

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 11, 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
- Councilman Jason Ferri
- Councilman Shane Franchick
- Councilman William Henderson
- Councilman Jason Sarasnick

Also present included: Mayor Betty Copeland, Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Engineer John Heyl, Borough Manager Joseph Kauer, Chief of Police Gary James, Fire Chief Ray Costain and EMS Chief Dan Miller

**Absent:** Councilwoman Justine Cimarolli

**PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Betty Copeland administered the oath of office to Chief of Police Gary James. Mrs. James pinned the badge on the newly appointed Chief of Police. A representative from Senator Robinson’s staff presented Chief James with a proclamation recognizing his promotion.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Pat DeBlasio, 447 Washington Avenue, stated that he appreciated the efforts of Council and Mayor Copeland to hire a new Chief of Police. He stated that this task was not easy and that he appreciates the efforts that it took.

**BUSINESS:**

1. A motion to approve the July 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the August 2025 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the August 15, 22, 29 and September 5, 2025, payrolls was made by Mr. Ferri, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to grant Civil Service status per article 4.13 of the Bridgeville Civil Service Rules & Regulations to Chief of Police Gary James, effective immediately, thereby accepting the certified results of the non-competitive promotional exam administered by the Public Safety

Committee was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.

5. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$35,370 from the Capital Project Fund to Avelli Construction Corporation for Partial Payment No. 3 of the Gregg Avenue Stairs Project was made by Mr. Franchick, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; Mr. Ferri stated that he walked the new stairs recently and that it was a quality job performed by the contractor. Motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to authorize and ratify execution of IRS §147(F) Acknowledgement Form in relation to the Lease-Purchase Agreement, dated July 20, 2025, between the Bridgeville VFD and Leasing 2, Inc., in the amount of \$386,165.00, for the lease-purchase of a 2026 E-One Pumper on a Ford F-550 Chassis was made by Mr. Sarasnick, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; Mr. Verduci stated that the Borough's signature simply acknowledges the VFD's continued agreement to meet requirements to continue to provide firefighting and other services for the Borough and does not in any way constitute any financial involvement or obligation of the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – July 2025 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Franchick; motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the July 2025 Treasurer's Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Sarasnick; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to accept all submitted July 2025 official reports was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri; motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI –Manager Kauer reported that Governor Shapiro announced that the State is filing a lawsuit against the Federal Government for the BRIC projects that were cancelled, that would include our project. He also stated that on July 29<sup>th</sup>, staff from Senator Fetterman's office were in town to get a tour of the flood project limits and to learn more about the project. This is to support his recent \$5.3 million dollar earmark request for the project. Lastly, the Manager reported that PEMA is completing a review of a \$712,000 grant that would go towards the culvert replacement portion of the flood project. Project is selected and is under review by PEMA and FEMA.

PARKS & RECREATION, SHANE FRANCHICK – Mr. Franchick reported that the Bridgeville Athletic Association recently held tournaments at Chartiers Park where Mayor Copeland helped release over 500 ducks in their duck race fundraiser.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, JASON SARASNICK – Mr. Sarasnick reported that street sweeping is being completed the third week of each month, and efforts are underway to complete line painting around town.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM HENDERSON** – Mr. Henderson congratulated Chief James on his appointment and stated that he looks forward to having a Public Safety Committee meeting with him.

**CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, JASON FERRI** – Mr. Ferri reported that there were no meetings over the summer, but the next meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup> here in Bridgeville.

**MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND** – Mayor Copeland had no report.

**POLICE CHIEF, GARY JAMES** – Chief James read a recent letter of commendation that he presented to Patrolman William Johnson for his efforts that helped in the investigation that identified the suspects who assaulted and robbed a letter carrier. He also stated that the Civil Service Commission recently completed the testing that prepared a new patrolman hiring eligibility list. The Chief stated that he is in the process of completing background investigations of the candidates.

**SOLICITOR, THOMAS MCDERMOTT** – Solicitor McDermott reported that he submitted his written monthly report and could answer any questions. He also congratulated Chief James on becoming Chief of Police.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER, JOHN HEYL** – Engineer Heyl reported that paving work will be starting soon and that the construction of the new picnic shelter at Chartiers Park is delayed. He stated that the vendor is reporting that there is currently a 20-week lead time on the new shelter.

Engineer Heyl also reported that the Gregg Avenue Stairway project is completed, and the contractor is working on punch list items.

**FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN** – Chief Costain reported that the Department responded to 43 calls in July, with no fires in the Borough.

**SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER** – Chief Miller reviewed January through June activity in the Borough. Chief Miller reported that the SouthBridge EMS placed an order for a new ambulance that will cost \$320,000. He thanked the Borough for its support and asked the Council to consider continuing such in the 2026 Borough Budget.

**BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LEESA SHADY** – Mayor Copeland reported that there are no speakers' programs in July and August and that they have a new shirt fundraiser underway.

**BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE** – Director Weaver reported that summer programs have concluded with 1,291 people participating in over 98 programs. She stated that fall programs will start the third week of September, with a used book sale on September 12 and 13. She also stated that the Trivia Night will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7PM and tickets go on sale next Friday.

**BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE** – Chairwoman Colosimo reported that the Authority will not be meeting in August.

**BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE** – Mr. Tolmer reported that at its last meeting, the Commission discussed multiple efforts to implement both the Active Transportation and Comprehensive Plan. He also reported that the Commission is asking Council to

consider adding funds to next year's budget to complete traffic engineering to advance the Washington Avenue north end project.

**BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER** – Manager Kauer reported:

- Bank St Roundabout: both communities met with PENNDOT earlier this summer to explain the report and see if they desired to explore alternative concepts if the roundabout could not be built. PENNDOT District Executive is interested in advancing the roundabout concept and is seeking SPC funding for construction. The project is estimated to cost \$2.1 million by Trans Associates.
- Downtown Zoning District – Public Hearing to be held September 8th, 6:30PM. It has been advertised, Ordinance posted online, and notice provided to all property owners who are included in the new district.
- Truck 1 (GMC Dump Truck) and Car 4 auction on [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com). Auctions ended without bids; they both were relisted at lower starting prices; auctions scheduled to end later this month.
- Shade Tree Commission – new appointees have been notified and first meeting planned for Monday, October 6, 2025, 7PM.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was held on July 23rd, 85 residents participated.
- We hosted a Free Electronic Collection Event on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 200 residents participated.
- Representative Anita Kulik will hold a free paper shredding collection on Saturday, September 13, 9A to 11A at the BVFD Parking Lot.
- McLaughlin Run Park Meadow Project – DPW completed site improvements that included construction of bench pads, installation of benches, signs and cutting in the walking path has been completed. A dedication ceremony is planned with the Rotary and Lions Club on Thursday, September 18th, 6PM.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Verduci reported that earlier this evening he attended the Collier Township Board of Commissioners meeting and presented them with the Borough proclamation that recognized their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr. Ferri reported that planning for Bridgeville's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary continues, and the committee meets each month, the last Tuesday of the month, 7PM at the American Legion Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ferri, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary