

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 11, 2024
7:00 PM**

The meeting was held within the Council Chambers at the Bridgeville Borough Building, 425 Bower Hill Road and virtually livestreamed on the website www.zoom.us. Council President Joseph Verduci led a moment of silence for the recently departed members of our community, including the recent passing of Solicitor McDermott's mother, and those serving in the military.

ROLL CALL – Roll was called at 7:00 PM with the following present:

Council President Joseph Verduci
Council Vice-President Bruce Ghelarducci
Councilwoman Justine Cimarolli
Councilman Jason Ferri
Councilman Shane Franchick
Councilman Jason Sarasnick

Mayor Betty Copeland, Attorney CharLee Rosini, Borough Engineer John Heyl, Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Siegarth, Police Sgt. Gary James, and EMS Chief Dan Miller

Absent: Councilman William Henderson and Solicitor Tom McDermott

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Verduci stated that the Borough Council met in Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss a legal matter.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the November 4, 2024, Special Budget Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the November 2024 Bill List was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the November 15, 22, 29, and December 6, 2024, payrolls was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to approve the Chabala Corner Plan of Lots, including approval of modification of Section 505.C of the Borough's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 22) to allow proposed Lot 1 to be created as a double frontage lot as recommended by the

Bridgeville Planning Commission was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-16, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant to upgrade water drinking fountains at Triangle and Cook School Parks was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to accept the lowest responsible bid received from Independent Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$99,000.00 for the Bluff Street Extension Slope Stabilization and Retaining Wall Improvements Project subject to the contractor obtaining the required insurance certificates, performance bond, payment bond, and review and approval of same by the Borough Solicitor prior to execution of the Agreement by the Borough was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to accept the lowest responsible bid received from Avelli Construction in the amount of \$200,010 for the Gregg Avenue Stairs Project subject to the contractor obtaining the required insurance certificates, performance bond, payment bond, and review and approval of same by the Borough Solicitor prior to execution of the Agreement by the Borough was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize the execution of a Sculpture Loan Agreement by and between the Borough of Bridgeville and the Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc. for the lease of outdoor sculptures to be part of the 2025-26 Public Art Bridgeville exhibition was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to authorize the President of Council to execute Permit Compliance Agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of Phase 1A of the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; Ms. Cimarolli asked for a project timeline. Engineer Heyl stated that once PEMA gives the Borough approval to use the grant funds, it can proceed. The Manager stated that PEMA and FEMA are currently completing environmental and historical reviews of the project. Motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to authorize the repurposing of the Borough owned parcel, number 255-K-54, on Baldwin Street, into a Butterfly-Pollinator Garden as recommended by the Bridgeville Planning Commission in the spring of 2025 was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; Mr. Franchick questioned if additional costs can be expected to plant the garden in addition to the \$904 estimate for plants. Ms. Cimarolli stated that additional costs can be expected for topsoil and time spent by the Public Works Department to prepare the site. Ms. Guiliani stated that it is planned to have volunteers plant the garden in the spring and maintain it. Motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to authorize the Borough Manager and Solicitor to advertise notice of intent to enact, refer to ACED, and schedule a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance, and to its Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance, and to

adopt Resolution No. 2024-18 invoking the pending ordinance doctrine as to same, as recommended by the Borough Planning Commission was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

13. A motion to authorize disbursement of a Real Estate Tax Refunds due to a change in assessment to the following:

SF Limited Liability Co., Parcel: 255-F-122, Years 2024 and 2023, total: \$2,419.30
YES Werner LLC, Parcel: 322-A-30, Years 2024 and 2023, total: \$931.30

Motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.

14. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – October 2024 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.

15. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion to accept all submitted October 2024 official reports was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – No report.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the Council met last week and discussed the 2025 budget. He stated that it is a balanced spending plan that doesn’t call for a tax increase. Mr. Verduci added that the Committee is currently working on a five-year projection for the General Fund.

Mr. Verduci reported that Small Business Saturday is November 30th and that the Borough has promotional flyers distributed around the town. Lastly, he stated that on October 27th, the Chamber of Commerce held a cybersecurity training class here at the Borough Building. He said that after this training the staff is working to implement several of the recommendations discussed.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that fall baseball has ended and thanked the Public Works staff for winterizing the park’s facilities. Mr. Franchick reported that the Borough has received letters of support from Representative Kulik, Senator Robinson and Allegheny County Council for the Chartiers Park Field Lighting Upgrade project. Lastly, he wished the veterans a happy Veterans Day and thanked them for their service.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick reported that the Public Works Department is currently collecting leaves and brush throughout the Borough through December 6. He added that grass cutting, and equipment maintenance continues, and the crew is

now starting to decorate Triangle Park for Christmas.

Ms. Cimarolli stated that there is a sizable crack on Bank Street that she would like addressed. The Manager stated that he can report the concern to PENNDOT.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – no report.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Ferri reported that the COG has presented their 2025 Budget and there are no increases proposed in membership fees. He also stated that they are discussing a joint grant application for fire hose and new firefighter training opportunities next year. Mr. Ferri stated he will share this information with the Fire Chief.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mr. Verduci stated that at the Chamber of Commerce’s annual excellence awards ceremony they presented the mayor with a newly created civic excellence award that was named in her honor. The Council and audience gave the mayor a standing ovation. Mr. Verduci stated that he is proud of the mayor for this honor and for it to be named after her. Mayor Copeland reported that at this same event Bridgeville Borough was recognized for best municipality, best library and former Councilman Nick Ciesielski was recognized as Man of the Year. The mayor stated that Boy Scout Troop 2 will be having their pancake breakfast fundraiser this Sunday.

POLICE CHIEF, CHAD KING – Sgt. James stated that he can answer any questions regarding the written report.

SOLICITOR, THOMAS MCDERMOTT – Attorney Rosini reported that she submitted their written monthly report and could answer any questions.

BOROUGH ENGINEER, JOHN HEYL – Engineer Heyl reported that the sanitary sewer lining project has been stalled as a water break was found leaking into the Borough’s sewers on Bower Hill Road and that they are waiting on the Water Company to fix the break.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Assistant Chief Siegwarth reported that the Fire Department responded to 37 calls for service in October and to-date has responded to 360 calls. He stated that the BVFD will host a Fall Vendor Show on November 24th.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller stated that he could answer questions on the written report.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Linda Tome reported that this month’s speakers’ program will be held on November 26th, 7:30PM at the Chartiers Room and the topic is Pennsylvania Folk Art. She stated that 2025 membership is now open and that they have a raffle underway for a children’s quilt. Lastly, Mrs. Tome reported that their recent bake sale fundraiser earned \$680.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver reported that Public Art Bridgeville held an art show exhibition at the library last week showcasing art from Bridgeville citizens. She said that the art will be on display through the end of November. Director Weaver

stated that the annual Christmas Tree Festival starts on December 2nd and that they have a fundraiser on November 14th at Anthony's Pizza in Robinson Township.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting on November 18th and continues to operate in the “black.” She stated that Lot 3 security cameras are operational, Lot 2's damaged curbs have been repaired and additional lights will be added in Lot 1 next year.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Guiliani reported that the next meeting will be December 2nd. She stated that at their last meeting they reviewed the draft Collier Township Comprehensive Plan and discussed Comprehensive Plan implementation projects that included tree plantings, gardens on Baldwin Street and improvements to the north-end of Washington Avenue.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported that there is a community tree planting event scheduled for this Saturday, meeting at 9AM at the Borough Building. Volunteers with the support from Tree Pittsburgh will be planting about a dozen trees at public areas. He also added that Light Up Night is scheduled for Friday, December 6th, 6:30PM at Triangle Park.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Verduci reported that the Route 50 communities met last month in Heidelberg. He welcomed the members of the Council to attend the next meeting that will be held in Bridgeville. Mr. Verduci also stated that last month both he and the Manager met with Representative Kulik, Senator Robinson and Collier Township officials at the Chamber of Commerce building to present the Route 50 Task Force plan to eliminate the bottleneck into Bridgeville on Route 50 at the north-end. Everyone was interested in the proposal and will regroup with PENNDOT in January.

Mr. Ferri suggested that the Borough consider a second FEMA flood-prone property buy out program. He stated that the program was suggested at last month's meeting and it has merit. He questioned the Council on their interest. Mr. Verduci asked the Manager for his input. Manager Kauer stated that the program certainly has merit, but it should be targeted to match a specific plan. If the Borough is investing in flood mitigation measures like Phase 1A to protect homes and buildings, it does not make much sense to buy out the properties and demolish them. He gave an example to one of the concepts for Phase 2 that suggests greenspace on the creek-side of Baldwin Street, that if this plan was advanced, then a flood buyout program for this targeted area is an excellent opportunity to pursue.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary