

**BRIDGETON CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 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 Deputy Municipal Clerk, Miriam Garcia;

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 an Amended Public Advertisement in the South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal on February 11, 2023 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  
Councilman David Gonzalez  
Councilwoman Marian King  
Council President Edward Bethea

**Also in attendance:**

Mayor Albert Kelly  
Solicitor Michele Gibson  
CFO Trisha McGahhey

Administrator Kevin Rabago  
Deputy Municipal Clerk Miriam Garcia

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Budget Items:**

*Budget Public Hearing*

Council President Bethea announced this is the time and place set forth for the Public Hearing of the CY2023 Municipal Budget Amendment.

It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilwoman King that the meeting be opened to the public for a hearing on the CY2023 Municipal Budget Amendment which motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea opened the meeting to anyone desiring to be heard on the CY2023 Municipal Budget Amendment only.

With no one desiring to be heard it was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez that the public hearing on the CY2023 Municipal Budget Amendment be closed, which carried unanimously.

Council President Bethea announced **RESOLUTION E-2** being **RESOLUTION NO. 113-23**, to read the CY2023 Budget by title only.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 113-23**, which was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	x			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

Council President Bethea announced **RESOLUTION E-3** being **RESOLUTION NO. 114-23**, authorizing the adoption of the CY2023 Municipal Budget.

Councilman Gonzalez made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION NO. 114-23**, which was seconded by Councilwoman King.

**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

**MINUTES:**

Council President Bethea presented the City Council Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2023. It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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**-Reported that graduation has been rescheduled for 2:00 p.m. and everyone should arrive by 1:00 p.m.

Councilman Edwards-stated that he met with the School Board in reference to “Guns Down Bikes Up” and that the board will make their approval for the August 12th event with Life Worth Living.

**Councilman Gonzalez**-reported that the collections for ACUA trash pickup was 661 tons of trash collected and recycling was 259 tons collected.

Councilman Gonzalez-stated that the project for Gateway Community on Garfield and Pamphylia for the major minor subdivision was approved.

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

**Council President Bethea** – None at this time

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

**Mayor Kelly** – reported that the committee has been interviewing for a new Judge for replacement of Judge Witcher and that they will make recommendations soon to City Council.

Mayor Kelly-thanked Council for having Resolution M-14 on the agenda for Energy Tax Receipts and stated that 422 Mayors wrote letters urging the Governor to sign legislation for restoration. Mayor Kelly thanked CFO Trish McGahhey for the table’s calculation control on how much money we received from this program in the past.

Mayor Kelly-commented on Route 49 and stated we will see what else can be done and that he will make sure things get improved.

**Police Chief Gaimari**-Reported on the double homicide of two juveniles on Saturday and that it is still an ongoing investigation.

**Police Chief Gaimari**-stated that after the incident on North Pearl Street, they set up training with a couple of officers from Guatemala and Mexico to train some of the detectives. He added that the training is open for the whole county.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Rabago** –

**Mr. Rabago**-reported that the futsal court is now completed.

Mr. Rabago-stated the City has received a letter of approval for the \$497,000.00 for the Redevelopment of the landfill. He also stated that we have submitted an application to NJDOT for proposed bikeways which will complete the project for the landfill.



Mr. Rabago-reported that Grotech received their approval letter dated June 9 for their conversion.

**City Solicitor, Michele Gibson** – gave an update regarding the Route 49 pedestrian crossing. She stated that Administration has been in contact with NJDOT. She indicated that they responded quickly after finding out about the incident that happened at Wawa and that she is waiting for additional follow up. She continued that legally there’s nothing that the City can do because it’s a State Highway and we will need approval from NJDOT for temporary signs.

**Mr. Rabago**-commented that he is working on obtaining temporary strips and that it could possibly have an effect on some of the projects and grants requested. He continued that we are taking temporary measures that can be done for traffic calming.

**Council President Bethea**-expressed his concerns that even though the City has put up temporary signs, no one has slowdown. He stated that with summer coming, more children will be crossing Route 49. He continued that he will advocate in being aggressive in getting the State’s attention so this can be addressed.

**Councilwoman King**-questioned if they made any suggestions on what they have done in any other municipalities.

**Mr. Rabago**- stated he is waiting to hear back from NJDOT and that they are doing an investigation of that area. Mr. Rabago stated he will keep Council informed.

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

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinance for First Reading. The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 110-3 (B) (1) AND (2) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS**

It was moved by Councilwoman King 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 July 18, 2023.

**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

**ORDINANCES ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING:**

Council President Bethea announced there was one (1) Ordinance for Second Reading. Council President Bethea asked the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE 23-15**

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AMENDING SECTION 321-13 (E) (1) THRU (5) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO TAXI RATES**

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez and second by Councilman Edwards 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 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 Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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 Edwards motioned and seconded by Councilwoman King the public portion be opened.

Cassandra Avila and Esaul Martin representing Southeast Gateway announced that the Community Meeting is on July 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Cassandra Avila-stated that they are looking for volunteers for Community Day scheduled for August 19, 2023 with a rain date of August 26, 2023 from 11am to 3pm at the Riverfront.

Esaul Martin-commented that the venue might change due to space limited at the Riverfront.



Casandra Avila- stated that the applications for the Electric Bike Pilot Program are available and that they are for residents of Bridgeton with low income. She continued that they are due the end of the month.

Chavella Green commented on Route 49 and stated that the speeding is still going and asked when is this matter going to be attended to.

Chavella Green-expressed that we want to be safe traveling across the road and we need room for improvement.

Palmer Fowler stated she was born and raised in Bridgeton. Palmer Fowler stated she didn't want any sympathy for her daughter and questioned what can be done for the children.

Hector Medina introduced himself as the Pastor of Transformation Church formerly known as "Bridgeton Assembly of God". He stated that they are looking into building a center for the youth.

Hector Medina-stated that last year they organized their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Free Gas Outreach and that they gave over \$3,500.00 worth of free gas and 4,000 pounds of free groceries at a local gas station.. He continued that the church distributes food every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 424 Indian Avenue in Bridgeton.

Alan Truskowski stated that while he was traveling to Atlantic City on Route 30, a State highway, he noticed there was a crosswalk similar to Route 49 and it had a crossing sign. He suggested that the City should reach out to that community and see what kind of signs they put up.

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. 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-31 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 asked that M-30 and M-31 of the Consent Agenda be voted on separately.

Council President Bethea called upon the Deputy Municipal Clerk to read the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 115-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton requesting that the Cumberland County Clerk print upon Official Ballots used at the next General Election a Binding Referendum Question pertaining to the imposition of a dedicated tax to fund a Municipal Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 116-23**, 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 – March 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 117-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton acknowledging participation in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) Lead Grant Assistance Program and authorizing the City of Bridgeton to enter into a Grant Agreement with NJDCA.

**RESOLUTION NO. 118-23**, authorizing Shared Service Agreement between County of Cumberland and City of Bridgeton regarding Cohanzick Zoo.

**RESOLUTION NO. 119-23**, 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. 120-23**, for the award of bid/contract to Subsurface Technologies, Inc. for Redevelopment of Well 19 for the City of Bridgeton Water Department.

**RESOLUTION NO 121-23**, requesting approval for the insertion of special item of revenue funded through the Interlocal Agreement with the Cumberland County Board of Health for improving local communications systems.

**RESOLUTION NO 122-23**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to advertise for Water Treatment Chemicals – Bell Mine Hydrated Lime & Accutabs, August 2023 – 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO 123-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the City of Bridgeton to execute Deed Notice with restrictions and institutional controls pertaining to environmental conditions for the property known as 467 Bank Street, Block 71, Lot 3.

**RESOLUTION NO 124-23**, to reject the bid for Reconstruction of Existing Brick Sidewalks Phase II – North & South Laurel Street and East & West Commerce Street.

**RESOLUTION NO 125-23**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Bid/Contract to South State, Inc. for the Resurfacing of Chestnut Avenue, Penn Street, Madison Street, and High Street for the total amount not to exceed \$403,836.33.

**RESOLUTION NO 126-23**, for the City to award Bid/Contract to Municipal Maintenance Company for Maintenance and Repairs for the City of Bridgeton Water & Sewer Department Wells and Pump Stations.

**RESOLUTION NO 127-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an Urban Enterprise Zone Project Application to purchase two (2) portable solar powered message boards.

**RESOLUTION NO 128-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton urging full restoration of energy tax receipts.

**RESOLUTION 129-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing an extension of time to obtain permits for 166 Pamphylia Avenue (Block 185, Lot 12) in the City of Bridgeton sold at auction on December 7, 2022.

**RESOLUTION 130-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an Administrative Budget to fund Bridgeton's Urban Enterprise Zone Program for FY2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 131-23**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award service agreement renewal contract to Bully Pest Management for Pest Control Services to the City of Bridgeton Public Buildings for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 132-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton updating of Departmental Change Funds.

**RESOLUTION 133-23**, requesting approval for the insertion of a special item of revenue for the 2023 Municipal Court Alcohol Education Rehabilitation and Enforcement Grant Fund.



**RESOLUTION NO. 134-23**, requesting approval for the insertion of a special item of revenue funded through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the 2023 Clean Communities Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 135-23**, requesting approval for the insertion of a special item of revenue funded through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Stormwater Assistant Grant.

**RESOLUTION NO. 136-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing the renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses.

**RESOLUTION NO. 137-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of an Urban Enterprise Zone Project Application to create a façade program for UEZ certified businesses within the Downtown Central Business District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 138-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for funding through the Bikeways Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 139-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Steven Garcia as Bridgeton High School Class of 2023 Valedictorian.

**RESOLUTION NO. 140-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Jennifer Gonzalez Sanchez as Bridgeton High School Class of 2023 Salutatorian.

**RESOLUTION NO. 141-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Aurelio Sanchez Ramirez as Bridgeton High School Class of 2023 Early College High School Valedictorian.

**RESOLUTION 142-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton honoring Stephanie Rogue as Bridgeton High School Class of 2023 Early College High School Salutatorian.

**RESOLUTION NO. 143-23**, authorizing the City of Bridgeton to award a Contract to the Bancorp Bank, National Association, for the lease of five (5) Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD and five (5) up-fits from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. (Cranford Police Cooperative #47-CPCPS) in the amount not to exceed \$291,980.00 (Finance Total).

**RESOLUTION NO. 144-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and directing the Bridgeton Planning Board to prepare a report containing its recommendation on an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan for portions of the Southeast Gateway Neighborhood as pertains to Block 170, Lots 8.02 and 9, or alternatively to prepare an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan.

**RESOLUTION NO. 145-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a UEZ Project to create a revolving loan fund for certified businesses and allow CEZC to administer UEZ Loan Program.

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-29 be adopted which motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book.



**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea	X			

Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-30** being **RESOLUTION NO. 144-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing and directing the Bridgeton Planning Board to prepare a report containing its recommendation on an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan for portions of the Southeast Gateway Neighborhood as pertains to Block 170, Lots 8.02 and 9, or alternatively to prepare an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan, which was seconded by Councilwoman King. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution book.

**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councilwoman DeQuinzio	X			
Councilman Edwards	X			
Councilman Gonzalez	X			
Councilwoman King	X			
Council President Bethea			X	

Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION M-31** being **RESOLUTION NO. 145-23**, of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton authorizing submission of a UEZ Project to create a revolving loan fund for certified businesses and allow CEZC to administer UEZ Loan Program. It was moved by Councilwoman King that resolution M-31 be adopted, which was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution book.

**The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:**

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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 6, 2023 in the amount of \$2,276,006.16 and Schedule of Bills dated June 20, 2023 in the amount of \$79,263.18. It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez 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.

City Solicitor announced that there was a typographical error on the agenda for the Schedule of Bills dated June 20, 2023 and that a Motion must be made to include the other \$900,000.00. It was moved by Councilman Edwards and seconded by Councilman Gonzale4z that the Schedule of Bills be approved for the remaining \$900,000.00 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 two (2) applications for approval being:

1. **Bingo** – Parish of the Holy Cross – Various dates – July 2023 – December 2023 – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

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

2. **Raffle** – Parish of the Holy Cross – Various dates – July 2023 – December 2023 – 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

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

## **REPORTS:**

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

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – April 2023
2. Vital Statistic's Monthly Report – May 2023
3. Tax Collector's Cash Receipts – May 2023

It was moved by Councilman Gonzalez 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** – stated that he was talking with Ms. Fowler concerning the Tin-Can and he shared information to her about the grant that was received for the study remediation of the Tin-Can property. He continued that the State controls that property.

**Council President Bethea called upon Council for comments:**

**Councilwoman DeQuinzio** –commented on Route 49 and stated because it is a State highway, there are certain steps they have to take and it can be done on a timely fashion.

**Councilwoman King** – expressed her condolences to Fowler Family.

Councilwoman King-recognized Damien Cheeks and asked everyone to continue praying for the family. She continued that Mr. Cheeks was very loved by the people.

Councilwoman King-stated that they had a nice Juneteenth celebration.

Councilwoman King – that she would love to see some of the residents that appear at Council meetings be members of a committee to help make decisions on what the park should look like.

**Councilman Gonzalez**-commented that he is looking forward to Transformation Church taking a role in the City.

Councilman Gonzalez-also expressed his sympathy to the Fowler Family. He continued that we value every person's life.

Councilman Gonzalez-commented on the Tin-Can and that he hears the concerns. He continued saying he remembers working as a life guard in 1978.

Councilman Gonzalez-commented that it is great that the futsal court has been completed and is looking forward to seeing people take advantage of the courts.

**Councilman Edwards**-expressed his condolences to the Fowler family and that he is praying for all.

Councilman Edwards-commented on the incident on Route 49 by the Wawa and that the City should take safety measures by lowering the speed limit in that area.

Councilman Edwards-commented on the Riverfront issues explaining that a lot of the things that we do in the City is self-inflicted and that it is something to look at.

**Council President Bethea**-wished every father present at tonight's meeting, a Happy belated Fathers' Day.

Council President Bethea-thanked the President and Governor for making Juneteenth a Federal and State holiday.



Council President Bethea-stated he is excited for our Judge replacement. He added that Judge Witcher was outstanding and very well respected in the community.

Council President Bethea-applauded the Police force and the detectives on the tremendous job that they are doing.

Council President Bethea-commented on the tragedy on Broad Street by the Wawa and stated that he talked to Administration to see what can be done because it is a state road. He continued that he is willing to do whatever it takes to safeguard our residents and to get people to slow down.

Council President Bethea-asked the Mayor and Administration if they can get an update on the South Avenue Culvert and on making Grove Street a two-way street.

Council President Bethea-Welcomed Pastor Hector Medina and family to the City of Bridgeton.

Council President Bethea- expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Cheeks and hopes that he rests in peace.. He recognized the dedication and time that Mr. Cheeks had and his dream of one day opening his own business.

Council President Bethea-announced that the next 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Annual City-wide cleanup will be in September.

Council President Bethea thanked all 1<sup>st</sup> Responders – Police Department, Fire Department and all Public Servants.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Council President Bethea adjourned the meeting which ended at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Garcia

Miriam Garcia, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: 7/18/2023

APPROVED

[Signature]

Edward Bethea, Council President