm–8pm. Councilman Zapolski asked if all issues for the license have been resolved through ABC. Municipal Clerk Keen answered yes. Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple asked if all of the vendors have gotten their approvals through the county health department and the city. Mr. Stephen Paul of Main Street replied yes, and all insurance certificates have been obtained also.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Zapolski – said he recently met with the Business Administrator and the CFO relating to the budget. He spoke of where funds are budgeted from historically and will be in the future, library funding and statutory library reports, and the reserve for uncollected taxes. Councilman Zapolski distributed a chart representing yearly increases in the reserve for uncollected taxes, noting this increases the tax rate and is due to property owners who do not pay their taxes. He feels it needs to be discussed more openly. He then referred to a listing of over 240 names of property owners who have not paid their taxes, stating there should be more visibility to the tax problem. The Business Administrator then spoke of an upcoming meeting with departments regarding the tax lien to foreclosure process the city is working on. The Tax Collector also addressed Council, explaining how the list is compiled, and the tax sale process.

President Edwards then spoke of the Bridgeton Midget Football League asking for Council to support their use of the stadium football fields.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/MAYORAL REPORTS:

Mayor Kelly spoke of a recent conference call with the League of Municipalities regarding UEZ funding. He then handed council a study from the Walter Rand Institute showing how funds are distributed throughout the state noting South Jersey is vastly underfunded. Mayor Kelly said he has asked representatives from Rutgers and Walter Rand to come to the city and meet with Chamber Leaders regarding the lack of funding for South Jersey, and invited Council members to attend also. A discussion then ensued regarding the lack of funding South Jersey continues to receive from the state.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

President Edwards stated his term on the Port Authority has expired, and he is asking if anyone would like to volunteer for the open seat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilman Zapolski, **RESOLUTION NO. 98-18** the City Council has determined that it is necessary to go into an executive session to discuss certain matters relating to the items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

- 1. Litigation – Estate of Rodriquez v. Shinn

ADJOURNMENT:

It was then moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilman Feinstein the Work Session be adjourned which motion was carried.

Council President Edwards adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards, Council President

Date Approved: _____