

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 12, 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 personnel matter, and also on May 6th and 7th; 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 Jr., Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Sgt. Gary James and EMS Chief Dan Miller

Absent: Fire Chief Ray Costain

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. Don Palluch, 154 Pennsylvania Avenue, expressed dissatisfaction with the Public Works Department's Brush Collection Program as they left chips and some debris on the roadway in front of his residence after a pickup last week. Manager Kauer acknowledged his concerns and stated that we will strive to do better next time. The Manager stated that on April 29th a severe storm with high winds caused widespread damage throughout the community that resulted in dozens of trees down blocking roads, numerous accounts of property damage and trees down in yards on essentially every street in town. The storm clean up has been a very large task for the Public Works Department. Mr. Palluch also suggested that an ashtray be placed within Triangle Park.

Ms. Karie Reynolds, 664 Chestnut Street, questioned who is responsible for maintenance on the state roadways in the Borough, specifically trees on the side of the roadway. She also stated that many signs on Chartiers Street are currently blocked by overgrown vegetation and asked for increased speed enforcement on these roadways. Manager Kauer stated that the trees are the responsibility of the abutting property owners to maintain and that we will have the signs cleaned up this week.

Ms. Deniese Flaherty, Crafty Jackalope, 608 Washington Avenue, requested the Borough Council to request a loudspeaker exemption from the State Liquor Control Board related to their establishment. She asks that any noise complaints from their restaurant be addressed by the Borough's ordinances and not by the LCB. Mr. Verduci stated that the Council will review and consider such at our next meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Presentation of the 2024 Borough Audit by Mark Turnley CPA. Kim Turnley presented the report and reviewed the management letter in detail with the Council. Mr. Verduci pointed out in the Audit Report that all municipal funds held by the bank are collateralized; essentially ensuring the public funds. Mrs. Turnley agreed and showed that this is noted within the report.
2. A motion to accept the 2024 Borough Audit report was made by Mr. Ferri, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the May 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to approve the May 16, 23, 30 and June 6, 2025, payrolls was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to issue a conditional offer of employment to Gary James appointing him as Chief of Police, pending the successful completion of physical and psychological examinations and passing a background investigation (if applicable) was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$25,961.16 from the Sewer Fund to Edge AI Solutions for Partial Payment No. 2 / Final of the 2024 Sanitary Sewer O&M CCTV Program was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to approve the Chabala Corner Plan of Lots, a subdivision of 1 Ewing Avenue and 340 Prestley Road that reverses the 2024 lot consolidation of these properties, as recommended by the Bridgeville Planning Commission, Borough Engineer and pending any comments received from Allegheny County Department of Economic Development was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize Jet Jack, Inc. to convert a sanitary sewer lamphole to a manhole to address roadway sinkage at the intersection of Lurry Street and Chess Street at a cost not to exceed \$11,600 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to authorize the execution of Change Order No. 1 for the Gregg Avenue Stairs Project that increases the contract time to complete the project by 120 calendar days due to inclement winter weather and unsafe working conditions; there is no change in the contract costs was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; Mr. Franchick expressed concerns that this extension may push the work into next winter. Engineer Lennon and the Manager stated that they are confident that it will not; work is on track to be completed by mid-summer; motion carried unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that multiple grant applications have been completed and submitted by the Borough Manager for capital project needs within the Borough. Mr. Verduci stated that Bridgeville received official notice from PEMA that our FEMA BRIC grant for the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project has been cancelled and that we have been in communication with Senator McCormick and Fetterman who are actively working with FEMA to seek their help to reverse this decision. Ms. Cimarolli questioned how long the permits the Borough has for the construction project are good for? Engineer Lennon stated that they are good typically for five years and can be extended.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick reported that the crew has been busy cleaning up after the April 29th windstorm, cutting grass in the parks, addressing potholes and rebuilding catch basins.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON – Mr. Verduci thanked Mr. Henderson and the Committee for their efforts to seek a new police chief. Mr. Henderson congratulated Chief James and stated that he looks forward to his leadership. He also stated that pedestrian crossing signage will be added to the Bank Street bump outs by PENNDOT. Mr. Henderson questioned if they would be landscaped. Manager Kauer stated that the Planning Commission is working on a project to plant a small and low plant in the center of each mulched bed. Ms. Cimarolli remarked that she hopes to have them planted before Memorial Day.

CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI – Mr. Franchick stated that he attended the last meeting on Mr. Ferri’s behalf. He stated that he got information on Carnegie’s 5K race-fundraiser as a similar event is being considered here in Bridgeville to benefit the library.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported that on May 3, both Sgt. James and her attended a presentation here in Bridgeville that spoke about fentanyl. She stated that Sgt. James spoke at the event on a personal impact he has had with the loss of his niece to a fentanyl overdose. Mayor Copeland shared a news article that is in Upper St. Clair’s magazine about Bridgeville. She stated

that she looks forward to the Memorial Day Parade on May 26th.

POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES – Chief James reported that he submitted his written monthly report and could answer any questions. He also stated that last week a coyote and it's pup were spotted in McLaughlin Run Park. Chief James thanked the Council and stated that it is a great honor to be promoted as our community's next Police Chief.

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 preconstruction meeting for the Road Program will be held this month, and that the Sewer O&M project has been completed.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – no report.

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

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY – Ms. Shady reported that the recent bake sale was a success and thanked those who participated. She stated that the Society is excited to participate in the upcoming Day on the Avenue.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Weaver reported that the summer programs start on May 27th. She also shared news about the Regional Asset District's summer staycation programs that are available through the library that will provide free admission to many of the region's attractions. Mr. Ferri stated that the Bridgeville 125th anniversary logo contest art is on display at the library this month. Ms. Cimarolli stated that the library is having internship opportunities over the summer and Director Weaver reported that they are and the positions have been filled.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will be meeting next Monday. She stated that the Authority is working to landscape Lot 2 this month and is looking for grant funding to help pay for the resurfacing of this lot. Mr. Verduci questioned what the Authority's plan for this project will be if it is unsuccessful in getting grant funding. Mrs. Colosimo stated that she is talking to our state representatives for help. She also stated that the three 5-minute parking pickup spots in Lot 2 are in operation and that they are looking for a parking enforcement employee.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Livingston stated that work continues on the Downtown Zoning Ordinance project and that at the last meeting the Commission reviewed the Chabala Lot Consolidation. He added that the Commission also continues to discuss and prioritize the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Livingston reported that 13 volunteers participated on Earth Day cleanup, and they cleaned up litter within the parks and streets around the Borough Building. Lastly, he stated that the Baldwin Street Butterfly Garden will be planted on May 17th.

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

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary