

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025
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 and those serving in the military.

ROLL CALL – Roll was called at 7:12 PM with the following present:

Council President Joseph Verduci
Council Vice-President Bruce Ghelarducci
Councilwoman Justine Cimarolli
Councilman Jason Ferri
Councilman William Henderson
Councilman Jason Sarasnick

Mayor Betty Copeland, Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Engineer John Heyl, Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Police Sgt. Gary James and EMS Chief Dan Miller

Absent: Councilman Shane Franchick and Asst. Chief Siegwarth

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:

Mr. Rick Ruffennach, 1403 Romano Drive, asked Borough Council if anything can be done to improve the intersection of Bank Street / Lesnett Road / Mayview Road and Chartiers Street. He stated that he has seen increased traffic through this intersection caused by increased development in neighboring communities and stated that its becoming harder to travel through it as a result. He expressed concerns about the manner motorists are signaling their turns incorrectly causing confusion. Mr. Verduci asked the Manager to provide an update. Manager Kauer stated that last year Borough Council authorized a traffic study to be completed by Trans Associates while working collectively with Upper St. Clair Township. The study is analyzing if a roundabout could be constructed at this location. Ms. Cimarolli asked if there has been an increase in vehicle crashes at this intersection over the past two years. Sgt. James stated that he will pull the data and report to Council and Mayor within the week. Mr. Ferri stated that he shares the same concerns about this busy intersection.

BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the January 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.

3. A motion to approve the January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, 2025, payrolls was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

4. A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1031, an Ordinance of the Borough of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, amending its Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27 of its Code of Ordinances, to establish updated rules regarding lots, lot design, frontage, minimum and maximum setbacks, accessory structures / uses, and related requirements within the Borough was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Henderson; a roll call vote was taken:

Cimarolli-yes, Ferri-no, Ghelarducci-no, Henderson-yes, Sarasnick-no, Verduci-yes. The vote was tied and Mayor Copeland voted yes. Motion carried 4-3.

5. A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1032, an Ordinance of the Borough of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, amending its Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance, Chapter 22 of its Code of Ordinances, to establish updated rules regarding lots, lot frontage, design, minimum and maximum setbacks and accessory structures / uses within the Borough was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Henderson; a roll call vote was taken:

Cimarolli-yes, Ferri-no, Ghelarducci-no, Henderson-yes, Sarasnick-yes, Verduci-yes. Motion carried 4-2.

6. A motion to authorize the execution of Change Order No. 1 for the Bluff Street Extension Slope Stabilization & Retaining Wall Project that is in the amount of \$4,750 to include the installation of one additional base course of Redi-Rock wall blocks (65 linear feet) to address existing field conditions was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.

7. A motion to authorize the purchase of a Caterpillar Mini Excavator with a Brush Cutter attachment at State Costars Contract Price from Cleveland Brothers in the amount of \$86,092 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

8. A motion to authorize the purchase of a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor SUV with an extended service warranty and emergency equipment upfitting from Laurel Ford at State Costars Contract price of \$61,423.30 was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.

9. A motion to authorize Secure Technical Solutions to install security cameras at multiple signalized intersections within the Borough as requested by the Police Department, at a cost not to exceed \$10,268 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Henderson; Mr. Ferri asked on behalf of Mr. Franchick, do these cameras have a maintenance fee? Mr. Kauer stated

no, only an internet connection and repair costs should they arise. Motion carried unanimously.

10. A motion to request PENNDOT to complete a Speed Reduction Study on Chartiers Street so that a lower speed limit if enacted would permit a crosswalk to be installed connecting the north side (sidewalk side) of Chartiers Street to Chartiers Park as requested by the Bridgeville Planning Commission was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; Mr. Ferri asked on behalf of Mr. Franchick; can the Borough reduce the speed limit on our own without going to PENNDOT. Manager Kauer stated that we cannot as Chartiers Street is a state road.

Mr. Ferri stated that he feels that walking down the park road is dangerous and he has concerns. He asked if the Planning Commission could study if another pedestrian access could be made into Chartiers Park without using the main roadway.

11. A motion to authorize the execution of an agreement with Municipal Advertising Consultants for the production of the 2025 Borough Guide was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; the motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare plans, project specifications and bid documents, and to authorize the advertisement for bids, for the 2025 Road Paving Program was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Mr. Ferri on behalf of Mr. Franchick, asked if the roads are being bid as one package or individual bid items. The Manager explained that each street is bid individually within the bid package; motion carried unanimously.
13. A motion to exonerate Tax Collector Anne Marie Parisi from the collection of 2021 delinquent Real Estate Taxes that have been sent to Jordan Tax Service for liening was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
14. A motion to authorize the renewal of the Borough's Property, Equipment, Automotive and General Liability Insurance packages through MRM Risk Management at a cost of \$108,808, effective February 4, 2025, through February 4, 2026, was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
15. A motion to authorize the purchase of cyber security insurance through CFC Insurance at a cost of \$4,580 was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; Mr. Ghelarducci stated that Mr. Verduci called for the need for this insurance, and it is something we should do. Mr. Verduci thanked the Manager for soliciting a request for proposals for the insurance and asked that training be scheduled for the staff and officials on cyber security. Ms. Cimarolli asked if training could be made available on social media policies as well. Mr. Ferri asked about procedures on backing up the computer servers.

16. A motion to authorize the annual Bridgeville Day on the Avenue event to be held on June 14, 2025, was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; the motion carried unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – Mr. Ghelarducci had no report.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the 2024 Borough Budget was on target and the General Fund ended the year with a surplus that can be used towards future capital projects. He thanked Manager Kauer for a good job managing the community’s finances.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Ms. Cimarolli reported that both herself and Mr. Franchick recently reviewed the parks and wants to monitor the recent paving at Cook School Park to see how it holds up through the winter.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick stated that the Public Works crew has been doing a phenomenal job with the many recent snowstorms. He stated that the crew has been taking down the Christmas decorations.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Henderson thanked the Fire Department for addressing recent natural gas odors and concerns in the Borough. He stated that he heard there is still an active level-2 gas leak on Chestnut Street and called upon Peoples Gas Co. to fix it.

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 this year.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland wished Mrs. Colosimo a happy birthday and stated that she recently met with the School District as they would like to partner with the Borough on a community project.

POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES – Sgt. James reported that the monthly report has been provided and will get Council the Bank Street crash data this week.

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 the Bluff Street retaining wall project and the sanitary sewer pipelining project have been completed. He also stated that

construction on the Gregg Avenue steps should start by the end of January. Mr. Verduci questioned if there is an update on the Flood Control Project. Engineer Heyl stated that we are still waiting on FEMA's approval to proceed with the grant funds.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – no report.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller stated that at the February meeting he plans to give year-end report for 2024.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Ms. Shady thanked the Fire Department for letting them use the Chartiers Room for their community programs. She stated that the speaker's program for January 26 will focus on the recent efforts to digitize local yearbooks, and the February program will be on the underground railroad.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver stated that the Winter/Spring programming starts today and that the calendar of events is posted on their website.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting next Tuesday. She stated that lighting in Lot 1 will be improved in 2025, while lighting improvements in Lot 2 and 5 have been recently completed. She reported that the Authority has added new special pickup parking spaces in Lot 2, and they continue to operate in the black for the year.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Livingston reported that the Commission will reorganize in January and continues to advance efforts to implement the Active Transportation and Comprehensive Plans.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer had no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Verduci stated that the Rotary Club is working on a project to provide the South Fayette and Bridgeville Police Departments with comfort bags that are full of personal essentials to help someone after an emergency or crisis. He asked for donations towards the effort.

Ms. Cimarolli stated that the annual Martin Luther King ceremony is Friday, January 16th, at 6:30pm at New Life Church.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary