

MINUTES

CITY OF BEVERLY

OCTOBER 14, 2003

CALL TO ORDER. The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Beverly was called to order at 8pm, by Council Pro-Tem President Nancy Richards on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, 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. Gehm, Dr. Cook, Mr. Wolbert, Mrs. Richards, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Setikas, Mr. Hahn. Director of Public Safety Mike Morton, Solicitor John Vassallo, Municipal Clerk/Administrator Barbara Sheipe.

ABSENT: Mayor Lowden and Council President Bancroft.

MINUTES. Ms. Snyder made a motion to approved the minutes of September 23, 2003. Mr. Hahn second the motion. All members present approve the motion.

SWEARING IN OF RANGERS. Dr. Cook explained that with the Clean Communities Program from the Department of Environmental Protection the city was able to recruit children into a program to keep the city streets clean. This program will allow the children to maintain and clean the basketball courts and the playgrounds. The Clean Communities Council of NJ will hold workshops and seminars for coordinators, mayors, public officials and organizations on October 29 at Spring Lake. Dr. Cook and Nancy Richards will attend the workshops. The children will receive vest, safety goggles and gloves to use while cleaning the park. The children will also participate in selecting a home in the city that has shown beautification improvements. Mr. Gehm, Mr. Schoen and Dr. Cook and the students took the Beverly City Volunteer Pledge. The pledge will allow the children to participate as a member in good standing of the clean communities volunteer corps. The program is funded through the clean communities grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY. Mr. Wolbert made a motion to open the public safety. Ms. Setikas seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Mr. Szutarski, 332 Putman Street inquired as to why the public is kept in the dark about police matters. He would like to see the residents informed when things occur like the tire slashing incidents. Mr. Morton explained that the information is called into the papers, but that he can not control as to what is printed. Mr. Szutarski discussed that the neighborhood is so loud at night and that it is hard to sleep. Mr. Morton suggested that if a noise occurs that the officers be called. Mr. Szutarski inquired as to how many times the officers actually patrol the city. Mr. Hahn explained that for the month of September the police vehicles logged 3,526.9 miles. Mr. Szutarski inquired as to how many miles were actually in Beverly. Mr. Morton explained that he is always aware of the location of the

patrol cars and that sometimes their duties require them to leave the city. Mr. Szutarski discussed that the children of the city are walking in the middle of the streets and they do not want to move over for the vehicles. Mr. Morton explained that the city was attempting to correct the situation with warnings, but now the police officers would start issuing summons. Mr. Morton also discussed that he is attempting to have a neighborhood watch group started.

John Borden, Riverbank discussed that the children are walking in the streets and do not have the desire or respect to move out of a vehicles way. They will holler at the drivers if you expect them to move. Mr. Borden stated that the Indians have taken over the city. Mr. Morton explained that they are attempting to identify the individuals and will issue them summons. Mr. Borden discussed that they are also sitting on the vehicles at Caplans on Warren Street and that they do not move.

Janet Lowe-Laurel Street thanked the patrols for their time. The noise level has dropped. There is still a lot of streetwalkers when school lets out. The kids will actually dare a vehicle to hit them. Mr. Morton is planning to do some educating of the students in the school and to inform them that summons will be issued instead of warnings.

Ms. Setikas moved to close the public portion, Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

COORESPONDENCE None.

OLD BUSINESS. None.

NEW BUSINESS.

Resolution No. 2003-99, Resolution of the City of Beverly, Approving A Club License For The W.A.Cortright, Jr. Post 115 (American Legion). The resolution was held at the request of the solicitor.

Resolution No. 2003-100, Resolution Approving A Special Permit (Fire Co. #1). The resolution was read by title.

Mr. Hahn made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2003-100, Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Gehm, Dr. Cook, Mr. Wolbert, Mrs. Richards, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Setikas, Mr. Hahn.

NAYES: None.

Resolution No. 2003-101, Resolution Awarding Of Contract For Third Street Improvement Project. The resolution was read by title. Engineer William Kirshner

explained to council that the funding for this project was left over from a previous grant from Small Cities Program. The Department of Community Affairs gave the approval to use the funds for this project.

Ms. Snyder made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2003-101, Ms. Setikas seconded the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Gehm, Dr. Cook, Mr. Wolbert, Mrs. Richards, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Setikas, Mr. Hahn.

NAYES: None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT. None.

MAYOR'S REPORT. Pro-Tem Council President Richards read a letter that the Mayor had received from Richard Gober thanking the city for the funds and help in the repair of the his rental property at 518 Bentley. The letter is attached and made part of the minutes.

COUNCIL'S REPORT.

Mr. Gehm discussed that the chipper has been out everyday and that the street sweep will be in town tomorrow. The street sweeper is being funded by the clean communities fund. Mr. Gehm read a letter from Mary Chetwiler of 99 Pine Street thanking the public works department for their extra efforts. She also thanked Mr. Harris of the sewerage authority for helping out.

Dr. Cook discussed the pledge ceremony and that the clean communities ties in with the recycling. Dr. Cook, Barbara Sheipe and Robert Bancroft had attended a seminar and tour at the county recycling building. The seminar discussed the clean communities grant and what the funds could be spent for. Dr. Cook advised council that there would be a Veterans Day ceremony on November 11 at the National Cemetery.

Mr. Wolbert thanked Dr. Cook for her hard efforts in getting the children together to clean up the city and that there is an article in the NJ League of Municipalities magazine this month discussing the states clean communities.

Ms. Phillips discussed that she had talked to the county and that they said that the signs could be put up at the corner of Broad and Warren. Mr. Morton had also talked with the county and they said that they have no problem with the signage.

Ms. Setikas discussed that the Beverly Library will be having a winter market on Oct. 19 and it will have an art show, bake sale and activities for the children. The event will be held rain or shine.

Mr. Hahn discussed that the police department had received a thank you for Office Meyers for responding to an emergency call and the help that he gave.

Mrs. Richards discussed that the insurance is going well and that a lot of elected officials and employees are attending the seminars that are required by the JIF.

PUBLIC SESSION.

Ms. Snyder made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Ms. Setikas second the motion. All members were in favor.

Janet Lowe-Laurel Street discussed with council the issue of the cats in the city taking over. Ms. Lowe discussed that the cat licensing is not enforced and that something needs to be done. There are cats sleeping on cars and causing damage all of town. Mrs. Richards discussed that the council was told that the state said that the cat licensing is not enforceable, but that the city does hold a rabies clinic for dogs and cats. The residents need to take responsibility for their animals. Ms. Lowe discussed that the animal control officer has no authority to go on private property and remove animals without the owners permission and that the owners of the property state that they are not their cats, but will not allow the animal control officer to enter their property. Mrs. Richards suggested that Ms. Lowe talk to the Board of Health and see if they could not come up with a solution. Mrs. Richards inquired if there was a specific street or area that was a major problem. Ms. Lowe discussed that there is a problem all of over town and especially on Laurel Street. Mrs. Haaf discussed that there is a problem on Cooper Street and on Pine Street with cats. Solicitor Vassallo suggested that the council needs to have the ordinance that limits the number of animals enforced. Dr. Cook would like to have the definition of who owns the cats. There is always a question about the feeding and care of the cats and if that defines the owner.

Victor Vittorino, Deputy Mayor for Delanco invited council to the Gateway Park dedication on October 17 at 6:30pm. There will a brick placed for Dominic Gioffre.

John Borden Jr.- Riverbank inquired if there is any movement on redevelopment of Bounit Mills. Dr. Cook explained that there are several things in the development and that investigator's are taking tours of the city. Mr. Borden inquired as to what was being built near the railroad crossing in Delanco? Deputy Mayor of Delanco, Victor Vittorino explained that it is part of Delanco's COAH obligation and the site will be town homes and condos. Mr. Borden encouraged council to promote the light rail to attract businesses to the city. Dr. Cook discussed that she is continually working to improve the development of Beverly and that she needs the help and support of the residents as well.

Joseph Wooters-235 Van Kirk discussed that he had witnessed skateboarders on the light rail station in Burlington and was inquiring if there was an accident would the city be responsible. Mr. Hahn explained that the property belongs to NJ Transit and that the person would go after the NJ Transit insurance. Mr. Wooters inquired if the crossing gates come down and there is no train is it legal to go around the gates. Dr. Cook explained that there is a number on the gates to call with any problems. Council discussed that it is never legal to go around the gates and that the gate should only be down for a

minute. Deputy Mayor Victor Vittorino of Delanco explained that NJ Transit will have security and police on the tracks and in the cars and that the local police have the authority to issue arrests and summons on the NJ Transit property.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, Ms. Setikas made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Gehm second the motion. All members were in favor.

Executive Session. Ms. Setikas made a motion to go into executive session for the matter of personnel. Mr. Hahn seconded the motion. All members were in favor. A discussion of contracts and personnel was held. Ms. Snyder made a motion to return to public session. Ms. Setikas seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Ms. Setikas made a motion to cancel the meeting of November 11, Veterans Day. Mr. Gehm seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

PAYMENT OF BILLS. Ms. Snyder made a motion to approve the bills, Ms. Setikas seconded the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Gehm, Dr. Cook, Mr. Wolbert, Mrs. Richards, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Setikas, Mr. Hahn.

NAYES: None.

Mr. Hahn made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Setikas seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Submitted by,

Barbara A. Sheipe RMC
Municipal Clerk