

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

January 28, 2008

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 24, 2008 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. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Bass, Council President Crespo, Mayor Wetherill and Skip Reale, Solicitor

ABSENT: None.

INTERVIEWS FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANY.

Council President Crespo requested that the nominated persons, please come to the front of the room for interviews. Council President Crespo discussed that only one candidate is present for the interview for the council seat of Phillip Esaia. Council President Crespo inquired if Mr. Michael Heifet had any objection to being interviewed this evening. Council President Crespo discussed that council members can ask one question of Mr. Heifet, starting with Mr. Newsome and proceeding around. Mr. Newsome thanked Mr. Heifet for attending and asked him to discuss what he would like to accomplish if appointed to city council. Mr. Heifet discussed that there are serious issues in the city and that it needs serious people to address the problems. Mr. Arter deferred comments to other council members since Mr. Heifet has been fully vetted by the municipal committee. Dr. Cook discussed that many times when Mr. Heifet had attend previous council meetings, he would inquire about many concerns he had with the city. Dr. Cook inquired as to what type of community service work Mr. Heifet has done upto now and how he sees himself sitting on council and serving the city. Mr. Heifet explained that he has been in the City of Beverly for 25 years and before that he served in the service. Mr. Heifet explained that he was six years vice president for the PTA for Saint Joseph's school and participated in their fund raisers such as car washes. Mr. Heifet explained that no city council member will ever know everything that is needed to be on council, but must be willing to learn. Mr. Heifet explained that his wife has been here for 50 years, her parents have been here for 89 years. Everybody in the city knows someone else in the city and that council works for the city. Mr. Heifet discussed that he may not always agreed politically with other members of council, but no one should take it personally or use it against someone. Members need to work together to get things done. Members need to talk each other. Dr. Cook thanked Mr. Heifet for his

comments and that it sounds like he is committed to the development and growth of the city. Mr. Robertson inquired of Mr. Heifet what one special thing would he bring to city council? Mr. Heifet explained that he had experience, after high school he did 4 years of special forces in the Air Force, 4 ½ years of school with a BA in political science from Rutgers University, 2 years in Camden County Prosecutors office and left due to benefits and salary. Mr. Heifet discussed that he worked 26 years for the iron works and roofers union of Philadelphia. He dealt with major projects and also with contractors and redevelopment. Mr. Heifet explained that he feels that he can bring some knowledge of redevelopment to council. Mrs. Arter discussed that she is familiar with Mr. Heifet and that he was interviewed as part of the municipal committee, she requested that the letter from Republican Committee Chairman be read into the record after the interview, so that there is a record of why there are no other candidates present at the meeting. Mr. Bass inquired of Mr. Heifet as to what he feels is the simplest thing that can be done to meet the goals that he proposed. Mr. Heifet explained that the simplest thing is to just open your ears and be quiet and just listen. Mr. Heifet discussed that he is willing to listen to anyone about anything, but he is not going to start off by fighting with anyone about personal issues. The City is more important than personal grudges or anything that is in the past. Council President Crespo discussed that his question has been asked in several different angles. Council President Crespo inquired of Mr. Heifet, if appointed to the seat will he weigh the different pros and cons and take both sides into consideration and do what is best for the citizens and not for an individual or a political party. Mr. Heifet discussed that he loves Beverly and that it is more than one person. Mayor Wetherill discussed that she is happy to see Mr. Heifet and had really hoped that everyone else would be here. It was not her wish that they not come and that Mr. Heifet answered his questions very nicely.

Mayor Wetherill read a letter that was address to Council President Crespo from the Chairman of the Beverly City Republican Committee. The letter is attached and made a part of the minutes. Council President Crespo discussed that he would like to point out two things in the letter, yes every candidate was here at the last council meeting and under public section they had the opportunity to speak and let council know if they could attend or possibility not attend the special meeting. Council President Crespo discussed that six days notice for the meeting was more notice than the two days notice that council was given on the letter of names being nominated to vote. Candidates can attend and be interview or they can decline. Council President Crespo discussed that his personal feelings are that Mr. Heifet had the courage to show up tonight and has attend many of the council meetings. Council President Crespo inquired if Mr. Reale had any comments in reference to the legal portion quoted in this letter. Mr. Reale discussed that if council is looking for some response, he discussed that the open public meeting act is 48 hours notice and that has been complied with and that it was announced at the last council meeting. Mr. Reale discussed that there is not a problem with the fact, if a candidate has a right to not be interviewed. The council has a list of names for both vacancies and it is upto council has to how they wish to proceed. Dr. Cook made a motion to nominate Michael Heifet to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Phillip Esaia until the next general election. Mr. Bass second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Bass and Council President Crespo.

NAYES: None.

OATH OF OFFICE. Mayor Wetherill swore in Michael Heifet for an unexpired term till December 31, 2008.

INTERVIEWS FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY.

Mrs. Arter made a motion to appoint Mark Schwedes to fill the unexpired term of Robert Germer until the next general election. Mrs. Arter explained that Mr. Schwedes was unable to attend tonight due to work commitments. Mrs. Arter discussed that everyone on the council is familiar with Mr. Schwedes and that he is currently on the school board. Mrs. Arter discussed that Mr. Schwedes has many talents and that he has worked for the state for many years and that the state

has given their approval for him to serve on council. Mr. Arter second the motion. Dr. Cook inquired if Mr. Schwedes would resign from the school board? Mayor Wetherill explained that his wife Dale Thompson is still on the school board and that he can advise her. Mr. Robertson discussed that council did not get a chance to interview Mr. Schwedes tonight, but he feels that he knows Mr. Schwedes thoughts on the city in listening to him at candidates nights and at council meetings and also during the campaigning of the election. Council President Crespo inquired of Mr. Reale, if Mr. Schwedes is appointed tonight and declines where does that leave city council? Mr. Reale explained that the process is clear and that council filled Mr. Esaia seat tonight and the seat that is vacant from Mr. Germer has to be filled by February 8th. Mr. Reale if nominate and passed, the clerk will notify Mr. Schwedes to come in and take the oath. If Mr. Schwedes declines the council will have to hold a special meeting. Mr. Bass discussed that he feels that he knows an enough about Mr. Schwedes to vote for him. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Newsome, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Heifet, Mr. Bass and Council President Crespo.

NAYES: None.

PUBLIC SESSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Mr. Haaf-Riverbank congratulated Mr. Heifet on taking the seat and the responsibilities for the citizens of the city.

Mayor Wetherill discussed that as a member of the public she thanks city council for filling the slots of the vacancies.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION. Resolution No. 2008-27, Resolution Setting The Time, Date and Place of An Executive Session For The Discussion Of Contracts Relating To The Redevelopment.

Mr. Bass made a motion to go into executive session, Mrs. Arter second the motion. All members present voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Arter made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bass seconded the motion. All members presented vote in favor.