

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
September 8, 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 5:01PM.

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 Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to close the preliminary public comment on agenda items only. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Regular Session: August 25, 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:

OLD BUSINESS

- *Chicken Keeping*

Council President Bancroft inquired if the Council had any comments regarding the Land Use Board's recommendations as it pertains to previously introduced Ordinance 2020-6 for the keeping of chickens.

Councilman Schwedes expressed that he feels the 15ft setback requirement for both chicken shelters and waste storage should remain. Mayor Miller, Councilwoman Heron, and Councilwoman Williams agreed with same.

Councilman Lowden stated that he feels all recommendations of the Land Use Board should be incorporated into the ordinance to include more eligible properties, as he believes the ordinance, as currently written, is too restrictive.

Councilman Schwedes noted that the ordinance needs to have restrictions in order to protect neighboring properties from any noise or sanitary disturbances. Council President Bancroft agreed with Mr. Schwedes, and noted that he feels that if all recommendations of the Land Use Board are incorporated into the ordinance, the keeping of chickens will be difficult to regulate.

After some discussion, it was decided to revisit the topic at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Municipal Building Reopening Plans*

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the Municipal Building will be increasing its business hours to a more regular schedule and will commence a slow reopening to the public while taking all necessary precautions, as the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. Additional measures will include increased cleaning, controlled public access, and temperature taking. For public meetings, it will be required that any members of the public who wish to attend wear masks, social distance, and have their temperatures checked.

After slight discussion, it was determined by the Council to commence in-person meetings beginning on September 22nd at 5:00PM.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2020-7: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Capital Equipment In and For the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$74,200 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Up to \$70,490; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Ordinance 2020-7. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-79: Resolution Approving Proposal from Environmental Resolutions, Inc. to Provide Surveying Services for Block 843, Lots 2.01 and 3 (601 Bentley Ave)

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the subdivision will need to go before the Land Use Board for approval. The preparation of the subdivision application increased the original proposed amount for the project.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2020-79. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2020-80: Resolution Authorizing the Closure of Certain Accounts of the City of Beverly and the Transfer of Remaining Balances in Same

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2020-80. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2020-81: Resolution Approving List for Towing Services within the City of Beverly for the Remainder of the Year 2020, Year 2021, and Year 2022

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-81. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2020-82: Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement to Officer Kenyatta Kelly for Damaged Eye Glasses in Relation to Police Department Incident 2020-1527

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2020-82. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2020-83: Resolution Authorizing Payment to 438 Cooper Street, LLC in Relation to Regional Contribution Agreement Credits Issued to Property Located at 438 Cooper Street (Block 1168, Lot 3)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2020-83. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

BILL LIST

Bill List for September 8, 2020

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the payment to PSEG for electric gas services. City Administrator Wolbert clarified that the same pertains to streetlight usage within the City.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to approve the Bill List of September 8, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

City Administrator Wolbert stated that correspondence has been received regarding the 2020 Census. Currently, Beverly's response rate is approximately 60%.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller asked that all be mindful of their health during the ongoing pandemic, particularly as flu season is approaching.

Councilwoman Heron stated that come October, she will have to resign from her position on the Council. Ms. Heron expressed her appreciation for the experiences she gained while holding public office.

Councilman Lowden wished Ms. Heron the best and thanked her for her years of service. Mr. Lowden also noted that he received a phone call from a resident who witnessed potential drug dealing activity at the riverfront and suggested that City parks be closed in the evenings to discourage same. City Administrator Wolbert stated that if such activity is suspected, the Police Department should be called immediately. Moreover, the purchase of barricades for park closures will prove very costly. The increase of patrols in this area will be discussed at the next department meeting.

Councilman Schwedes wished Ms. Heron the best in her future endeavors, hoped all was well with Officer Kelly regarding the aforementioned incident, and inquired as to the status of the new police recruits. City Administrator Wolbert stated that all information regarding the recruits has been sent to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission for approval.

Councilwoman Williams asked that all continue to remain safe during the ongoing health crisis, and wished the best for Ms. Heron.

City Administrator Wolbert noted that Ms. Heron will be missed. Mr. Wolbert updated the Council on certain matters as follows: cameras will be purchased to help deter crime, including cameras that can read license plates; Officer Kenyatta Kelly sustained an injury in the line of duty and has since returned to work; and the Police Department is looking to purchase bolawrap equipment through forfeiture and safety budget funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public comment portion of the meeting. 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 6:04PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: September 23, 2020