

BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 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. Council President Joseph Verduci led a moment of silence for the recently departed members of our community and those serving in the military. Mr. Verduci stated that Council met in Executive Session before this meeting to discuss a legal matter; no action was taken.

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 Larry Lennon (for John Heyl), Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Asst. Fire Chief Bob Siegwarth and EMS Chief Dan Miller

Absent: Police Sgt. Gary James

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. Mark Dozzo, 1513 Missouri Avenue, stated that Lot 5 on Missouri Avenue has an easement from the Duquesne Light Company on it for the power tower that is also on this property. He stated that this power tower is over 70 years old and is not of the same design the power company is erecting now. Mr. Dozzo expressed concerns that if a driveway or road were to be constructed on this lot, the power tower could not be improved or replaced. He also expressed concerns that he believes Bridgeville Borough permitted a driveway to be constructed on this lot into Upper St. Clair Township. Mr. Ferri asked Mr. Dozzo what he is seeking from Council? Mr. Dozzo stated that all the properties on Missouri Avenue are owner-occupied with the exception of Lot 5 who does not live in Bridgeville. He stated that the grandfathered use of a driveway should be stopped. Solicitor McDermott stated that Council passed a zoning amendment and any use as it currently is for egress is permitted to continue. This Ordinance did not create a grandfathering use and how it is being used to-date is permitted to continue, including access for clearing and grubbing.

Mr. Pat DeBlasio, 447 Washington Avenue, stated that he is hopeful that as the community looks at trees, it allows us to embrace trees and not create bureaucracy. He stated that he is not fond of government.

Mr. Rich Poplosky, 609 Elm Street, updated the Council on recent actions by the Chartiers Valley School Board including hiring private security officers and seeking proposals to outsource bussing. He asked the Council to take a stand against these measures. Mr. Verduci stated that the Council shares some of your same feelings, but actions towards the

School Board should be coming from the individuals and not the Borough.

Ms. Mandi Prior, Executive Director of the South West Communities Chamber of Commerce, stated that on March 27th the Chamber will be hosting a Bridgeville Borough Business Open House at 6PM in Council Chambers. She stated that it is envisioned that this meeting will help improve and foster relationships between business owners in the community.

BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the March 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the March 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11, 2025, payrolls was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1033, an Ordinance of the Borough of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, amending the Bridgeville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Administration and Government, Part 3, Board and Commissions, to add Article D, establishing the Bridgeville Borough Shade Tree Commission was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to approve and grant a Borough Earned Income Tax Credit for year 2024 in accordance with Chapter 24 of the Bridgeville Code of Ordinances, Part 1, Section 111 (Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighters of the Bridgeville VFD), for the eligible and active members as recommend by the Fire Chief was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to authorize the execution of the annual lease agreement between the Borough of Bridgeville and the Bridgeville Athletic Association for the use of the Chartiers Park Concession Stand and Equipment Room was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$488,000 from the Capital Project Fund to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the municipal contribution towards the completed Chartiers Street Widening and new South-end Washington Avenue Bridge Project as outlined in Resolution No. 2018-06 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Manager Kauer explained that the Borough agreed to contribute \$788,000 towards this project. He explained that the Borough received grant funding, that has already been paid to PENNDOT, to offset the construction costs to widen Chartiers Street, and that the Chartiers Street and new south-end Bridge Project were able to be managed by PENNDOT versus the

Borough taking on the project. This invoice pays the remaining agreed sum to PENNDOT as the project is now complete. Motion carried unanimously.

8. A motion to concur and authorize the granting of a Right of Way acquisition of 1,700 square feet in the front of McLaughlin Run Park for the existing guardrail and to permit a Temporary Construction Easement of 3,200 square feet of the park land adjacent to McLaughlin Run Road Bridge No. 2 to PENNDOT for the planned project to replace the bridge in 2027 was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Mr. Verduci stated that this is revised easement limits from prior authorization granted in 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – February 2025 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 Treasurer's Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to accept all submitted February 2025 official reports was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ferri; 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 funds in the sewer, capital and reserve funds have been recently invested in CDs to earn additional interest.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that the Parks look great, and many people are now using them as the weather is getting warmer. He reported that baseball registration is now open, and that the Committee is discussing upcoming improvements to the Parks.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick reported that the new mini-excavator machine has been received and in use by the Department this week to repair street lighting conduit on Washington Avenue. He stated that street sweeping will be starting for the season on April 1st. Mr. Sarasnick also stated that the crew upgraded garage lighting to LED and completed winter maintenance of the roads several times this past month.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Henderson made a motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to test for the position of patrolmen, while also waiving the application fee; motion was seconded by Mr. Ferri, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Henderson also stated that retired Police Sgt. Peter Caporali passed away this past weekend. He said that he worked with Sgt. Caporali for several years and that he will be missed.

Mr. Franchick questioned the Manager on a section of curb on Dewey Avenue that is in disrepair. Manager Kauer stated that PENNDOT is planning to resurface Dewey and Station Street this summer and that he is seeking their help to replace this curb as part of this project.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Ferri reported that the COG has scheduled an upcoming joint firefighters training with SHACOG that will be held May 4-5 with a national renowned speaker. He also stated that County Council President Pat Catena was at the last meeting and reported that the County has extended the deadline to pay real estate taxes as their bills were mailed out late.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported that both her and Officer Bill Johnson attended the funeral for retired- Sgt. Caporali today and that Sgt. James is there now and will be escorting the family to the cemetery tomorrow.

POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES – No report.

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

BOROUGH ENGINEER, JOHN HEYL – Engineer Lennon reported that the 2025 Road Program has been advertised and that work on the Gregg Avenue Steps Project will be starting soon.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Assistant Chief Siegwarth reported that the Department responded to 30 calls last month, 89 year-to-date. He reported that the firefighters are selling tickets to their upcoming Cash Bash fundraiser and will also be hosting a Spring Craft Sale on April 6th, 11AM to 4PM.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller reported he provided a written report and could answer any questions.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Mrs. Shady reported that the 2025 membership drive is currently underway and that on the 4th Tuesday of the month they will have their monthly speakers' program.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver stated that the library is hosting a spirit day fundraiser at Panera Bread on March 22 where 20% of the proceeds get donated to the library. She reviewed upcoming programs that include a March 22nd Beekeeping class and on March 24th, a local author presentation from Maria Palmer.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting next Monday. She stated that the Authority is working to add 5-minute pickup parking spaces within Lot 2. Mrs. Colosimo reported that the Board reorganized at its last meeting, she was re-elected Chairperson, Ed Pelino is the Vice Chair, and Mike Neely is the Secretary / Treasurer. Lastly, she wished Mayor Copeland a happy birthday.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Tolmer reported that the Commission is actively working on the Downtown Zoning District Project. At the last meeting the

Commission discussed best uses for a healthy main street and reported that there will be a business focus group meeting on April 10th, 5-7pm at the library. He thanked the Council for advancing the Shade Tree Commission ordinance and added that this Ordinance will keep operations simple.

Mr. Tolmer reported that the annual clean-up day will be held on April 26th and Ms. Cimarolli reported that the upcoming Planning Commission meetings will start at 6PM, public welcome, to have additional time to work on the Downtown Zoning.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported that contractors working for PENNDOT will be starting the week of March 24th to construct the new corner bump-outs on Bank Street and to make upgrades to the ADA corner ramps.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Franchick thanked the Fire Department for using the hall and garage to host recent meetings of the Bridgeville Athletic Association. He offered to have the Fire Department floor scrubber serviced.

Ms. Cimarolli stated that the 125th Bridgeville Anniversary Logo contest is underway, deadline to submit is April 15, 2025. Mr. Pat DeBlasio stated that in July 2026 Bridgeville will celebrate 125 years and the United States will celebrate 250 years. He reported that the Community Association is planning several activities to celebrate this anniversary. Mr. Verduci asked if the Borough will be involved in the event planning. Mr. DeBlasio stated yes and that the next planning meeting is Tuesday, March 25, 7PM at the American Legion. Mr. Ferri stated that he plans to attend and will report back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary