

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
April 28, 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 7:31PM.

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, Moment of Silence, and Roll Call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Session: April 14, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

City Administrator Wolbert noted the deadline for public officials to file annual financial disclosure statements.

NEW BUSINESS

The Common Council discussed changing the time of all future meetings planned to be held by conference call. It was determined that until the social restrictions related to the current public health crisis are lifted, the meetings of the Common Council will be held via conference call at 5:00PM.

BILL LIST

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the City will be reimbursed for the towing expenses listed in the bill list. City Administrator Wolbert stated that if a vehicle is towed to the Prosecutor's Office for evidence, it is the City's responsibility to cover that cost.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to approve the Bill List for April 28, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller stated that correspondence was received from the appointed Risk Manager regarding the City's insurance and the possibility of searching for a new insurance company. After some discussion, it was determined by the Common Council to remain insured under the Burlington County JIF.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller asked for a moment of silence.

Councilwoman Heron commended all those working on the front lines against the pandemic.

Councilman Lowden stated that he hoped all were staying safe during this time.

Councilman Schwedes wished well for those who have been impacted by the public health crisis.

Councilwoman Williams inquired if the City's parks are still open to the public. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the parks are open for walks, but there are to be no gatherings. Ms. Williams then inquired if the City's rental registration form has been amended. Mr. Wolbert noted that the last amendment was completed in the previous year. Lastly, Ms. Williams asked if the area around the intersection of Third Street and Laurel Street could have increased police patrols.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the Governor has issued an Executive Order allowing for municipalities to extend the grace period of taxes until June 1st. After slight discussion, it was

determined by the Common Council that said grace period cannot be extended in order to ensure that the City's financial obligations can still be met. On a separate topic, Mr. Wolbert informed the Common Council that the Municipal Court has been instructed to hold court sessions virtually, which may result in the City having to fund a new computer and software system for same. Finally, regarding the pandemic, Mr. Wolbert noted that there has been an increase in mental health issues in the general public due to the quarantine. Additionally, Stylex in Delanco has donated washable cotton masks for the City's first responders.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

Approved: May 12, 2020