

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

May 12, 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. Robertson, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo, Mayor Cook, Barbara Sheipe, Administrator/Clerk, Michael Morton, Director of Public Safety and Skip Reale, Solicitor

ABSENT: Mr. Arter.

MINUTES. Mr. Williams discussed that the minutes should reflect that in general session after the executive session council authorize Mrs. Kearns, solicitor to prepare paperwork for the sale of 306 Warren Street. Mayor Cook requested that minutes also show that council decided to make May 16th and May 17th free yard sale days in the City. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2009. Mr. Robertson second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Bass.

COORESPONDENCE.

A. **Letter of Resignation-** Mrs. Sheipe read a letter of resignation from Johnie Williams from City Council. The letter is attached and made part of the minutes.

B. **Letter from Democratic Committee.** Mrs. Sheipe read a letter from the Democratic Committee submitting the names of three candidates for the vacancy on city council. The names submitted were Scott Hitchner, Nancy Richards, and William Elliott, Jr. The letter is attached and made part of the minutes. Mr. Reale explained that council has 30 days after receiving the notice to select a name to fill the vacancy. Mr. Reale recommended that council appointed the vacancy at the May 26th city council meeting to be in compliance with the law. Mr. Reale reviewed that interviews with the candidates must be conducted in public session, but council has the ability to hold an executive session if desire for discussion on the candidates.

C. Burlington County Bridge Commission –Mr. LaVenia of the Bridge Commission reviewed with city council the various programs that were available to the municipalities. There is an electronic newsletter from the Bridge Commission available. The Bridge Commission has granting writing services available and pooled bonds. Mr. La Venia discussed that the next meeting on shared services with the municipalities is on May 26th at noon located at the Westampton Municipal Building.

D. Mayor Cook read a letter from the Burlington County Health Dept concerning the vegetable garden at the school. The letter is attached as part of the minutes. Mayor Cook discussed that Mark Remsa of the Burlington County Economic Development Committee had submitted a letter in support of the City's grant application for Cooper Street. Mayor Cook read a letter from William Sherwood thanking the Mayor for the recognition of his Eagle Scout Award.

PUBLIC HEARING. 2009 Budget Hearing. Mr. Newsome discussed the highlights of the budget and that the salaries are set by contracts. The tax increase results in about \$19.65 for the average homeowner. The capital budget includes \$60,000 for road projects, \$15,000 for computers and \$20,000 toward the replacement of a police vehicle. Mr. Williams discussed that the council names on the disc were not correct. Mr. Williams inquired as to why the Small Cities funding went to zero. Mrs. Sheipe explained that it was due to the fact that the City received the Small Cities funding in 2008. Mr. Williams discussed that the landfill fees for last year were good and that it shows that the residents are recycling. Mr. Desjardins discussed that there are going to have to be improvements for ADA soon in city hall. Mr. Desjardins also discussed the amount of electric that is used in City Hall and that everyone needs to be conscientious of their usage. Mr. Desjardins discussed that the gasoline bill is also high and that the city needs to conserve energy. Mr. Newsome explained that council introduced the budget last month and that it is being reviewed by the state. The council will need to wait until the state gives its approval before adopting the budget. Council President Crespo opened the hearing to the general public. No one wishing to be heard the public hearing was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Resolution No. 2009-52, Resolution Setting The Time, Place and Date of An Executive Session From Which The General Public Will Be Excluded For The Purpose Of The Discussion Of 306 Warren Streets and Contracts. Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Williams second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

OLD BUSINESS.

A. Resolution No. 2009-49, Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Certification of the Annual Audit. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Newsome second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

NEW BUSINESS.

a. Resolution No. 2009-53, Resolution Authorizing Agreement For The Historic Neighborhood Riverfront Solid Waste Collection Program. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Desjardins made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr.

Robertson second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

b. Resolution No. 2009-54, Resolution To Affirm The City of Beverly's Civil Rights Policy With Respect To All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors and Members Of The Public That Come Into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Newsome second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

c. Resolution No. 2009-55, Resolution Authorizing A Handicapped Space for 213 Cooper Street. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Robertson 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. S. Williams, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Desjardins, Council President Crespo,
NAYES: None**

d. Resolution No. 2009-56, Resolution Of The City Council of the City of Beverly Authorizing The City To Amend The Redevelopment Agreement Between The City and Strategic Redevelopment Partners LLC Dated February 27, 2008 and Authorizing The City to Enter Into A Redevelopment Agreement With Vicki Heng Lam Chan.(306 Warren Street). The resolution was read by title. Mr. Reale discussed that the contract had been reviewed in executive session and that the resolution would need to be amended to state July 30, 2009. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve with the amended date, Mr. Newsome second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

e. Resolution No. 2009-57, Resolution Authorizing An Agreement Between The City of Beverly and the Communications Workers of America Local 1034. Mr. Reale requested that this resolution be held until he had further time for review. Mr. Newsome made a motion to hold the resolution, Mr. Robertson second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

f. **Payment of the Bills.** Mrs. Sheipe requested that line #40 for Verizon should be charged to the police department not the court. Council President Crespo discussed line #37 and line #38 for M & R Wildlife and that it took 2 officers an hour and a half to repeatedly chase a pit bull that the animal control officer did not respond to. Council President Crespo requested that the contract for M & R Wildlife be given to him and the solicitor for review. Council President Crespo discussed that the school amount is not correct. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the amount should be \$221,010.33 for the school. Mr. Newsome made a motion to approve the bills with the amendments, Mr. Williams second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mr. Robertson discussed the ordinance to reduce the number of council members from 9 to 5 and to increase the number of years elected from 3 to 4. Mr. Robertson made a motion to introduce the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Bass second the ordinance. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

B. Putnam and Locust Street-Mrs. Sheipe discussed that the storm drain on the corner of Putnam Street and Locust Street is sinking and causing caving in the street. Environmental Resolutions prepared quotes for the project and is recommending that the Council award the emergency work to John Wendler for the amount of \$3500. Mr. Newsome made a motion to approve the repairs to the corner of Putnam and Locust Street, Mr. Desjardins second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

SOLICITORS REPORT. Mr. Reale explained that the age-restricted housing bill was sent back to the legislatures and that no final decision has been made. Mr. Williams inquired if the property owner of an age-restricted development would have to submit a written request to change to market rate units. Mr. Reale explained that they would have to appear in front of the land use board for relief.

MAYOR'S REMARKS. Mayor Cook announced that Student Government Day will be held at 10am on Friday, May 15th at city hall.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mr. Bass announced that the fishing tournament would be held at noon on June 6th at the Riverfront.

PUBLIC SESSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Mr. Borden-Riverbank inquired about the vacancy and if Resolution No. 2009-56 change the redevelopment plan? Mr. Reale explained the resolution only changes the responsibility of the property owner for 306 Warren Street.

Ms. Stevens-Broad Street inquired about the yard sales? Council President Crespo explained that any household can hold a yard sale on May 16th or May 17 without paying a permit fee to the City. Ms. Stevens discussed the stop sign near the corner of Third and Broad and if it could be moved closer to the corner to allow more parking. Director Morton will review the sign for placement. Ms. Stevens also discussed that there is a lot of drug activity in the area. Council President Crespo suggested that Ms. Stevens set up an appointment with Director Morton to review her concerns.

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

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