

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

CALL TO ORDER. The special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Beverly was called to order at 7:00pm, by Council President Bancroft on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, 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. Wolbert, Ms. Kinniebrew, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Krzykalski, Dr. Cook, Council President Bancroft, Mayor Wetherill and Barbara Sheipe, clerk/administrator.

ABSENT: Ms. Gillette and Mrs. Setikas.

APOINTMENT OF PRO-TEM PRESIDENT.

Council President Bancroft made a motion to appoint Richard Wolbert as pro-tem president. Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Wolbert, Ms. Kinniebrew, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Krzykalski, Dr. Cook, Council President Bancroft.

NAYES: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-22, Resolution Appointing Chief Financial Officer. The resolution was read by title. City Council appointed Marianne Hulme as chief financial officer for the 2006 year. Dr. Cook made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Wolbert second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Wolbert, Ms. Kinniebrew, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Krzykalski, Dr. Cook, Council President Bancroft.

NAYES: None.

WORK SESSION. 2006 Budget

Dr. Cook discussed the increase requests by the emergency squad. Dr. Cook requested that council approve the increase of \$3,000 to the squad. They do an excellent service to the city and to Edgewater Park and need the funding. Council discussed that the taxpayers do not fund them.

Mark Krzykalski requested additional money in the budget for new mulch in the playgrounds. The parks need to be repaired to current standards. Council President Bancroft discussed that the underlying mats are not the problem. The grass seed sits on top of the mat in the mulch and grows. Nothing grows through the mats. Mr. Krzykalski discussed that it would probably be about \$12,000 to do all of the playgrounds. Dr. Cook discussed that any material that was placed on the grounds needed to be approved by the JIF. Mr. Wolbert discussed that public works can get

mulch from the county by the ton at a reasonable rate. Mr. Krzykalski also discussed that the graffiti needs to be removed from Farnum Park. Ms. Kinniebrew inquired as to why special grass cannot be used instead of mulch. Council President Bancroft explained that the regulations for public playgrounds require certain materials. Dr. Cook recommend taking a \$1,000 from Celebration of Public events and placing it in parks and recreation. This would give the parks account \$2,000 to start.

Mr. Wolbert requested that other expenses for public works be increased to \$12,000 to cover repairs to the roof.

Mr. Newsome inquired about the increase in PFRS from \$3,300. to \$36,681. Bob Stewart the auditor explained that the state used to pay for the PFRS but now the responsibility falls on the city. Each year the percentage increases that the city has to pay. Mr. Newsome also inquired about the increase in crossing guards in the budget from 4 to 5 and that the school has requested additional guards.

Council discussed capital improvements. Mr. Stewart explained that to do a bond ordinance for a capital improvement the city would need to include a 5% down payment in the budget. Also if grants are not received to pay back the bond ordinance, the burden of the tax increase to pay off the bond with fall to the taxpayers in the coming years. The public works truck that is needed would not require a bond as the city can borrow the money from the city surplus and pay it back over a five year period without interest directly to the city. A \$5,000 down payment was placed into the budget for the public works truck. The estimated amount of the truck would be \$70,000. Council discussed the streets around Cramer and Erhardt that they were in need of repairs and resurfacing. These streets have needed repairs for several years and city council has attempted to receive grants for them. Mayor Wetherill recommended taking out a bond to repair the streets. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the cost to do all of the streets in that area would be 1.2 million dollars, which would require an additional \$60,000 in the city budget this year. This would result in a 7.2 cents increase in the tax rate. Dr. Cook discussed that the city's engineer is applying for grants again from Small Cities and DOT for the streets. Council President Bancroft discussed that the engineers are also applying for grants from Safe Streets and Sidewalks. Ms. Kinniebrew discussed that perhaps the city should wait for these grants this year and if not borrow the money next year. Mayor Wetherill explained that the USDA would help the city with money, but first the city has to borrow money and establish a line of credit. As of now the city has no credit debt. Mr. Newsome inquired if the grants are available can the city pay off the bond with the grant money. Mr. Stewart explained that the city could reimburse the bond with any grant money that becomes available for that project specifically. Mr. Wolbert inquired if it would be a twenty years liability to the city. Mr. Stewart explained that it could be a debt for twenty years or shorter depending on the bond ordinance. Mr. Stewart explained that at this moment with the budget not including the road bond, the city has a decrease of 7 cents in the tax rate for the 2006 year, with the road bond payment it would bring the city upto a 1 cent increase on the tax rate. This would equal to an average of \$8.60 per year for the residents. This does not include school tax, county tax, fire tax or open space taxes. Mayor Wetherill discussed that the residents of Cramer and Erhardt need to

have their streets repair. Mr. Newsome discussed that he also agrees that the street are in bad. Dr. Cook agreed that the streets need to be fixed immediately, but that she is trying to look out for the entire city. Council President Bancroft explained that before any paving can be done, the drainage would have to be corrected and than the paving could start, so it would probably be at least two years before any relief was seen. Council decided to place the \$60,000 in the budget for the down payment of the road project.

Mr. Wolbert discussed the request by the construction department to increase their other expenses by \$5,000 for new software and printers. Mr. Wolbert inquired if this was mandate by the state. Mrs. Sheipe explained that there is a new program from the state called NJ Permits that needs to be installed for the construction and the amount includes the software and maintenance fees. Mr. Newsome inquired that he was under the impression that the construction office had purchased a new laser printer last year. Council recommend an increase of \$4,000 for the new program.

City Council received a request from the Beverly Bee of a \$50.00 a year increase. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the Beverly Bee serves the city council well with advertisements and legal ads for no additional charge. Dr. Cook discussed that the Beverly Bee does an excellent service to the community as well as Edgewater Park and Delanco. Dr. Cook recommend the increase. Council agreed.

Mr. Stewart requested an increase of \$800. for his services for the 2006 year. Council agreed to the increase.

City Council also placed additional money into financial administration salary and wages to cover keeping the current treasurer on the payroll until April 1 to train the new tax collector/treasurer.

PUBLIC SESSION.

Council President Bancroft opened the meeting to the public.

Mrs. Marshall-Cooper Street inquired as to where the funds for the truck would be coming from? Mr. Stewart explained that the city had extra money in surplus and that the money would be drawn from surplus and the city would pay back it's surplus each year for the amount of the truck. Mr. Stewart explained that the city keeps 3% of its budget in surplus each year for unexpectant circumstances.

Council President Bancroft announced that the mobile health unit will be arriving on February 22 at 9am and council is invited to the grand ribbon cutting at the Housing Authority.

GENERAL SESSION.

Mr. Wolbert inquired if the school held 3% in reserves as well. Mr. Stewart explained that the school does hold an amount in reserve on their own, but he was no sure of the percentage.

Council agreed to introduce the budget at the February 14th meeting with a 1-cent tax increase.

ADJOURNMENT. Dr. Cook made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Wolbert second the motion. All members voted in favor.