

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 14, 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. 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 (participated virtually)
- 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, Sgt. Gary James and EMS Chief Dan Miller

**Absent:** Councilwoman Cimarolli, Fire Chief Ray Costain

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Nicholas Ciesielski, 734 Maple Street, raised concerns to Borough Council about the potential loss of federal funding for the McLaughlin Run Flood Control project. He asked what actions the Borough will be taking against the federal government.

Mr. Fred Valentino, 251 May Avenue, spoke about historical floods that affected the Borough and expressed disappointment with President Donald Trump and FEMA for taking back the federal funding that would have constructed the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project.

Mr. Rich Poploski, 609 Elm Street, expressed concerns about the School District about the possibility of laying off bus drivers over the summer to avoid paying them unemployment benefits. He also stated that he is concerned about the probability that police school resource officers will be removed from the schools replaced with private security officers. Lastly, he read a letter signed by several state representatives and senators calling for an audit of the Chartiers Valley School District.

Council President Joseph Verduci read the following statement from the Council regarding the FEMA funding for the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project:

*We, as a Council, feel it is important to speak out and share what we've recently learned regarding a critical issue facing our community.*

*In 2023, FEMA selected Bridgeville's McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project, Phase 1, to*

*be awarded \$5.33 million in Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) funding. In addition to this FEMA funding, the Borough was awarded another \$1.87 million in State grants and dedicated municipal funds towards this \$7 million-dollar vital flood mitigation project. This project is designed to protect our residents and their homes, businesses, as well as to support redevelopment on the north end of town—bringing much-needed services and amenities to our community.*

*As part of the FEMA grant process, starting in late 2023, at the directive of FEMA we have completed several comprehensive and ongoing environmental and historical assessments and responses to FEMA’s construction plan reviews. In addition, to ensure that the project stays on schedule as FEMA funding has been dedicated, the Borough invested over \$200,000 to the engineering necessary to secure DEP and Army Corps of Engineers Permits and legal clearances that included Right of Way acquisition from over a dozen property owners. This figure does not include the hundreds of hours our Borough Manager, Joe Kauer, has dedicated to preparing extensive documentation and coordinating communications for this project.*

*However, we were recently informed that there is now a strong possibility that the FEMA funds will not be released due to a blanket “no release of funds” decision. This is unacceptable. Our taxpayers should not be penalized after making such a significant investment in both time and money.*

*We are calling on our residents to contact their Federal representatives (Senators McCormick and Fetterman, Congresswoman Lee and Governor Shapiro)—who have expressed full support for this Borough—and urge them to advocate for common sense and action. We must move this project forward for the safety and future of our community.*

*Thank you.*

Mr. Ferri called upon the citizens to call their representatives and senators to advocate for reinstating the FEMA funding for the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project.

## **BUSINESS**

1. A motion to approve the March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the April 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the April 18, 25, May 2 and 9, 2025 payrolls was made by Mr. Ferri, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to adopt 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. Ferri, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

5. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-2, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, authorizing the submission of a Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program Grant application for the McLaughlin Run Flood Improvements Storm Sewer Improvements Project was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, applying to PENNDOT for a Banner Permit to hang a banner over Washington Avenue promoting the 2025 Day on the Avenue event was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ferri; the motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-4, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, authorizing the submission of a Pennsylvania Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant application for the Chartiers Park Lighting Improvements Project was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to authorize the execution of Change Order No. 1/ Final for the Center Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project, decreasing the contract by \$16,040 based on final in-place quantities and work performed was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$16,553.97 from the Sewer Fund to Edge AI Solutions for Partial Payment No. 1 of the 2024 Sanitary Sewer O&M CCTV Program was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to accept the lowest responsible bid received from Independent Enterprises in the amount of \$333,917.50 for the Base Bid and Add Alternate No. 1 of 2025 Roadway Improvements Program 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. Franchick. Mr. Sarasnick asked the Manager to explain the scope of work. Manager Kauer stated that this project will pave Mill Street from the middle of the 700 block to Cook School Road, and then all of Cook School Road from Mill Street to Ridge Road. The alternate bid that is accepted will repave a portion of Oshelager Way. Motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to authorize disbursement of Real Estate Tax Refunds due to a change in assessment to the following:
  - Jamie Pouch, Parcel: 255-L-82, Years 2024 and 2023, total: \$254.80
  - Warehouse 630 LLC, Parcel: 255-R-271, Year 2024, total: \$261.95

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

12. A motion to authorize the sale via public online auction ([www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com)) of surplus municipal vehicles:
- DPW Truck 1, 1985 GMC Dump Truck
  - PD Car B-4, 2017 Ford Explorer SUV

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

13. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – March 2025 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
14. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; the motion carried unanimously.
15. A motion to accept all submitted March 2025 official reports was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Franchick; the motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ADMINISTRATION, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – Mr. Ghelarducci commended the office staff in their efforts to reverse the federal decision on the FEMA funding for the Flood Control Project.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the 2024 Audit has been completed and will be presented at the May Council meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that baseball season is now underway. He thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts to clean up the parks for the season. Mr. Franchick also thanked Sgt. James for identifying the juvenile who vandalized the Athletic Association’s tractor.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick reported that the crew has been busy cleaning up the parks, addressing potholes and rebuilding catch basins. He also stated that the Department recently made a large repair to the Washington Avenue streetlights where the conduit needed replaced.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Henderson stated that several former members of Council who were instrumental in developing and securing the funding for the Flood Control Project are in the meeting audience and stated that he hopes that this effort wasn’t in vain due to the federal government’s decision to take back the project’s funding.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Ferri had no report.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported that today she attended an event at the Chartiers Valley Primary School where Mrs. Territ’s second grade class presented a book they wrote this year on the life of Honus Wagner. She also presented a copy of this book to the Bridgeville Library.

POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES – Sgt. James reported that he submitted his written monthly report and could answer any questions.

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 Station Street ADA ramp plans have been finalized and provided to the Council of Governments to bid the project. He also reported that construction of the Gregg Avenue steps is planned to start next week.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – no report.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Chief Miller had no report.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Mayor Copeland reported that this month’s speakers’ program will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, titled: “The General, Major and Sergeant” a story about an Army battalion during World War II.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver reported that she provided the library’s monthly and 2024 year-end report. She stated that the Friends of the Library will have a Used Book Sale on April 25 and 26 and that their Spring Raffle is underway. Mr. Ferri reported that the Library Board will be meeting tomorrow at 6:30PM to discuss possibly having a 5K race in Bridgeville to fundraise for the library.

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 Fire Department’s Cash Bash will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Guiliani stated that the Commission has been active working on the Downton Zoning amendment project. She stated that a special charette was held last week and a lot of feedback was received. Ms. Guiliani reported that at the next meeting, they will be discussing the planting plans for the new Bank Street bump outs and discussing the concept of streetscaping the rest of Washington Avenue. Lastly, she reported that the Baldwin Street Pollinator Garden will be planted on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer thanked those who participated in the Downtown Zoning Charette.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary