

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, December 9, 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](http://www.zoom.us). Council President Joseph Verduci led a moment of silence for the recently departed members of our community 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 William Henderson  
Councilman Jason Sarasnick

Mayor Betty Copeland, Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Engineer John Heyl, Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Siegarth, Police Chief Chad King and EMS Chief Dan Miller

**Absent:** None

**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:**

Pastor Glen Lopper, First Baptist Church of Bridgeville, asked the Borough Council to purchase their church on Bower Hill Road. He stated that he has reviewed the Borough's Comprehensive Plan and understands there are concepts being discussed that will reconfigure Bower Hill Road in front of the church and Phase 2 of the Flood Control Project may impact it as well. He stated that the congregation does not plan to go back into the church building and does not wish to invest in its improvement as it may be flooded again in the future. Manager Kauer asked Pastor Lopper if he could set up a meeting with him and their leadership to discuss this request further. Pastor Lopper agreed and will be reaching out to the Borough Manager.

Mr. Pat DeBlasio, 447 Washington Avenue, thanked Mayor Copeland, Chief King and everyone who made this year's Winter Blast a great event. He commended the Public Works Department for doing an excellent job decorating Triangle Park.

**BUSINESS**

1. A motion to approve the November 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

2. A motion to approve the December 2024 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the December 13, 20, 27, January 3 and 10, payrolls was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; the motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the Rogers Lot Consolidation Plan at 224 Osceola Drive, as recommended by the Bridgeville Planning Commission, pending any comments to be received from Allegheny County Economic Development being addressed by the applicant was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; Mr. Franchick questioned the reference in the Engineer's Plan Review Letter that states that the rear shed on this property is built over their property line onto the neighbor's property. The Manager explained that the Planning Commission had the same question for the applicant and that the applicant reported that the shed was built on this other property over 50 years ago when their family also owned that subject property that was later sold to the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-13, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville approving the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 and adopting the same was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-14, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville setting the tax rates for the Year 2025 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; Mr. Verduci stated that there is no change in real estate millage, rates remain at 6.50 mills on buildings, 10 mills on land as set in 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-15, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville pursuant to the Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, Part 3, Section 301-304, establishing 2025 Sanitary Sewage Rates was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; Mr. Verduci stated that ALCOSAN rates are increasing by 7% as part of their five-year rate plan that they adopted in October 2021. The ALCOSAN fee will increase to \$11.92 per 1,000 gallons with a \$8.35 per month Customer Service Charge. There is no increase in the Borough's portion of the sewer fees. 2025 sewer rates will be \$18.65 per 1,000 gallons and \$8.35 monthly Customer Service Charge. Mr. Franchick asked the Manager to explain the overall impact to the citizens. The Manager explained that the overall sewer rate is made of two parts, the ALCOSAN fee and the Borough portion. He stated that the Borough fee remains unchanged and ALCOSAN is increasing by 7%. Manager Kauer added that this results in an almost 4% increase in the fee. Ms. Cimarolli echoed that the Borough's portion of the fee has been the same for several years now.
8. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-17, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, establishing fees for the filing of applications, permits and licenses for the Borough was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Henderson. Mr. Verduci stated that the only change from 2024 to 2025 is an increase in Solid Waste Collection quarterly fee per unit of \$77, up from \$72. Motion carried unanimously.

9. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-19, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, fixing salaries and wages to be paid to the staff not represented by a collective bargaining agreement in accordance with the 2025 Budget was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; the motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to authorize Mackin Engineers & Consultants to complete the Downtown Zoning Ordinance Update at a cost not to exceed \$17,450. Motion was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Henderson. Mr. Verduci stated that half of the project costs are paid from an awarded State Municipal Assistance Planning Grant. Mr. Sarasnick stated that this motion does not enact the zoning change. Manager Kauer stated that is correct and that this project will create a draft Ordinance for Council to consider. The process will involve a significant amount of public input including public meetings, surveys, Planning Commission meetings and a public hearing before any zoning change is considered for adoption. Motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare a construction plan and estimate for pedestrian crossing improvements at Bower Hill Road and Commercial Street using the data collected within the 2024 Bower Hill Road Crosswalk Study completed by LTAP was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ferri; Mr. Ferri stated that this is a great idea and that any improvement made at this crossing will be wonderful. Motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare construction plans and project specifications for the Chartiers Park Shelter 1 Replacement Project was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; Mr. Verduci stated that half of the project's costs are paid from an awarded Pennsylvania DCNR grant. Motion carried unanimously.
13. A motion to schedule and advertise the 2025 meeting schedule, continuing Borough Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, Parking Authority Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month with the exception of January when it will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, Planning Commission on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, each meeting at 7:00PM, and Zoning Hearing Board and Civil Service Commission to meet as needed. Motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
14. A motion to reappoint Deb Colosimo to the Parking Authority Board of Directors with a five-year term that will expire on the first Monday of January 2030 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Henderson; the motion carried unanimously.
15. A motion to reappoint Nicole Steck to the Parking Authority Board of Directors with a five-year term that will expire on the first Monday of January 2030 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; the motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – November 2024 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
17. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the November 2024 Treasurer’s Report was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ferri; the motion carried unanimously.
18. A motion to accept all submitted November 2024 official reports was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ADMINISTRATION, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – Mr. Ghelarducci thanked the Borough and Police office staff for their hard work, adding that they do an excellent job.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported the Borough was awarded two grants this month, one for the replacement of Shelter 1 at Chartiers Park, the second being the downtown zoning ordinance amendment. He added that the 2025 budget has been accepted without the need for a tax increase. Ms. Cimarolli stated that it is amazing how many projects have been recently completed in the Borough through the input of the Planning Commission with grant funding.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that Triangle Park has been decorated for Christmas. He also stated that now that winter weather is here, there may be days when Chartiers Park is closed due to snow.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick stated that the Public Works crew has been busy decorating the town for Christmas and now readying equipment for snowplowing and ice treatment.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Henderson asked to defer his comments to New Business.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Ferri reported that the COG has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to replace the VACTOR sewer cleaning truck. He also stated that the COG membership discussed the County’s 2025 budget and tax increase.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland stated that she is grateful for the Public Works Department’s efforts to decorate Triangle Park. She also remarked that she is very thankful for everyone’s hard work this year and offered God’s blessing upon everyone.

SOLICITOR, THOMAS MCDERMOTT – Solicitor McDermot reported that he submitted his written monthly report and could answer any questions.

BOROUGH ENGINEER, JOHN HEYL – Engineer Heyl reported that we recently completed preconstruction meetings with contractors for the Gregg Avenue Steps Project, Bluff Street Extension Landslide Project and the Sanitary Sewer CCTV project. He stated that work has started

on the Bluff Street landslide and the Gregg Avenue project is anticipated to start later this month.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Assistant Chief Siegwarth reported that the Fire Department responded to 33 calls for service in November and to-date has responded to 393 calls. He stated that the BVFD will be escorting Santa around the Borough on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and that they also have the annual luminaire fundraiser underway.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller wished everyone Happy Holidays.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Linda Tome reported that the 2025 membership enrollment is underway and that the Society is participating in the Stockings for Soldiers program coordinated by the Beinbauer-Fryer Funeral Home. She stated that there are no Speaker’s Program for December and that January’s meeting will be about the efforts to digitize area high school yearbooks.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver thanked the Public Works Department for helping change light bulbs within the library. She also stated that there are numerous holiday events upcoming at the library including the annual Christmas Tree Festival, a Holiday Happy Hour on December 13<sup>th</sup> and Family Fun Day on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ferri encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming events.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> and continues to operate in the “black.” She stated that Lot 1 lighting upgrades will take place next year and that the lighting improvements to Lot 2 have been completed. Mrs. Colosimo reported that the Authority will be offering free parking for the holidays, running December 16 – January 1. Ms. Cimarolli asked the Authority to consider lower wattage lighting when upgrading the lights to keep glare at a minimum.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Guiliani reported that the Commission met last week and discussed continuing progress of implementing the Active Transportation Plan. She added that they continue to discuss off-street parking requirements and redevelopment of the north-end of Washington Avenue. Ms. Cimarolli added that the Commission is seeking assistance from University of Pittsburgh civil engineering students to help with planning of north-end parking improvements.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported that the community tree planting on November 16<sup>th</sup> was well attended and a successful event. He thanked the Police Department for assisting with traffic control when volunteers were working along busy roads. The Manager reported that he also submitted an application to TreeVitalize to provide trees for a spring 2025 planting project on Baldwin Street and within McLaughlin Run Park.

Manager Kauer reported that the annual free electronic recycling event has been scheduled for August 9, 2025, and Representative Kulik’s Paper Shredding Event on September 13<sup>th</sup>, both events held at the Fire Station.

POLICE CHIEF, CHAD KING – Chief King thanked Jazzwear Toy Company for donating toys that were distributed by the police officers at Winter Blast. He also thanked Toys for Pittsburgh

Tikes for donating toys that the officers will pass out at the Buddy the Elf event on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and also thanked the Western Pennsylvania Stuff a Store for toy donations that are being distributed at area daycare centers. Chief King stated that on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10AM will be the final Buddy the Elf show.

Chief King announced his retirement and stated that he intends to retire on January 3, 2025. He stated that he has been a Bridgeville Police Officer for 26 years and over 15 years as Chief of Police. The Chief extended his appreciation to Council and Mayors for their support during his tenure.

Mr. Verduci stated that Chief King's retirement is a great loss to the community, and thanked him for all of his years of leadership. Mr. Ghelarducci and Mr. Henderson echoed the same sentiments, stating that Chief King professionally advanced the Police Department.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion to accept the resignation and retirement of Chad King as Chief of Police effective January 3, 2025, was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the Public Safety Committee to administer a search for a replacement Chief of Police was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary