

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 10, 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](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 (participated virtually)
- Councilman Shane Franchick
- Councilman William Henderson
- Councilman Jason Sarasnick

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

**Absent:** None

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Mark Dozzo, 1513 Missouri Avenue, spoke about Lot 5 on Missouri Avenue, stating that this lot is unbuildable due to an existing Duquesne Light Company easement on the property. He explained the history of the lot's ownership and that the current owner does own the abutting property in Upper St. Clair. He stated that the home on this property is on McLaughlin Run Road accessible via a bridge over the creek to the property. Mr. Dozzo added that the neighboring vacant land is owned by the Thomas's and located within 100-year flood plain along McLaughlin Run Road and has been for sale for a very long time. He stated that last year Thomas presented a plan to both Bridgeville and Upper St. Clair to build a townhome community on these properties. He remarked that this property is a steep slope and is receptive to landslides. Mr. Dozzo stated that Council adopted an Ordinance last month that would make Lot 5 on Missouri Avenue a non-conforming lot and asked Council to clarify its non-conforming status and grandfathered use.

Mr. Justin Thomas, 517 Dewey Avenue, expressed concerns about recent federal actions by President Trump to freeze grant funds and asked how this will affect Bridgeville. He stated that the Borough is doing a good job with public improvements that have been funded by grants. Mr. Verduci stated that he will ask Senator Robinson how this may impact us. Ms. Cimarolli questioned the FEMA project funding. Manager Kauer explained that the first of two funding sources is a congressional appropriation worth \$750,000 and the second is a BRIC grant worth \$5.3 million. He explained that both projects have been selected, and that FEMA is completing environmental reviews of the project before the funding is released for us to proceed with the Flood Control Project.

Mr. Rich Poplosky, 609 Elm Street, stated that the Chartiers Valley School District is looking to subcontract its bussing. He said that if they do this, 65 drivers may lose their jobs, including nine who live within Bridgeville Borough. He explained how much the bus drivers care about the community and its students. He asked the Council and Mayor for help.

Mr. Pat DeBlasio, 447 Washington Avenue, stated that he walked to tonight's meeting wearing dark clothing and stated that pedestrians need to do better walking at night, encouraging the community to wear reflective clothing. He stated that the Bower Hill Road pedestrian crossing plan is a thoughtful plan, but pedestrians need to do better as well.

### **BUSINESS**

1. A motion to approve the January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the February 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the February 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 2025, payrolls was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-1, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Chartiers Park Field Lighting Project was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Ms. Cimarolli asked if this was done already? Manager Kauer explained that it has for other funding sources. He stated that the Borough applied for funding for this project to the State LSA and County GEDTF programs. The GEDTF project was not selected, and this application is to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to authorize the execution of a Sculpture Loan Agreement (for a third sculpture) 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. Henderson, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; Mr. Franchick questioned how many sculptures will we have? Mrs. BJ Schneider from Public Art Bridgeville reported that in the 2025-26 exhibition there will now be three Seward Johnson sculptures, with this third sculpture funded by Guy and Bitsy Bellaver. Motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to authorize the execution of an engagement letter by and between the Borough of Bridgeville and Acrisure Mid-Atlantic Partners Insurance Services for actuarial service for the Police Pension Plan between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028 was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.

7. A motion to appoint Ms. Karen Taylor to the Bridgeville Civil Service Commission with a term that will expire the first Monday of January, 2026 was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Mr. Verduci welcomed Ms. Taylor to the Commission. Motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$103,750.00 to Independent Enterprises, Inc. for Partial Payment No. 1 / Final for the Bluff Street Extension Slope Stabilization and Retaining Wall Improvements Project was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$163,883.20 to Jet Jack, Inc. for Partial Payment No. 2 / Final, and authorize execution of Change Order No. 1 / Final that decreased the contract amount by \$38,315 to reflect actual in-place field quantities, for the Area 4 Sanitary Sewer Lining Program was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to approve the design of the Bower Hill Road Pedestrian Improvements Project and direct the Borough Manager to apply for grant funding to implement the plan. Motion was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; Mr. Verduci stated that this plan has been prepared by the Borough Engineer and reviewed by the Bridgeville Planning Commission. Mr. Sarasnick stated that this plan can also be incorporated at other areas around the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – January 2025 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the January 2025 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
13. A motion to accept all submitted January 2025 official reports was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the 2024 Audit is now underway and that the Borough Manager is working on several grant applications for capital projects.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that the Committee

recently met and reviewed each park. He added that the Committee is considering a rededication ceremony of Cook School Park in May and that registration is now open for the Bridgeville Athletic Association.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick stated that the Public Works Department has been busy with winter road maintenance and servicing equipment.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Henderson thanked the Fire Department and Borough Manager for working with the Gas Company to resolve natural gas leak concerns on Chestnut Street.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Ferri reported that the last meeting was poorly attended due to poor winter weather and much of the scheduled agenda items will be considered at the February meeting.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland read a letter she received from an Upper St. Clair Township resident who frequents McLaughlin Run Park often. She commended the Borough's Public Works Department for their efforts to keep McLaughlin Run Park so clean. She also stated that February is Black History Month, and that Marshall Pappert mailed her three quarters that showcase Fredrick Douglas and the Tuskegee Airmen.

POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES – Sgt. James reported that the monthly report has been provided.

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 DEP has issued a new MS4 permit that will require operational changes for the Borough. He stated that the Station Street ADA Ramps and the 2025 Road Program is ready to go to bid. The Engineer reported that the contractor for the Gregg Avenue Steps Project plans to start work later this month as the project has been delayed due to the extremely cold weather. Mr. Franchick questioned the Engineer on the areas of Liberty Street that is settling. Engineer Heyl stated that his plan is to excavate about two feet down to stabilize the base and then repave those areas as part of the 2025 Road Program. He added that the work may require a geotechnical review.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Chief Costain reported that the BVFD responded to 413 calls in 2024 and had an average dispatch to on-scene time of six minutes and 24 seconds. He reported that in January, the Department responded to 47 calls. He thanked the Borough for the recent support that helped purchase the new SCBA equipment for the firefighters. The Chief stated that the firefighters have been trained on them and they are now in-service. Lastly, Chief Costain stated that the BVFD is having the Cash Bash again this year on May 3.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller reported that SouthBridge EMS responded to 1,270 calls for service in the Borough in 2024, a 34% increase over 2023 calls within the Borough. He stated that the Agency responded to over 5,000 calls between the three communities it serves. He explained that the average ambulance bill costs \$1,130 and typically only receive \$473, 42% of the bill. Chief Miller thanked the Council for their support, donating \$5.47 per capita. He

added that they recently received a \$10,000 grant that will purchase CPR equipment for each ambulance. Lastly, he stated that the annual membership drive is underway and asked for the community's help.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Mrs. Linda Tome reported that the Society's 2025 membership drive is underway. She stated that the February Speaker's Program will be on the Underground Railroad. She thanked the Manager for putting the Historical Society's events on the Borough's message board. She also passed out their monthly newsletter.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver stated that the library is hosting an Art Exhibit this month of a local artist within the Library and welcomed the community to see it.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting next Monday. She reviewed plans to improve lot lighting this year and to add pickup parking spaces in Lot 2 to help the restaurants. Mrs. Colosimo added that the Authority provided an article to the Borough for the annual guide and continues to operate in the black.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Guiliani stated that the Commission will host a Community Clean Up Day on April 26. She also reported that at the last meeting, the Commission started work on the Downtown Zoning District project with Mackin Engineers. Ms. Guiliani reported that this work will continue at the February meeting which will start at 6PM. Lastly, she reported that the Baldwin Street Pollinator Garden is on track to be planted this May and that the project is getting a lot of interest from the community.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer presented the 2024 Year-end Report that is attached to these meeting minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Verduci reported that the Rotary Club's annual Trivia Night Fundraiser will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> and that tables are still available. He also thanked the community for the support to make comfort bags.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary