

## MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

May 13, 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 6, 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. Heifet, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Schwedes, Mr. Bass, Council President Crespo, Mayor Wetherill, Barbara Sheipe, Clerk/Administrator, Skip Reale, Solicitor.

**ABSENT:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Dr. Cook requested a correction to the minutes to show that she was absent from the April 22 meeting due to Passover. Mr. Arter requested a correction on page 5 that he did not say to buy a copier for the city. Mr. Schwedes requested a correction on page 4 under the finance committee report to the spelling of Mr. Robinson name and also on page 6 the spelling of Mrs. Arter, page 7 the word mandatory is spelled wrong. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

### COORESPONDENCE.

A. **Discussion on Tax Revalue and Reassessment.** Mr. Robinson, the tax Assessor reviewed with city council the order from the Board of Taxation to do a revaluation of the city. Mr. Robinson explained that the revalue process is an updating of the assess value of the property. The last revalue was in 1992 and is supposed to be completed every ten years. Mr. Robinson explained that there is a discrepancy between the assessed and the true market values. The ration of assessed value to true market value has fallen to 55.7 per cent. Mr. Robinson explained that the council could file an appeal or council could request an extension of time. Mr. Robinson recommended that council request an extension of time. Mr. Robinson discussed that the he and the engineer would have to update the tax maps by the deeds before beginning the revalue. The city has the option of hiring a private firm to complete the revalue or doing in house. Mr. Robinson explained that his office does not have the time or the staff to do a complete revalue. Mr. Robinson explained that the basic cost to do the revalue would be about \$100,000 plus the tax maps

and additional compensation that he would require to do the extra work from the revalue. Mr. Schwedes inquired as to the schedule if the county agrees to a one year extension. Mr. Robinson explained that in 2008-2009 the city would do the updates of the tax map and then file the map with the Division of Taxation for approval., 2009-2010 the actual legwork of the revalue would be done and then the new values would be on the tax books for 2011.

1.Mr. Bass discussed that if the revalue is delayed one year there is no guarantee of the housing market changing. Mr. Robinson explained that there was a reduction in sales last year and that the city will have to wait and see what direction the market goes. Mr. Robinson explained that if the values come in to high there are too many appeals. Mr. Robinson explained that there are good firms in the market place to do the revalue for the city. The city could pay for the revalue over a period of five years. Mr. Arter inquired about the tax maps and who would do the updates. Mr. Robinson explained that usually the city engineer updates the tax map with the cooperation of the tax assessor. The deeds are reviewed for their information and to make sure that the deed and tax map match. Mr. Kirchner already makes changes when there are subdivisions granted. Mr. Kersch of Environmental Resolutions discussed that a tax map would probably cost about \$750. to \$1000 per tax sheet for the city and that many times the state requires changes or new submissions to the tax map after being submitted. Mrs. Arter inquired as to what the three components of the revalue process were that Mr. Robinson referred to. Mr. Robinson explained that the first is the tax map update second is the actual revalue and third is additional compensation for the tax assessor. Mrs. Arter inquired about the time frame for going out to bid for a company. Mr. Robinson discussed that the bidding process would be done after the tax map is accepted. The firm would collect data from inside and outside of the properties. There is also an analysis of the market and a notice is sent to each residents explaining that they can meet with the company to review how their assessment was determined. There is also an opportunity for the resident to meet with the tax assessor before the final value is set. Mr. Schwedes inquired about the cost per unit to obtain the data. Mr. Robinson explained that the cost of the revalue would be \$80-\$100 per line item and that would include collecting of the data. Mr. Reale discussed that there would be other cost as well, the cost of any appeals or litigation resulting in the revalue need to be figured in. Mr. Robinson explained that appeals are usually down, because the companies meet with the residents and explain the reasons for the increases. The companies also defend their revalue for two years. Mr. Reale discussed that the appeal procedure and cost should be address in the contracts. Mr. Arter inquired if the legal costs were included with the companies defending their revalue for two years. Mr. Reale explained that the company will uphold their revalues for two years, but any legal cost is upto the city to pay. Mr. Robinson explained that the values placed on the books are his responsibility. Mr. Robinson explained that he would like to have the update of the tax books done by next June and he requested that the revalue be placed on hold until some of the new builds are in place. Mr. Arter discussed that is not unreasonable to request an extension of one year due to the tax maps having to be updated. Mr. Bass inquired as to what the procedure is if the county denies the extension? Mr. Robinson explained the order sticks and the city must comply within the time frame. Mr. Reale explained that the city council has 45 days to respond and that the time expires on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Council President Crespo requested a motion from council to request an extension for one year due to the tax maps. Mr. Heifet discussed that council needs to make a decision tonight. Mr. Arter made a motion to have a letter sent from the Mayor requesting an one year extension, Mr. Robertson second the motion. All members present voted in favor.

B. Beaunit Mills. Mr. Bernardi, redeveloper discussed that the original plan was for townhomes to built on the lot. There are open issues with the DEP for an old spill and that the DEP has to issue a no further action letter before anything can be built on the lot. Mr. Bernardi explained that he is looking for direction from city council as to what they would like to do on the lot. The residential homes would require the most clean up and be the most expensive. The cost would be about \$650,000 for a full clean up. Council President Crespo inquired if there

were grants available to help with the clean up? Mr. Reale explained that there are Brownfield grants available, but that there is no guarantee. Mr. Bernardi explained that the property cannot be sold until approval from the DEP is granted and that he is willing to put up the money to start the clean up and if grants are available they could help later. Mr. Robertson discussed that the townhomes are in the agreement with Mr. Bernardi and that Mr. Bernardi could pay the city the approximately \$241,000 for the tax lien and start cleaning up the property. Mr. Reale discussed that this discussion should take place when the redevelopment attorney is present. Council President Crespo explained that Mr. Asselta is looking into means of funding the clean up and also what the city is allowed to do. Dr. Cook discussed that Mr. Bernardi is looking for a responses from council as to what to do on the site. Mr. Reale requested that council wait for Mr. Asselta's options and look for remediation grants. Mr. Robertson inquired if the current plans for the site stay in place? Mr. Reale explained that everything stays in place until amended by council. Mr. Heifet discussed that council needs to do something. Council President Crespo discussed that another two weeks should answer some questions.

#### **OLD BUSINESS.**

##### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.**

A. **Ordinance No. 2008-09, Ordinance Amending Chapter XX, Section 17B (7) (D) Political Signs of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Beverly.** The ordinance was read by title. Council President Crespo opened the ordinance for a public hearing. No one from the public wishing to be heard, the public portion was closed. Mr. Arter made a motion to adopt the ordinance on second reading, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: Mr. Newsome. The ordinance was adopted on second and final reading and will take effect after publication according to law.

##### **ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING.**

B. **Ordinance No. 2008-8, Code of Ethics for the City of Beverly.** The ordinance was read by title. Mr. Schwedes explained that some of the changes with dollar figures were amended after reviewing other ordinances. The sewerage authority and the board of education have their own policies in place and are not covered by the cities. Mr. Reale explained that the Mayor was added to the list of officials and that the penalties conform to state law. Mrs. Arter made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Schwedes second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None. The ordinance was adopted on first reading and will be heard on second and final reading at the council meeting of May 27, 2008.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. **Resolution No. 2008-49, Resolution of Receipt of Audit Report.** The Resolution was read by title. 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. Heifet, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Schwedes, Mr. Bass and Council President Crespo.**

**NAYES: None.**

**B. Resolution No. 2008-50, Resolution Authorizing Entry Into A Subordination Agreement With Respect To 529 Melbourne Avenue, Beverly. The resolution was read by title. Mrs. Arter 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. Heifet, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Schwedes, Mr. Bass and Council President Crespo.**

**NAYES: None.**

**C. Resolution No. 2008-51, Resolution Extending Grace Period For May 2008 Taxes. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Arter 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. Heifet, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Schwedes, Mr. Bass and Council President Crespo.**

**NAYES: None.**

**D. Resolution No. 2008-52, Resolution Transferring Payment Made In Error To Correct Property. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Arter made a motion to approve the resolution, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**NAYES: None.**

**E. Resolution No. 2008-53, Resolution Appointing Construction/Building Code Official. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Reale discussed that the salary is prorated for the year. Dr. Cook discussed that the committee had interviewed Mr. Carbone and that he was well known and respected in the city. Mr. Schwedes inquired if there were other interviews held? Dr. Cook explained that others were interview and resumes were reviewed. Mr. Schwedes discussed that Ms. Thompson of Warren Street had discussed with council the problems she had in getting an inspection. Dr. Cook explained that the committee discussed those comments and that Mr. Carbone is certified in all of his positions. Mr. Arter inquired if Mr. Carbone had his zoning officer certification. Mrs. Sheipe explained that he was able to do zoning and that it was an in-house promotion. Mr. Arter discussed that he felt it was a good move hiring Mr. Carbone. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**NAYES: None.**

**F. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Heifet made a motion to approve the treasurers report. Mr. Newsome second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**NAYES: None.**

A. Payment of Bills. Mrs. Arter inquired line #21? Mr. Robertson Explained that it was for a device to hang the street signs. Mr. Schwedes inquired about Line # 23? Mrs. Sheipe explained that this for security doors for the clerk and tax office. The doors are half doors and will provide additional security. Mrs. Arter inquired as line #29 and why it is to an individual. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the bill is for the Municipal Clerk's Association and that the individual is the treasurer. Council President Crespo inquired about line # 6 and that he feels that the bill has already been paid. Council President Crespo also inquired as to why the city is still paying for heating oil. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the purchase of fuel oil is under contract with Baugh Bros and that they top off the tank periodically. Mr. Newsome requested line #34 for the school board be held until the next meeting since the payment is not due until the first of June. Mr. Heifet made a motion to approve the bill list with the amendments, Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: Council President Crespo abstained from line #47, for Beverly Commons.

## WORK SESSION.

A. Ordinance on Street and Road Openings. Mr. Hirsh of Environmental Resolutions explained that the ordinance increases the fee for anyone opening a road after it has been newly repaved and that it requires additional restorations. There is also a fee for any extra ordinary emergency work and the fines have been increase for not obtaining a permit. Mr. Reale discussed that the person opening the road would also be the person responsible for the closing and repair of the road. Mr. Hirsh explained that the road detail would be attached to the ordinance. Mr. Reale that more detail into the openings and closing are included into the ordinance. Mrs. Arter inquired about the wording that the city clerk is responsible for the inspection. Mr. Reale explained that it would be the Director of Public Works or designee. The ordinance will be prepared for first reading at the next council meeting.

B. Grants-Mr. Kirchner, engineer discussed with council the Municipal Aid for Cherry Street for the application. Cherry Street would be done as a continuation of the road projects in the area. There is also a grant for Safe Streets to Transit which is to provide a safe passage to the train station. The trees currently block the lights and cause dark shadows in the area. The council could apply for lights also to tie into Edgewater Park's street scape that is planned. Mr. Robertson inquired about how many trees would be removed? Mr. Kirchner explained that there are about ten trees that either need to be trimmed or removed. Mr. Bass discussed that decorative lights are usually shorter than the goose neck lights. Mr. Kirchner explained that the lights would be connected to the current light poles. Council President Crespo inquired as to when the application is due. Mr. Kirchner explained that the application is due on line through the Sage by June 20<sup>th</sup> but that he needs to start work on the project.

C. Discussion on the RCA program. (Request for Stipend and Hiring of a RCA Administrator). Mr. Schwedes discussed that the program paid \$16.00 an hour plus the stipend. Mr. Reale explained that the ordinance for the stipend is clear that it was for one year only. Council has the option of extending the time period. Mr. Arter discussed that the ordinance for the stipend worked well and that a lot of units were completed during the 2007 year. Dr. Cook discussed that Mr. Remsa had talked to council about hiring a person to do the RCA program and that a proposal had been submitted by CGPH requesting \$108,000 to do the program

until the end of 2008. Mrs. Sheipe explained that she is concerned with the list of things that the proposal states will not be completed. Mrs. Arter inquired as to how much of the administration funds are left? Council President Crespo explained that there is \$97,000 left, but that there are additional bills outstanding. Dr. Cook discussed that it is hard to find someone who is already trained in the program. There were interviews in 2006 and no one was qualified at that time. Council President Crespo discussed that the proposals is not assuring that they would complete all of the units and that the city would still have to hire someone to do the extra work. Mrs. Arter inquired if the company was aware of the number of units and is there room for negotiations? Dr. Cook explained that there has been no counter offer. Mr. Reale discussed that council should request formal proposals for the position. Mr. Arter discussed in the proposal A-3 section B the 8 units should be subtract to give the total number of units available. Mr. Reale explained that it reads that the \$108,000 already reflects the number of units. Mr. Arter discussed that the language needs clarification because he interrupts the proposal different than the solicitor. Mr. Schwedes discussed going out for proposals for the program. Dr. Cook discussed requesting resumes for the position as well and also that the Housing Authority sent a letter to council about the program. Dr. Cook explained that the Housing Authority would take over the program for the city. Dr. Cook explained that Mr. Centinaro spoke with Ms. McGlinchy from the state and that he is qualified to run the program. Mr. Reale explained that the letter from the Housing Authority is brief. Mrs. Arter discussed that it is too brief and that she would like to have information. Mr. Reale discussed that there is a process to follow with the RFP's and that the housing authority could submit a RFP as well.

**D. Discussion on the Copier.** Council President Crespo discussed purchasing the copier out of surplus or the general fund so that it did not affect the tax rate.

**E. Discussion on Website.** Dr. Cook discussed that the auditor had stated that a credit card from a council member could be used to pay for the website. The site will cost \$178. for three years. Mr. Bass showed council a sample of what the website could look like. The design needs to be simple enough to understand and that he would like to place the site on the web and have council members give feedback. Mr. Reale discussed that the auditor gave his opinion and that he has a minor disagreement about the fact if the city can have a municipal government credit card. If an individual uses his or her personnel credit card they need to be aware that it is public record and when submitting the bills the rest of the bill needs to be black out. Mrs. Arter discussed that with her internet provider there is a telephone number to call for customer service and that perhaps they have alternatives for payments. Mr. Reale discussed that council could approve the purchase of a debit card for the website.

**F. Discussion on Shared Service Grant.** Council President Crespo Discussed that the City of Burlington was interested in doing a feasibility study for combining the sewerage plant into one. No tax dollars would be used for the study and the city is under no obligation. Mr. Heifet inquired if the Army Corp of Engineers would look unfavorable upon the city looking to not use the current sewerage plant and place the spoils on the DUNES. Mayor Wetherill explained that she had been approached by Mr. Berry the administrator of Burlington City and that she had informed him that the plant had a smell about it. Mr. Kirchner explained that the flow from the sewer plant can go anywhere, but sits usually costly. Mrs. Arter inquired if the sewerage authority was informed ahead for their input about the study. The authority should be included as part of the fact finding for the study. Council President Crespo explained that the meeting and letter are just a part of the fact finding to see if the city is interested. Mr. Heifet discussed that he had received an email from Mrs. Sheipe about the study and that no one seemed to be aware it. Mrs. Sheipe explained that in her email she had informed council that Mr. Weller, director of the sewer authorities had expressed his concerns to her about the city requesting a study from the Bridge Commission involving the Beverly/Delanco Sewerage Authorities and that he was not informed about it. Mrs. Sheipe explained that she did not have any record of city council

applying for the study with the Bridge Commission and was unable to answer Mr. Weller's questions. Council President Crespo discussed that the study could save the money by the Bridge Commission completing it. Mr. Arter discussed that either way it is NJ taxpayer's money. Mr. Arter discussed that Burlington maybe agreeing to charge less now but what about in the future. There is no guarantee that the city will always save money by sending the sewerage to Burlington. Mr. Arter discussed that Burlington needs to become a MUA so that Beverly has a share in the plant. Mr. Arter inquired if Mr. Kirchner had any thoughts on the subject. Mr. Kirchner explained that he was uncomfortable answering since he is also the engineer of the Beverly/Delanco authorities and was the engineer for the Burlington plant. Mr. Arter discussed that Burlington has lost U.S. Pipe as a customer and is looking for alternative means to support their plant. The sewerage authority money in Burlington goes directly to the city for their spending. Mr. Arter discussed that the city is working on the DUNES project and that the Burlington plant needs to be upgraded. Mr. Bass discussed that the conversation is ahead of schedule and is there money available to do the study needed. Council President Crespo explained that there is grant money available to do the study and if the grant money is not used it will sit. Mr. Bass discussed that council needs to check and find out if it is possible to save Beverly money and that council needs the knowledge from the grant to make a decision. Mr. Heifet express his concern that the Corp. of Engineers will move quickly if they think that Beverly does not need the site. Council President Crespo explained that the DEP owns the land and that they are aware of the study. Mr. Schwedes inquired if the city does the study will they be reimbursed by the state from the grant. Mr. Reale explained that there is no assurance that the grant money will be around after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Reale explained that Burlington City has stated that they can handle the city's sewerage and that council will have to decide if they want to do an application for the study. Mr. Kirchner explained that the sewerage authorities are in discussion with the Bridge Commission now about a study. Mrs. Arter discussed that she felt it was a missed step by Burlington City to not include the authority in the discussions. The sewerage authorities should have been included in the beginning and that one of the main items that are stressed at the Shared Services Forum with the Bridge Commission is to include all entities from the beginning. Council President discussed that there is a meeting about shared services this Thursday with the Bridge Commission. Mrs. Sheipe explained that the notice about the meeting is for personnel issues that are inherent to share and consolidation. The Department of Personnel will be present for questions and answers. Mr. Kirchner discussed that the sewerage authority study would be to see what options best fits where it is moving the plant, upgrading the plant or sending the flow somewhere else. Mr. Kirchner discussed that as of this date the authority has reached out to the Bridge Commission with no confirmation of the grant. Mr. Arter discussed that if the authority is already planning a study why waste money or the city doing one. Council President Crespo discussed that the study that he is talking about involves four towns and that the sewerage authority is only looking at Beverly/Delanco. Dr. Cook recommended that the discussion on the study be tabled until a later date.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT.** Mayor Wetherill discussed that the city wide yard sale was successful.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS.**

Mr. Bass thanked everyone who participated and volunteer with the basketball program.

Mr. Heifet discussed that the Municipal Drug Alliance picnic was success.

**Ordinance No. 2008-10**, An Ordinance of the City of Beverly Amending Chapter XIV, Streets and Sidewalks, Section 14-1 Excavation and Construction in Public Street. Mr. Arter made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None. The ordinance was adopted on first reading and will be heard on second and final reading at the council meeting of May 27, 2008.

**RCA Program**- Mr. Arter made a motion to have the city council request RFP's for the RCA program, Mr. Schwedes second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

Mr. Arter made a motion to hire temporary help for the RCA program, Mrs. Arter second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

Mr. Heifet made a motion to deny the request for additional stipend for the RCA program for the 2008 year, Mr. Bass second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

Mr. Arter made a motion to approve the purchase of the Kyocera copier out of the general fund, Mr. Schwedes second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

Mr. Bass made a motion to allow the purchase of a debit card upto the amount of \$200. for the website, Dr. Cook second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

**NAYES:** None.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

Mrs. Richards-Broad Street inquired if the street opening ordinance was basically for the utilities? Council President Crespo explained that the old ordinance needed to be updated. Mrs. Richards discussed that the discussion with Burlington should have involved the sewerage authority as well.

Mrs. Bent-Warren Street inquired about the administration of the RCA program and that she was under the impression that Mr. Remsa from the county and the Bridge Commission was going to help. Council President Crespo explained Mr. Remsa and the Bridge Commission worked with CGPH and that the proposal submitted was independent of the Bridge Commission. Mrs. Bent inquired about a letter that she wrote requesting an apology from Mr. Newsome. Council President Crespo explained that it is not his authority to request an apology from a councilmember. Mrs. Bent discussed that as President he should have control of the council members at a meeting. Mrs. Bent inquired of Mr. Newsome if he planned on giving an apology? Mr. Newsome explained that he will not apologize for expressing his opinion. Mrs. Bent explained that she feels that Mr. Newsome did not give the answer to her question at the last meeting and that she was treated unappropriately

from an elected official. Mr. Reale explained that members of council are elected by the voters and that no member can gravel another member from their answer. Mrs. Bent explained that it is disappointing as a taxpayer and as a person to receive an answer that is not appropriate.

Mr. Borden-Riverbank inquired if other cities were approached about the RCA program and whether they had someone available. Mr. Borden inquired about Ms. Sasso filing in. Council President Crespo explained that Ms. Sasso is not in the best health to return to work. Mr. Borden explained that after the new copier is purchase the city should scrap the old one there is no point in fixing it. Mr. Arter explained that the court will be using the old copier and that the repairs are covered by a maintenance agreement that will be covered by court.

Mr. Thibault-Wheatley Avenue discussed that shared services is the main topic of conversation everywhere. Burlington City has talked about sharing with the school. Mr. Thibault discussed that many times rates for shared services start low and rise quickly. Many mergers actually cause cities to lose money.

Ms. Thompson-Wheatley Avenue inquired as to how she could find out if there is fluoride in the city's water? Council President Crespo explained that all fluoride was removed from the water since it is actually harmful to adults. The New Jersey American Water should be able to answer any questions on fluoride. Mrs. Arter recommend that Ms. Thompson call Lendell Jones at the water company. Mr. Kirchner explained that a few communities still have it in their water. Ms. Thompson explained that the school is promoting fluoride for the children.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT.**

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