

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
April 14, 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 via conference call 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 7:37PM.

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, transmitted 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. Notice that this meeting will be held via conference call was published in The Burlington County Times on April 2, 2020, transmitted to the Camden Courier Post, posted on the City’s official website, and sent to all persons requesting same.”

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Session: March 24, 2020**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to approve the above listed set of 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

No comments.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-51: Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract to Perino's Electric, LLC for Electrical Work at the Emergency Squad Building

Councilman Lowden inquired as to which entity is funding the repairs on the building, and the timeframe for when said repairs will be completed. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the City will be funding the costs of the improvements, and the timeframe on the completion of same will be determined by when funding will be available. Mr. Lowden inquired about insurance on the building. Mr. Wolbert noted that the building is already insured through the City's JIF policy, and that moving forward, the building will be routinely inspected to ensure the safety of same by both JIF representatives and the EMS squad, the latter of which has their own safety guidelines to follow.

Additionally, when it comes to future repairs, the EMS squad will be responsible for improvements to minor systems, and the City will be responsible for repairs to major systems. Councilman Schwedes inquired if the contractual donations to the EMS squad will be decreased since the organization will be operating out of the City's building. Mr. Wolbert noted that any potential contract negotiations will be discussed in an Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adopt Resolution 2020-51. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Schwedes

Absent:

Resolution 2020-52: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Participating Municipalities for COVID-19 Assistance

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the above resolution pertains to a mutual aid agreement between several local police departments to provide aid to member departments in the event of inadequate staffing due to illness.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-52. 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

City Administrator Wolbert noted that the deadline to file annual financial disclosure statements as required by law is April 30th.

BILL LIST

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to approve the Bill List for April 14, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller summarized a memo from the New Jersey Department of Labor outlining the impact of COVID-19, specifically in terms of unemployment rates.

Councilwoman Heron commented on the aesthetics of the City's new street signs.

Councilwoman Williams reflected Ms. Heron's statement regarding the street signs. Additionally, Ms. Williams noted that she's had to call the police department to report repeat gatherings at a certain location in the City. City Administrator Wolbert noted that warnings for violating the Governor's social distancing orders will be given by the police department, and that any summonses issued for the same can only be given if approved by the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Wolbert stated that the City receives daily updates on the number of COVID-19 cases, and that the police department is still in need of gowns and sanitizing wipes. Accordingly, every call to the department will be treated as possible exposure to COVID-19, especially since there is limited availability to testing. Finally, Mr. Wolbert noted that the school district will be issuing Chrome Books to students for distance learning.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the following Council Meeting will be conducted via conference call. Mr. Wolbert stated that the City should expect to conduct meetings via conference call at least through the month of May. Additionally, this year's municipal budget may have to be adopted by conference call, and the City may have to authorize the use of Tax Anticipation Notes in the event the state delays tax payments due to the pandemic.

Councilwoman Williams inquired about the continued closure of the school district. Mr. Wolbert stated that the Governor's order to close all schools in New Jersey expires at the end of the week, but it is anticipated that schools will be closed for the remainder of the year.

The Municipal Court report for March 2020 and the EMS squad's report for January and February 2020 were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 28, 2020