

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

April 14, 2009

CALL TO ORDER.

Verification of Notice- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner. On January 7, 2009 advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the public bulletin board in the City Hall; was mailed to the THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES AND TO THE CAMDEN COURIER POST; was filed with the City Clerk and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded and the tape will be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. S. Williams, Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo, Mayor Cook Barbara Sheipe, Administrator/Clerk, Michael Morton, Director of Public Safety and Skip Reale, Solicitor

ABSENT: Mr. J. Williams and Mr. Robertson.

MINUTES. Mr. Newsome made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2009. Mr. Bass second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. S. Williams, Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo,
NAYES: None.

COORESPONDENCE.

OLD BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS.

A. Discussion on City's 2009 Budget. Mr. Stewart, the city's auditor was present for the discussion of the budget. Mr. Stewart explained that with taking 444,000 out of the surplus the budget would show a 2.3 cents tax increase. There would still be \$584,000 left in surplus. The City is under the 4% cap law and that if the Council wanted to reduce the amount of money taken out of surplus, they would have to reduce appropriation line items. Mr. Arter discussed that a large amount of surplus was taken out in 2007 and 2008 and that surplus should not be used to meet operating expenses. Mr. Arter discussed that revenues have not increased a

large amount of the last few years and what happens after next year with the surplus. Mr. Stewart explained that the State is forcing municipalities to use a certain amount of surplus unless they cut their appropriations. Mr. Arter discussed that the city budget is already tight, but that he would like to see about doing some more cutting so as to reduce the amount of surplus used. Mr. Newsome inquired if there was any advantage to the pension option payments that the state was allowing. Mr. Stewart explained that the city can handle making a full payment this year and it will save having to pay additional money in future years. Mr. Newsome discussed that the finance committee met today with Mr. Stewart and discussed various options. Mr. Stewart explained that council could introduce the budget tonight and then send it to the state for review by them, hold the public hearing on May 12th. City Council than can either amend the budget or adopt the final budget, but council cannot increase the tax levy. Mr. Stewart explained that if the budget was adopted by June 30th it would cause the tax bills to be mailed out late. Mr. Arter inquired about the increase to the crossing guards. Council President Crespo explained that in the police budget worksheet there was an error and that the crossing guards received a 3% increase. Mr. Arter inquired the vacation/sick and overtime amounts for the police department. Council President Crespo explained that the police budget also includes a part time officer that can fill in on shifts. Director Morton explained that a part time officer cannot be substitute for a full time officer and that they have limit duties. Mr. Arter discussed that the state is not allowing municipalities to plan for the future. Mr. Arter inquired about the amount in the public works other expenses? Council President Crespo explained that there is extra money in that line item for roof repairs. Mr. Arter discussed looking at the aid to the emergency squad. Mr. Desjardins discussed that the squad is now billing for it services but that he has not had a meeting with them about their budget. Mr. Newsome explained that a few years ago the city gave the squad \$14,000 and now it is upto \$19,000 and that Edgewater Park pays about double that amount. Mr. Williams inquired about the increase in the building inspector salary line item. Mr. Stewart explained that the inspectors salary are the same, they are just combined into one line item for this year's budget. Mr. Newsome made a motion to introduce the budget, Mr. Bass second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Williams, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo.

NAYES: Mr. Arter.

B. Resolution No. 2009-41, Resolution Supporting Participation In the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Perkins second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Williams, Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo.

NAYES: None.

C. Resolution No. 2009-42, Resolution To Extend Grace Period For May 2009 Taxes. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Desjardins second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Williams, Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo.

NAYES: None.

D. Resolution No. 2009-43, Resolution Adopting The Updated Emergency Operations Plan. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Desjardins thanked everyone who attended the joint meeting with Edgewater Park Council on the Emergency Management Plan. The plan needs to go to the state. Mr. Newsome made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Bass second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Williams, Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo.

NAYES: None.

E. Resolution No. 2009-44, Resolution Cancelling of Taxes Due To

Approved Pilot Program (Beverly Commons). The resolution was read by title. Mr. Newsome made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Perkins second the motion. Mr. Newsome discussed the pilot program that was set up between Beverly Commons and the City. Mr. Reale explained that this resolution removes the property off of the regular tax bill and places it as a pilot program or in lieu of taxes. Mr. Reale discussed that this is a binding contract. Mr. Arter discussed that this property pays less money to the city than homeowners and never should have been given this pilot. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Perkins,

NAYES: Mr. Arter and Mr. Desjardins.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Williams and Council President Crespo.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Crespo read into the record a letter that he received from the Beverly Bee address to the Mayor and City Council that discussed that two anonymous donors are willing to pay 1/3 of the cost of the postage for the Bee. Mrs. Haaf discussed in the letter if the City would be willing to pay the other third. Council President Crespo explained that this was discussed at the last meeting. Mrs. Sheipe explained that she had been requested by some council members to compare the cost of the advertising of events in the Burlington County Times compared to the Bee. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the leaf schedule, recycling schedule, news about the city and the school are published in the Bee for free and that it would cost about \$400. to publish the leaf schedule in the BCT. It is not mandatory to publish the leaf schedule, but it helps to inform the residents. Mr. Arter discussed that budget cuts need to be made and that this was voted on at the last meeting. If the residents want it mailed they can obtain a subscription. Mr. Reale explained that the state statute requires that legal notices be published in a newspaper that is circulated within the county on a daily basis. Mr. Arter discussed that by placing the Bee in local business, it would help the business by having residents coming in. Mr. Reale explained that it is against Title 18 to have the students take home a copy of the Beverly Bee. Council President Crespo discussed that other towns have stopped paying for the postage of the Bee and some business have stopped advertising. Mr. Desjardins discussed that there are real hard issues in the budget discussions and that the City is talking about cutting money to the Emergency Squad and that he cannot support spending the money on postage. Mr. Bass explained that he would rather not spend the money for the postage. Mr. Arter explained that council does not really have a say in the mailing, just to fund the postage for the Beverly residents. Mr. Bass made a motion to pay \$60.00 for the rest of the year's postage, Mr. Perkins second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Bass, Mr. Perkins, Council President Crespo.

NAYES: Mr. Arter, Mr. Williams, Mr. Desjardins.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Newsome.

SOLICITORS REPORT.

MAYOR'S REMARKS. Mayor Cook read a Proclamation for Donor Month in the City of Beverly. Mayor Cook discussed that the school board of estimates had met and went through the school budget. The budget was passed by the Board of Estimates and that she would like to invite the Business Administrator of the School to come to the next council meeting to explain the budget.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

PUBLIC SESSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Mrs. Bent-Warren Street inquired about the tax maps update and where in the Budget was the postage for the Beverly Bee. Mrs. Sheipe explained that it came from Community Day, Special Events and that line item was cut this year.

Mr. Schwedes-Wheatley discussed that a line item on the budget-police and fire pension needs to be amended to the correct name. Mr. Schwedes inquired if there is a progress on the letter from the Board of Education concerning Lauinger Field. Mr. Reale explained that the property has gone back and forth with deeds over the years and that he is hoping to have a report by the May meeting.

Mr. Borden-Riverbank discussed that the State is trying to tell the small cities something, by not allowing them to plan for the future.

Mr. Thibault-Wheatley inquired about police salaries. Council President Crespo explained that the figures had to be amending for the o/expenses. Mr. Thibault inquired about the Drunk Driving Fund? Director Morton explained that money to be used for courts for DUI's, drunk driving enforcement, and certifications for drunk driving. Mr. Thibault explained that on April 24th the school is starting a vegetable garden near the entrance to the cafeteria. Mayor Cook explained that it is part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and that she is hoping the vegetables can be used for the children at lunch as well. Patrolman Shawn Mickle explained that the vegetables from the garden cannot be served to the children during school lunch as according to state law only certified foods are allow to be served. Mr. Reale agreed with Patrolman Mickle.

Mr. Ellsworth-Cooper Street discussed the streets and road department. Council President Crespo explained that the council had placed \$60,000 in the capital budget for the road program. Mr. Ellsworth discussed that Pine Street near the corner of Cooper and Pine is in worse shape than the other areas that are being improved. Mr. Ellsworth inquired as to why Chestnut Street is being done, since there are no homes on the street. Council President Crespo explained that Chestnut Street need drainage work at the corner of Pine and also at the corner of Railroad. The trees were removed or trim to make the area safer for residents walking to the Train Station. Council President Crespo explained that the grant was restricted to certain improvements and certain areas. Mr. Schoen, Public Works explained that the Light Rail Buses cause a lot of the problem at the corner of Cooper and Pine Street. Mr. Ellsworth inquired as to whom he complains to about the buses. Council President Crespo suggested that he call the county.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION. Resolution No. 2009-45, Resolution Setting The Time, Date and Place of an Executive Session For The Discussion of Personnel and Contract Litigation. Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Newsome second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Council President Crespo announced that public action may be taken.

GENERAL SESSION.

Mr. Desjardins made a motion to revisit the position of Director of Public Safety, Mr. Newsome second the motion. Mr. Arter inquired if this changes the motion from the last meeting to make the position part time? Mr. Reale explained that this motion is to just reopen the discussion. Mr. Williams discussed that council introduced the budget with the full salary. Council President Crespo discussed that the police committee along with members of finance committee had already met to discuss the issue. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Bass, Mr. Desjardins.

NAYES: Mr. Arter, Mr. Perkins, Council President Crespo.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Williams. The motion was defeated.

ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Bass made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Arter second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.