

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
July 28, 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, Councilwoman Grace M. Heron, Councilman Robert E. Lowden, Jr., Councilman Mark Schwedes, Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas Coleman, and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:03PM.

The following opening statement was read by City Clerk Midgette:

“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, moment of silence, and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

PRESENTATION

Paul Forlenza – Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund

Paul Forlenza, Executive Director, discussed the City’s contract renewal with the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund and the benefits the City will receive by remaining a member of same. Highlights of the discussion include the City’s claim performance, the JIF’s role in the COVID-19 pandemic, new legislation that may affect claims as it pertains to first responders, and employee training in cyber hygiene.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Regular Session: July 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: Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Heron

Absent: Lowden (briefly lost connection during this motion)

OLD BUSINESS

Property Line Recommendation for School Property

Council President Bancroft inquired if there were any questions or comments from the Council regarding the draft property line survey submitted by the City Engineer for review and approval. Councilman Schwedes inquired if the proposed property line will address the manhole issues previously considered and give the School District enough space for the placement of the classroom trailers. City Administrator Wolbert explained that the proposed property line will eliminate the need for the City's approval of the trailer placements, but that the City Solicitor and City Engineer will still need to prepare easement agreements for utilities. Furthermore, City Solicitor Coleman noted that if the manhole was to be relocated as suggested at the previous Council Meeting, that issue would fall under the jurisdiction of the Beverly Sewerage Authority. City Administrator Wolbert stated that if the Council agrees to the proposed property line, the City Engineer will need to prepare the legal description of the property in order for the City Solicitor to appropriately file the deed and easements with the County. After further discussion, it was determined by the Common Council to approve the property line as proposed by the City Engineer.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business presented.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

Ordinance 2020-6: An Ordinance Amending Chapter BH:I, Section BH:1-7 of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Wild Animals, Livestock, and Fowl” and Establishing Section BH:1-8 Entitled “Keeping of Chickens”

City Administrator Wolbert noted that after introduction, said ordinance will need to be reviewed by the Land Use Board for Master Plan consistency before it can come before the Common Council for adoption.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to introduce Ordinance 2020-6. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-69: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2020-69. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2020-70: Resolution Authorizing the Participation in a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Burlington, Department of Public Safety, Division of Central Communications for Central Communications/911 Call Services

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adopt Resolution 2020-70. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

BILL LIST

Bill List for July 14, 2020

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilwoman Heron hoped all were staying safe during the continued public health crisis.

Councilman Lowden thanked City Administrator Wolbert and the DPW staff for their efforts in the cleanup from the recent storms.

Councilman Schwedes reflected Mr. Lowden's comments and thanked the staff for their efforts in handling any JIF issues.

Councilwoman Williams noted that the grand opening for Big Lots has been rescheduled, and hoped that all were staying safe during this time.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the storm cleanup went well, even with a small DPW staff and old equipment. All roads have been reopened with the aid of the Police Department, and that several days of chipping were required to complete the cleanup. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Wolbert stated that in speaking with the County, who reports on the total number of cases throughout same, the numbers that are presented depend on when lab results were processed. Accordingly, the statistics given do not help to determine the current threat of contagion. On a separate topic, Mr. Wolbert stated that police departments throughout the County have yet to receive their new mobile radios, which has resulted in the officers having to rely solely on their portable units with extra batteries. Additionally, the Police Department is currently undergoing the process of hiring a new officer. Finally, Mr. Wolbert stated that the Municipal Court is still being held by virtual sessions, but if a defendant requests to be heard in person, or there is a complicated case waiting to be heard, they must be allowed to be heard in person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public comment section of the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:53PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

Approved: August 11, 2020