

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
March 10, 2020 – 7:30PM
Regular Session**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey was held on the aforementioned date with the following in attendance: Mayor Randy H. Miller, Council President Robert H. Bancroft, Councilman Robert E. Lowden, Jr., Councilwoman Grace M. Heron, Councilman Mark Schwedes, Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas J. Coleman, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

The following opening statement was read by Council President Bancroft:

“The Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met. Notice of this meeting, Resolution 2020-1, was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on January 12, 2020, emailed to the Camden Courier Post, filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 12, 2020 and was mailed to all persons requesting and paying for same.”

The above was followed by the Flag Salute and Roll Call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 2020

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to approve the above listed minutes. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There being no preliminary public comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close same. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2020-3: An Ordinance of the City of Beverly Setting Forth Regulations for Tax Exemptions Related to Totally Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses

Councilman Schwedes inquired if Ordinance 2020-3 is a replacement or amendment of a prior ordinance. City Administrator Wolbert stated that this will be the first ordinance adopted by the City governing totally disabled veterans’ tax exemptions.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to introduce Ordinance 2020-3. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-44: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, Discharge of Mortgages on the Property Known as Block 1588, Lot 12.02, FKA Block 88, AKA 128 Railroad Avenue

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adopt Resolution 2020-44. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

Resolution 2020-45: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Block 1159, Lot 4 (417 Laurel Street) Due to Totally Disabled Veteran Status

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the above resolution will be affected by the introduction of Ordinance 2020-3. City Administrator Wolbert replied no.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-45. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

BILL LIST

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to approve the Bill List for March 10, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

- General Assembly Resolutions No. 78 & 79 regarding 2020 Census

Mayor Miller presented the above correspondence, and encouraged the public to participate in the 2020 Census.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilwoman Heron wished the public a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

Councilman Schwedes noted that the public should be aware of potential scams regarding the 2020 Census. Council President Bancroft reflected Mr. Schwedes' comments, especially for individuals going door to door claiming to be census workers. Regarding same, Mayor Miller noted that census information can be completed online.

Councilman Lowden stated that there is an upcoming Planning Board Meeting on March 18th. Furthermore, Mr. Lowden noted that the Historical Society will be holding an appraisal event at St. Stephen's Church on April 18th. Finally, Mr. Lowden encouraged the use of electric cars to reduce the use of gas and fossil fuels.

Councilwoman Williams stated that she attended stormwater management training and found the same informative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if those who are eligible for the totally disabled veterans' tax exemption are reimbursed from the State. City Administrator Wolbert stated that reimbursement funds are provided directly from the City.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to close public comment. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2020-46: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adopt Resolution 2020-46 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried. The Common Council and support staff entered same at 7:50PM, and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 8:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

**Caitlin Midgette, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk**

Approved: March 24, 2020