

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN BEVERLY CITY COUNCIL AND BEVERLY CITY BOARD OF
EDUCATION.

CITY OF BEVERLY

November 8, 2007

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 October 25, 2007 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.

Council President Arter announced that the last meeting of the year held on December 26th, Mr. Bancroft as Pro-tem President would be conducting the meeting in honor of this final meeting as a member of city council.

APPOINTMENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD. Mayor Wetherill appointed Rachel Germer to the school board.

SWEARING IN OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER. Mayor Wetherill swore in Rachel Germer to the Beverly City School Board.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Crespo, Mr. Germer, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Robertson, Dr. Cook, Council President Arter, Mayor Wetherill, Barbara Sheipe, Administrator/Clerk, School Board President Robert Thibault, Mr. Wolbert, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Germer.

ABSENT: Mr. Arter, Mrs. Pirlyis, Mrs. Weitz.

WORK SESSION:

Mr. Thibault, School Board President opened the discussion on the use of the fields and youth activities. Mr. Thibault discussed that the school board would like to work with city council on the fields and starting youth activities. Mr. Thibault discussed the document from May 25, 1972 to Mayor Curtin concerning the addition to the school, the letter is attached as part of the minutes. Mr. Thibault also read the letter from October 5, 1973 and discussed the letter and agreement from October, 1972 and October 1973. The letter and agreement are attached and made part of the minutes. Mr. Germer discussed that there is a section that discusses that the fields are dedicated for recreational purposes only and cannot be built upon. Mr. Germer inquired if that could be changed in the future to allow expansion of the school if needed. Mr. Thibault discussed that he believed

that if both parties agree to the change it could occur. Mr. Bancroft discussed that when the state said that a new addition for the auditorium and was looking for space, they were going to enlarge towards his home. Council President Arter discussed that you could build a second floor to accommodate classrooms. Mr. Thibault discussed that there is already some asphalt as part of the fields. Mr. Bancroft explained that last year an architectural firm presented some plans for expansion and it was all directed towards the court yard and the area where the sheds are located. Mr. Wolbert discussed that when the school was at full capacity there were 606 children and now the enrollment is down to 162, there is plenty of room. Mr. Robertson inquired about plans of expansion for the future. Mr. Thibault explained that every five years the school has to do a plan and that was why there was a presentation last year on the expansion. Mr. Thibault discussed that the school board planned to consolidate the city's classrooms from Saint Joseph's school and the elementary school into one school. Mrs. Richards-Broad Street explained that the field has been called Lauinger Field since the 1950's and that it was in honor of Mr. Lauginer, who was from Edgewater Park. Council President Arter inquired if the field was dedicated to recreational use at the time it was acquired from Mr. Lauinger? Mr. Thibault discussed that the agreement probably made sense at the time it was signed, but there has been no maintenance of the concession stand. Mr. Wolbert discussed that the purpose of this section of the work session was to discuss the recreational activities for the youth. Mr. Wolbert discussed that the city has an ordinance for recreational funds that requires someone building a new home in the city to either pay a fee of \$750. towards the recreational fund or build recreation in the city. The requirements of the ordinance are depend on the number of units that are built. The funds could be used to start a new recreation program or area for the youth. Mr. Wolbert explained that the parents and the teachers would like to be involved and that additional funding is needed. The fence on the sports fields could be used to raise money, by advertisers buying space. Mr. Thibault discussed that with redevelopment coming into the city and new homes and business, the open space will be limited. Mr. Thibault discussed that the current concession stand has bathrooms, kitchen and room for storage. Mr. Wolbert explained that the current city baseball fields are undersize. Council President Arter discussed that the school field can be fixed. Mr. Wolbert explained that he would like to see a soccer field on the lot and that there is probably grant money available. Mr. Robertson discussed that with a soccer field you have to watch the placement of the goals, so that they are not going into the street. Mr. Robertson discussed that the rubberize tracks are a nice idea, but he feels that there will be little interest. Mass sports that utilize a lot of players at one time are a good idea. Mrs. Russell discussed that citizens cannot walk on the sidewalks. Council President Arter requested that the public hold their comments until the public section. Mr. Germer discussed that there are portable nets that can be placed to keep the balls within the fields. Mr. Robertson discussed that he felt that soccer will blend well and that the fences for the baseball are just taking up space. Mr. Wolbert explained that soccer fields are easy to maintain and the sport is less expensive for the parent. Mr. Thibault inquired if everyone was talking about an all purpose field size? Mr. Wolbert explained that he would like to take away the baseball field all together. Mr. Thibault explained that the teachers use the small field for kick ball. Mrs. Thompson discussed where the playground equipment would go from Saint Josephs? Mr. Wolbert discussed that he felt that the school did not need more equipment and that the equipment from St. Josephs should be sold to help pay for it. Mr. Thibault inquired as to what the consensus was for the concession stand? Mr. Wolbert explained that he felt that the dug outs should be taken out for public health and safety and that the stand should stay as a way for the sports association to make money. Mr. Robertson discussed that the stand had a flat roof and need a lot of repair. Mr. Thibault explained that the stand is strong enough to stand and the roof has had some repairs, but needs more. Mr. Thibault discussed that the lease states that the school is responsible, but that the city has the right to use it. Mr. Thibault explained that the board's priority is recreation for the youth and that maybe some of the savings from closing the school at Saint Joseph's could be applied toward youth activities. Mr. Crespo discussed that the public works department could till the ground in an attempt to get rid of the stickers burrs and

remove the fence. Also that the school would profit from the stand. Council President Arter inquired if Mr. Crespo was committing the city to till the ground and remove the fence. Mr. Thibault explained that the activity program using the field would benefit from the stand. Mr. Crespo inquired as to who is responsible for the equipment? Mr. Wolbert discussed that the city or the school could form a league or traveling teams that would use the stand and maintain their own equipment. Mr. Thibault discussed that he would like to see a community effort between the school board, city council and the community to help youth activities grow. Dr. Cook discussed that the responsibility of the fields and the stands are in limbo until the lease is reviewed legally. Mr. Wolbert read N.J.S.A. 18A:20-22. School districts joining with municipality or county in equipment and operation

The board of education of any district may join with the governing body of any municipality, or the board of chosen freeholders of the county in which the district is located, in acquiring, improving, equipping, operating and maintaining playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, and indoor recreation centers, and may appropriate money therefore and may pay over to the said body or board such money as may be so appropriated to be disbursed for any of such joint purposes.

Mr. Thibault read 18A:20-20 into the minutes:

18A:20-20. Control and regulation of playgrounds and recreation places

The board of education shall have full control over all lands, public playgrounds, and recreation places acquired or leased by it, pursuant to law, and may adopt suitable rules for the use thereof, and the conduct of all persons while on or using the same.

Mr. Bancroft discussed that the lawn service hired by the school was dismissed by the school and they used to keep the fields in good condition. Mr. Thibault explained that the teachers need the fields to be usable for the children. The fields have been sprayed twice to remove the sticker burrs. Mayor Wetherill discussed that her great-grandson plays soccer for Edgewater Park and that the use of their concession is like an award after the game, it also provided the opportunity for parents to get a cup of coffee or hot dogs and snacks during the game. Mayor Wetherill inquired as to who would handle the stand. Mr. Thibault explained that the parents of the children playing or the teachers could if it is a school function. Mr. Robertson discussed that the council and the school board need to develop an agreement about the use of the fields and the stand. Also there would have to be an agreement with the groups to use the fields and stand. Mr. Robertson inquired if anyone knew of a city that already had an agreement in place between a school and the municipality? Mr. Wolbert explained that Millstone has an agreement. Mr. Thibault discussed that the board and council should take a vote on the use of the stand. Dr. Cook inquired about the share use of the stands between the city and the school. Mr. Crespo discussed that he is requesting to use the stand for just this winter to store public works equipment, since it will be awhile before the stand is back to running as a concession stand. Mr. Wolbert discussed that there might be an issue with the board of health about storing a lawnmower in the same building with food and drinks. Mrs. Sheipe the insurance on the shed and that JIF the city's insurance carrier had recommend that the shed be torn down. Mr. Germer discussed that the city could use a POD temporarily for the storage of the public works equipment. Mr. Thibault explained that the building could be secured and use it as a temporary garage to store the lawn mower, but when a sports program is started and the stand is used the lawn mower would become an issue. Mr. Newsome discussed that the redevelopment plan calls for a baseball field at the riverfront and that the teams would likely use the new field. Council President Arter discussed that both fields could be use at the same time, so that there is not a long wait between games and that many towns have several fields in use at the

same time. Mr. Wolbert explained that the school age children use the school field at lunch time as well. Council President Arter discussed that the sticker burrs are everywhere and that you cannot walk through the fields. Mr. Thibault suggested a treatment of the fields as a joint effort between the school board and city council. Council President Arter discussed that the city and the school should look for grant money. Mr. Germer discussed that there should be an agreement with Eastampton Township and Rancocas Valley High School as the school uses the township land for their sports fields. Mrs. Germer inquired if there is a PTO in the school and that they usually help with events and activities? Mr. Thibault explained that there was parent group that has dissolved, but that several parents have stepped up to help. Mr. Thibault discussed that the stand could take between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to get it right and that council could insist that the board live upto the lease. Council President Arter discussed that everyone is in agreement that the city needs more activities for the children. Mr. Germer explained that the school budget and the city budget need to be looked at for additional funding. Mr. Thibault discussed that the school board will look at the safety issues of the stand, but more work needs to be done before the winter on the building. Mr. Bancroft discussed that he would volunteer to help work on the stand. Mr. Crespo also volunteer to help with the stand. Mr. Thibault discussed that there is a school board meeting on November 14 and a council meeting on November 27th , the school board will come up with their decision on the stand at the their meeting. Mr. Robertson inquired if they were talking about just patching the roof or a full replacement? Mr. Thibault explained that all of the joists are good and that the plywood needs to be replaced. The work that has already been done is heading in the right direction. Mr. Crespo discussed that the roof could be rolled and then replaced in the spring. Council President Arter explained that the roof is slightly pitched so the water does run off. Mr. Thibault discussed that tresses would be the best thing to do for the roof and it would also add storage to the shed.

PUBLIC SESSION AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Mrs. Richards-Broad Street inquired if the city children played T-ball in Beverly. Mrs. Sheipe explained that they played with Delanco. Mrs. Richards discussed that there are not enough children in the city for sports. Mr. Thibault explained that the basketball programs are usually well participated. Mrs. Richards explained that the mower in the concession stand belongs to the school and that the baseball teams maintained the building. There should be a separate line item in the budget for youth activities. Council President Arter responded that there are young families in the city who wish that there are children activities so that they do not have to travel to other towns. Mr. Thibault suggested that a questionnaire be sent to the residents inquiring if they would be interested in sports and would they volunteer to help.

Mr. Wooters-Van Kirk Street inquired about the cost of the insurance and that Burlington City stopped their programs due to the high cost of the insurance. Mr. Thibault discussed that it is a good point and that the school board will have to review to check their liability. Council President Arter discussed that there is most likely an increase for extra activities. Mr. Wolbert discussed that the declaration page of the insurance does not break it down, but that liability is five million. Mr. Wooters inquired as to what insurance covers the leagues? Mrs. Sheipe explained that usually Little League Baseball and Soccer League must carry their own insurance for their league which would also cover the players.

Mr. Bass-Broad Street discussed that in the larger towns there are share services for insurance to obtain a better rate. Mr. Bass also discussed that the goals for the fields and youth activities should be laid out so that everyone knows the future visions.

Council President Arter discussed that she had recommend looking at grant money as the first goal and step toward the programs. The city and the school board should look into shared grants as well as individual grants.

Mr. Germer explained that the city is a member of the JIF and that it helps keep the cost of the insurance down.

Mr. Wolbert discussed that in frequent events there is a need for more insurance coverage.

Mr. Delia-Cramer Avenue inquired as to what happens if the city and the school cannot afford the new plans for the fields and activities. Council President Arter explained the school and the city would have to reevaluate the plan. Mrs. Dileo inquired as to what the #1 goal and #2 goal is? Mr. Thibault explained that the #1 goal would be to look at the insurance coverage for both sides. Council President Arter explained that the sticker burr issue should be also looked at quickly for the safety of the children.

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

Mr. Crespo discussed that the fields need to be maintain and that volunteers will help fix the stand. Mr. Thibault explained that the school will cut the grass. Mr. Bancroft inquired about the snow removal? The lawn service used to shovel the walks as well. Mr. Thibault explained that they are attempting to get a snow plow for the riding mower and that the board will look into the lease to see if it is still enforced since the city took over the care of the field.

Mr. Wolbert discussed that the agreement does not comply with current state statues.

Mrs. Sheipe discussed that perhaps the school board and the city council should have their attorneys review the agreement for the legality of it.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Germer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. All members presented vote in favor.