

## MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

APRIL 12, 2005

**CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Beverly was called to order at 7:00pm, by Council President Bancroft on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, under the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act c. 231 P.C. "Sunshine Law". Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. All members present saluted the flag of the United States of America.

### **ROLL CALL.**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Krzykalski, Mr. Wolbert, Mr. Newsome, Dr. Cook, Ms. Kinniebrew, Ms. Gillette, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Setikas, Council President Bancroft, Mayor Lowden, Solicitor William Kearns, Director of Public Safety Mike Morton and Municipal Clerk/Administrator Barbara Sheipe.

**ABSENT:** None.

**MINUTES.** Mrs. Richards made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2005, Mrs. Setikas second the motion. All members present voted in favor.

### **COORESPONDENCE.**

Presentation of River Route-Carla Reinas of Thomas-Boyd Communications and Mark Remsa of the Burlington County Economic Development presented the new marketing plan for the River Route (Route 130). The marketing plan is to help economic development along Route 130 from Florence Township to Palmyra. Ms. Reinas explained that the idea is to bring life back to the corridor. New signage is available for each municipality to use. The River Route logo is imprinted on each new sign. There are sign designs available for highway banners, street signs, welcome signs and utility pole banners. The County is putting together an identity package for marketing use and doing some direct mailings. They are also publicizing the corridor by an awareness campaign, news releases, special events and features success stories. The County will share their leads on businesses and link the municipalities to the River Route web site. The marketing campaign will benefit everyone by providing more business leads, broadening exposure for everyone's messages and leading to stronger economy built on new business, new ratables, new residents and new visitors to each municipality. Mayor Lowden thanked Mark and Carla for the presentation and that the City of Beverly will attempt to incorporate the use of the logo. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired as to why the River Route stopped at Florence Township going North. Mr. Remsa explained that from Bordentown to farther North there is another study for the Route 130/Route 206 Corridor that the municipalities in that area will fit into better. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired if the marketing firm had completed this type of study for

anyone else in the area. Ms. Reinas explained that she had only been with the firm for about one and half years and during that time she had work with Mr. Remsa. Mr. Remsa explained that the firm did work in Camden County and now have broaden to Burlington County. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired as to what the budget covers. Mr. Remsa explained that the budget would cover the reaching out to all of the municipalities, the tool-kit and the marketing. Mr. Krzykalski inquired if the brochures will link to Beverly City. Ms. Reinas explained that the city would create its own brochures and place it in its marketing kit. Mr. Remsa explained that there are grants available for marketing. Mr. Haaf discussed that the marketing was just to create ideas for people to tap into. Brochures will be produced that list all of the towns on the River Route. Ms. Gillette inquired if the any of the material was going to be available in Spanish? Mr. Remsa thanked her for an excellent idea that he had not thought of. He will take the idea to the committee for their input, since there is an abundant of Spanish speaking businesses. Mr. Remsa and Ms. Reinas thanked city council for allowing them to present the marketing plan and that they look forward to working on the River Route.

#### OLD BUSINESS.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

School Board Budget- Mayor Lowden explained that at the school board of estimate meeting on March 23 the vote on the budget was 3 to 2. The Mayor explained that he voted no on the budget and that the school board went to great lengths to work on the budget. The county has increases the tuition for the special education students and the vocational school has increased their tuition. Mayor Lowden discussed that the county charges should be paid by the county and not sent back to the school districts. The county school system raise their budgets or overspend their budget and than expect the municipalities to raise the additional money. Mayor Lowden has requested an explanation from the Freeholders office and has not received a reply. Mayor Lowden recommend that the council pass the school budget because any cuts would be made from the regular school child because the city can not cut the special education cost. Dr. Gray explained that it is an increase of \$180,000 or 20 cents for the school budget. Dr. Gray discussed that at first the state funding cover the special needs students cost, but the last four years the state has pass not an increase along to the city. The state has given a token percentage in 2003-2004. Dr. Gray also explained that the city's school budget does not control the cost of the high school or the vocation school. There is no extra money to be taken out of surplus. The transportation costs are at the smallest amount possible. There are fewer classrooms now than in previous years but also less state aid available. The city does receive \$370,000 in aid every year. Dr. Gray discussed that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest improvement in their test scores in the state. Mr. Newsome inquired as to how many students in an average classroom. Dr. Gray explained that there are usually 18 students in a classroom, except this year the 6<sup>th</sup> grade had 28 students. Mrs. Richards inquired about the test scores for the other grades and that

Palmyra sends them to remedial directly from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Gray explained that testing for the state is done in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 8<sup>th</sup> last year was the lowest test score. This year 1/3 of the students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are classified and receive special help. Ms. Gillette inquired if there are aides in the school? Dr. Gray explained that there are aides in kindergarten and in every special education class. Ms. Gillette inquired about summer programs. DR. Gray discussed that the school runs a summer program every year. Mr. Wolbert inquired as to how many students are special education, vocation students, and Palmyra students? Dr. Gray respond that there are 32 special education students, 52 vocational students, 85 Palmyra students. Dr. Gray explained that there has been increase in the number of 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired as to who approves the curriculum for the school. Dr. Gray discussed that the school board approves the curriculum with the state board of educations approval. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired if Dr. Gray knew why the City of Beverly had so many students that required remedial attention? Dr. Gray respond that the students who required remedial attention are usually from underprivileged, drug-birth, lack of parent support or low economic homes such as single parents. 58% of students in the Beverly school fall into these profiles. Dr. Gray explained that the school board must follow the state guidelines for all of its teachings. Ms. Kinniebrew discussed getting the students more motivated in the school. Dr. Gray explained that it is usually upto the parent to motivate the student. Dr. Gray explained that he is constantly looking for grants for the school. The grants are sometimes shared with other districts to help obtain the funding. The school will soon be getting laptop computers for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to funding. Dr. Cook discussed that she has work with the school on various projects for 13 years. The school students have completed excellent projects. Council members need to go to the school and look around to see the students work. Dr. Cook discussed that the education at the school is excellent. Mr. Haaf discussed that one of the problems is that so many of the children move in and out of the city on a regular basis. Dr. Gray explained that only 6 children in the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade have gone through the entire school system. Mr. Wolbert inquired as to how many of the students coming into the district are special need students. Dr. Gray explained that it is about 90%. Mayor Lowden explained that the city also pays for any student who is in jail and come from the city of Beverly. Resident-inquired if the school had an after school-mentoring program that residents could volunteer for. Dr. Gray has a supplemental program for the low-income child to participate in. Mr. Borden inquired if the school was considering joining the lawsuit filed by the 6 other districts in the county to sue the state for help. Dr. Gray respond that he has not had time to review the lawsuit. Mr. Krzykalski discussed that this is a state and national problem. Ms. Gillette made a motion to approve the school budget as submitted. Mr. Newsome second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Krzykalski, he attend the meeting of 3/23 and that he feels that there is no place to cut the budget, Mr. Wolbert feels that the city council has no choice at this point, Mr. Newsome, it was a tough budget and there is no place to cut, Dr. Cook the budget has been gone over with a fine tooth comb, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Setikas, Council President Bancroft, still concern about the funding at St. Josephs.

**NAYES: None.**

**B. Resolution No. 2005-38, Resolution Authorizing A Handicapped Space For 430 Laurel Street.**

**C. Resolution No. 2005-39, Resolution Authorizing A Handicapped Space For 636 Manor Road.**

**D. Resolution No. 2005-40, Resolution Authorizing A Refund (Hope Hose).**

**Mrs. Richards made a motion to approve Items B-D, Ms. Gillette second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

**AYES: Mr. Wolbert, Mr. Newsome, Dr. Cook, Ms. Kinniebrew, Ms. Gillette, Mr. Krzykalski, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Setikas and Council President Bancroft.**

**NAYES: None.**

**A. Payment of Bills. Mr. Wolbert made a motion to approve the bills with the correction to Line 17 the amount should be \$56.72, Mrs. Richards second the motion.**

**AYES: Mr. Wolbert, Mr. Newsome, Dr. Cook, Ms. Kinniebrew, Ms. Gillette, Mr. Krzykalski, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Setikas and Council President Bancroft.**

**NAYES: None.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY. Janet Lowe-Laurel Street discussed that calls had been made about loud radio's coming from vehicles and that the noise continues. Director Morton explained that patrols attempt to deal with the noise complaints as they come in.**

**Mr. Haaf-Riverbank discussed that an officer was called to a complaint about a loud radio blasting from someone washing their car on Cooper Street. The resident had hung the cleaning rags on the no parking signs and partially blocked the driveway to the library. The officer responded to the call and talk to someone further down the street who was washing his car. Director Morton will review the report.**

**Resident- the stop sign at the corner of Third and Laurel Street needs to be replaced.**

**Ms. Gillette inquired about parking on the alley near the housing authority. If parking is allowed on both sides and if the alley is a one way. Director Morton will check the alley.**

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT. None.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT.**

**Mayor Lowden discussed the VFW ceremony on May 22, 2005 at the Beverly National Cemetery at noon. The Mayor usually attends the ceremony, but is unable to this year due to previous out of state commitments. Dr. Cook will attend the ceremony to represent the City. Mayor Lowden also discussed the emergency management program review report that he received from Kevin Tuno, Burlington County Office of Emergency Management. Al Desjardins, he coordinator for the city has completed all of the necessary training and paperwork**

for the report. Mayor Lowden thanked Mr. Desjardins for his time and effort and requested that a letter be sent to him from the city.

### COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mr. Krzykalski discussed the cat ordinance and that he would like to discuss the model ordinance on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krzykalski also discussed that the licensing of cats is in the Code Book of the City of Beverly and that council needs to discuss the enforcement.

Mr. Wolbert discussed that he will be scheduling a police committee soon. The signs are up on Elizabeth and Railroad Avenue for the residential parking only. Mr. Wolbert also requested that a letter be sent to the sewerage authority thanking them for their continuing help.

Mr. Newsome advised council that the city has decided not to pursue at this time the demolish loan fund with the state. It is in the city's best interest to wait until a later date.

Dr. Cook discussed that she had attend a Cross-Acceptance meeting at the Human Services building in Westampton. Also that she and Mrs. Richards had attend a Land Use Seminar and that she would leave her information in the clerk's office for anyone to review. Dr. Cook had also attended the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce held in Burlington City. The Memorial Day parade is coming along. Also the Bike decorating and ice cream party will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the firehouse on Broad Street. Jean Wetherill and Howe Robinson will be judges for the Dee Blake and Al Volpe essay sponsored by the Dunks Ferry Democracy Project. Resident inquired as to why the route was changed. Dr. Cook explained that the county change the route, not the city. Resident ask what the reason for the change was? Resident explained that it was a tradition to have the parade go down to the river and that everyone along that section of town are hard working taxpayers and want the parade in their section of the city. Dr. Cook explained that she had missed the first parade meeting and that the route had been decided on. The volunteers who walk and the bands felt that the route was too long and it was getting hard to find people to participate in the parade. Dr. Cook explained that there is a celebration at noon at the river that she is doing and that she wants everyone to feel a part of the celebration. Dr. Cook discussed that there is the bike decorating and ice cream party the day before that she needs volunteer for and also is looking for volunteers for the celebration at the river. Resident presented council with a CD and folder of his band to look at. They are willing to play at the celebration. Residents presented a petition to city council as part of the record stating that they want the parade to continue the same route as previous years. Resident inquired about the loan program that Mr. Newsome discussed and if that was a reason for the parade not coming down to the river. Dr. Cook explained that the loan program was not applied to this year because of time restraints. Mayor Lowden explained that Habitat for Humanity was purchasing and building new homes on Broad Street. The City of Beverly is working on getting the area cleaned and having the homes repair. Mayor Lowden discussed that there are loans available through the

RCA/COAH program for residents to qualify to have their home repair. Dr. Cook requested that the residents meet with her to discuss the Memorial Day celebration. Ms. Kinniebrew informed council that she had attend a meeting concerning the private road along the river and that the residents along Riverbank had agreed to have the road repair.

Ms. Gillette wished everyone a Good Evening and thanked Public Works for the repair of the pothole on Broad Street. Ms. Gillette still has help available for residents with their electric bill.

Mrs. Richards discussed the Bridge Commission meeting on April 21 at noon in Lumberton Township. The meeting is for Public Records. Dr. Cook will attend as well as Barbara Sheipe, clerk/administrator.

Mrs. Setikas discussed that someone had approached her about opening businesses in the city. They had discussed opening a French bakery. Another person had discussed opening a Rita's Water Ice.

Council President Bancroft reviewed the rental ordinance and that he would like to bring the ordinance back for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Bancroft had attended a Bridge Commission meeting with Delanco Township to discuss street sweeping. This would be for shared services. Due to the Memorial Day parade, the contractor will start Railroad Avenue on June 1.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION.**

John Haaf-Riverbank informed council that the Beverly Methodist Church would take care of Farnum Park again this summer. Also that the Library is having a fund raiser at Lamberti's in Mount Holly and will donate \$2.50 for every dinner sold on April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 23 to the library. The Methodist Church will have a roast beef dinner from 4pm-6pm. Ms. Gillette offered to place the library's events on cable tv channel 28 if Mr. Haaf gives her the information.

Amy Wilson-Cooper Street inquired as to what type of books the library will accept for donation. Mr. Haaf explained they need to be in good condition and that she should check with the librarian before dropping any books.

Rita Jackson-Broad Street inquired if there will be any vendors at Broad and Railroad for Memorial Day. Mrs. Sheipe explained that due to insurance reasons the city would not be placing vendors on the lot.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, the public portion was closed.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Mrs. Setikas made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Gillette second the motion. All members voted in favor.

Submitted by,

Barbara A. Sheipe RMC  
Municipal Clerk