

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
4:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Edward Bethea
Councilwoman Rosemary DeQuinzio
Councilman Samuel Feinstein

Absent -Councilman Michael Zapolski, Sr

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.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Robert (Bob) Mulford of Fralinger Engineering explained the current water main issues on Lake Street, noting the water mains are the oldest in the city and are not adequate in size thus causing water pressure concerns. Mr. Mulford noted funding received from the state to repave Lake Street and the water infrastructure fund being utilized for new mains. Fire Chief Bowen voiced his concerns regarding fire hydrants in the area of Lake Street; noting the pressure due to the age and size of the existing main. It was noted there will be no cost to the residents, other areas in the city need to be updated also, and a priority list should be compiled.

Mr. Rob Allen of Waste Management provided Council with an informational spreadsheet analyzing tonnage and trash collection cost to the city. He spoke of additional cost the city will incur if the yellow sticker program is discontinued, due to the increased amount of tonnage collected. A discussion ensued regarding illegal dumping in the city, Public Works Director Dellaquila said the department is doing everything they can to control illegal dumping, and will continue to, and noting he feels it could be a free for all at the curbs if the stickers are not used.

Mr. Steven Paul of Bridgeton Main Street addressed Council regarding the proposed mural project on a building located at 78-82 E. Commerce Street owned by AD Peterson. He said the concept has been approved and the company will be in town this weekend to start prepping for the mural which needs 2-3 days without rain to begin. Mr. Paul reminded Council of Bridgeton Main Streets request for \$2000 of UEZ funds for the project; a resolution will need to be approved, the Administrator will have it for the next meeting.

Ms. Emma Melvin of the Littoral Society spoke of tree planting projects in the city. There are two final municipal projects to finish, one is in the memorial park behind the nail house. She said 5-9 gallon trees with fall colors will be planted and mulched. The other will be in the pocket park between MLK Drive and South Avenue, it will include rain gardens, tree plantings, and flower gardens. Ms. Melvin said she would like to have community input for the design, and welcomed all to volunteers to help with the project also. The funding is from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

AGENDA REVIEW:

F. Minutes – a change was made to the Council Minutes with regard to specific wording in remarks made by Councilman Bethea.

G-2 Ordinance amending chapter 300-8(B) of the code of the City of Bridgeton. Councilwoman DeQuinzio said she asked questions and was satisfied with the information she received.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio said the Bridgeton Main Street Crabfest went very well, there was a lot of participation, and Ms. Linda McFadden Library Director was there with a table also. She said the library is working on upcoming projects and fundraisers and reminded everyone to purchase a Green Olive discount card.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/MAYORAL REPORTS:

Mayor Kelly said the former landfill has been cleared, 108 loads of dirt were brought in and another 500-600 loads will be coming. He suggested having a contest with school children to rename the area when it is done, he also advised of truck traffic in the area due to the project, noting Mayor Aitken Drive will be repaved after the project is complete. Mayor Kelly then spoke of a recent Mayors meeting at the state regarding recreational marijuana, he explained legislation concerning 2% of sales a municipality could receive which is much too low. He said all towns need to opt-in or opt-out and suggested having a community meeting to open up the discussion and hear the concerns of the residents of Bridgeton.

Mayor Kelly announced a meeting September 27th, 5pm at the Marino Center with Cumberland County College and Rowen College to discuss the merger of the two. The public is welcome to attend and voice their concerns, he feels there should be a Cumberland County College campus in downtown Bridgeton. He spoke of negotiating with the state to have inmates work with the Public Works Department in the city, he would like the state to offer the help for free. Mayor Kelly said he would like to recognize veterans in our city with a medal depicting the city logo, he will be working on getting the information out to them. He reminded everyone of Coffee with a Cop October 3rd at the downtown McDonalds 2-4pm, he encouraged all to come out. He then spoke of the recent flooding in North Carolina asking how we can be of assistance to help the smaller communities there. Lastly, Mayor Kelly said the Governor recently announced the city received a \$100,000 Innovation Grant for our smart food technology proposal. He said the city was one of only nine communities in the state and the smallest to receive the grant; he praised Development & Planning Director Kevin Rabago for writing the grant to help expand the Rutgers Food Innovation.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes – Comptroller Lake explained the report shows the city’s short term debt annually and the amounts the city borrowed.

PUBLIC PORTION: It was moved by Councilman Bethea and seconded by Councilman Feinstein the meeting be opened to the public for comments, which motion was carried.

Mr. Clare Miller commended Council for exploring the yellow sticker and trash issue in the city. He questioned the relationship between the yellow stickers and the tonnage numbers, and who pays for the excess trash that gets picked up without a sticker. Mr. Miller spoke of trash being dumped in the alleys, and asked who is responsible for removing it.

President Edwards announced due to the time, he would like to now close the public portion. It was moved by Councilman Bethea and second by Councilman Feinstein the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

President Edwards closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was then moved by Councilman Feinstein and second by Councilman Bethea 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: October 2, 2018