

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
May 26, 2020 – 5:00PM
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 Gina LaPlaca, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

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 at 5:00PM was published in The Burlington County Times on May 3, 2020, transmitted to the 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: May 12, 2020**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron 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

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the preliminary public comment on agenda items only. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bond Anticipation Note Sale

City Administrator Rich Wolbert informed the Common Council that the City's recent BAN sale will be awarded to the Township of Freehold, who submitted the lowest bid with a 1.375% interest rate.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

Ordinance 2020-4: Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2020-4. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-53: Introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget

City Administrator Rich Wolbert summarized the increases and decreases in certain line items in the 2020 introduced budget, and stated that there will be an overall approximate increase of \$118,000. Said increase includes the hiring of an additional police officer, the purchase of a new chipper and additional equipment for the DPW, and other necessary purchases.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2020-53. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

BILL LIST

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to approve the Bill List for May 12, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller noted that he received email correspondence from a resident to express feelings of dismay that the City didn't display flags for Memorial Day. Mayor Miller noted that while he understands the resident's concern, the City staff has been focused on maintaining necessary services during the time of an unprecedented health crisis.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller hoped that everyone continues to stay safe during this time.

Councilwoman Heron and Councilwoman Williams reflected Mayor Miller's comment.

Councilman Schwedes noted that the local American Legion placed several hundred flags at the Beverly Monument Cemetery, and that hopefully come next year the City can continue to host its annual Memorial Day Parade. Additionally, Mr. Schwedes thanked the DPW, Fire Departments, and EMS staff for their efforts during this time of crisis.

City Administrator Rich Wolbert noted that the DPW staff has returned to a more regular work schedule, and has been thoroughly cleaning the Municipal Building. Currently, the building remains closed to the public, with staff only servicing the door if necessary. There were plans to hire an additional DPW staff member, but the pandemic has led to unanticipated purchases in response to same. Regarding the Memorial Day Parade, Mr. Wolbert stated that the decision to cancel the event was based on the health and safety of the public. Finally, Mr. Wolbert noted that the Municipal Court will be conducting virtual sessions until further notice, and that the City had to purchase software to support same.

Solicitor LaPlaca noted that her firm will review the ordinance regarding chickens as discussed at the previous Council Meeting once prepared by the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close public comment. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: June 9, 2020