

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

JUNE 15, 2004

CALL TO ORDER. The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Beverly was called to order at 7:30pm, by Council President Bancroft on Tuesday, June 16, 2004, 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, Mr. Newsome, Dr. Cook, Mr. Williams, Mr. Krzykalski, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Setikas, Council President Bancroft, and Municipal Clerk/Administrator Barbara Sheipe.

ABSENT: Ms. Gillette and Mayor Lowden.

PUBLIC HEARING ON TCDI GRANT.

Barbara Fegley of Environmental Resolutions explained that this was the second hearing on the Transportation Community Development Initiative Program. The preparation of this report was funded by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Fegley introduced Mark Remsa, director of the Burlington County Economic and Regional Planning Department and Robert Kull, regional planning coordinator and William Kirchner of Environmental Resolutions. In 2003 a land use inventory was completed to help identify specific opportunities to improve and revitalize the landscape, economic vitality, safety and quality of life for the residents and business communities in the Cooper Street corridor of Beverly. The inventory was done from the waterfront to the new light riverline train. There were several things that were recommend, (1) To create curb appeal, (2) Establish a uniform streetscape and sidewalk gateway theme, (3) Create a boulevard feeling for the Cooper Street gateway, (4) Define a redevelopment vision and theme for the commercial district. Mr. Kull showed a slide presentation of the inventory and explain some of the various options and routes that the city could do. Ms. Fegley reviewed some of the options along the waterfront that the city could use for redevelopment. There was various locations explored for the placement of a dock or fishing pier. The most feasible location would be at Dunk's Ferry at the end of Broad Street. There could be a floating pier as well.

Ms. Fegley opened the hearing to the general public for their comments and questions.

Robert Gregory-52 Cooper Street inquired how you go about placing new town homes on the housing authority property and that would a restaurant draw enough traffic to make it work compared to a small café. Mr. Gregory also discussed that one of the major things

to correct would be to make the general public that steps off of the train feel safe enough to walk to the riverfront.

Dr. Gail Cook discussed that people from all over would not come to just take up the fishing dock and that they would visit other businesses along the river.

Scott Williams-225 Van Kirk Street inquired as to what was the distance from the waterfront to the end of the proposed waterfront plan. Ms. Fegley explained that it was well within the waterfront area. Mr. Williams discussed that boats may dock for a few minutes just to visit the area instead of wanting to remain for an extend period of time. Mr. Williams discussed that a restaurant is a good idea and that the city needs something to pull the two points together. Ms. Fegley explained that if town homes were placed along the property by the river they would probably sell for \$200,000 or more.

Mark Krzkalski-515 Cooper Street inquired if any public property would be left along the river and would the ball field remain? Also what would be the draw to the general public? Mr. Williams explained that just with a dock or pier someone is always around. Mr. Remsa explained that on the various charts the different colors of blue represent the depth of the water. A large marina pier would have to be built too far out to be feasible.

Brian McManus-landlord from Burlington inquired as to what was the purpose of the study and that the city needs a better financial community to help bring more money and businesses in.

Mark Remsa explained that the City of Beverly has a great history in its land and that when the riverfront left it had a great impact on the city. The city needs to build and enhance on what history it has. The river is one of the most valuable assets that a city could have. The City of Beverly needs to keep its sense of place and still keep improving. Mr. McManus stated that an asset is only good if it is used. Mr. Remsa explained that the city needs to continue in thought progress.

Dr. Cook thanked Mr. Remsa for his help. Dr. Cook directed the people present to the quilt that was hanging on the wall. Mrs. Parker fifth grade class made the quilt for the city and it shows that industry must prosper. The City of Beverly is known for being busy worker bees. Dr. Cook explained that she is the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and that she is talking to developers constantly. The timing is right for the city to move on development, but that she wants to make sure that it is the right development for the city. The community needs to feel comfortable with any developers. Dr. Cook discussed that the train station had won a prize back in the 1920's. She would like to see the train station have a piece of Beverly history in it.

Rich Wolbert-1028 Detwiler Avenue inquired if the shoreline would include or go pass the sewerage authority. Mr. Kirchner explained that some type of stabilizer would have to be completed if so.

No one else from council or the public wished to be heard on the grant.

The public hearing was closed and adjourned at 9pm.

Submitted by,

Barbara A. Sheipe RMC
Municipal Clerk