

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
September 22, 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 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 in-person at 5:00PM was published in The Burlington County Times on September 11, 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

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the resignation on the agenda for the code enforcement officer. City Administrator Wolbert commented that the employee will remain part-time until a full-time replacement is hired.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Regular Session: September 8, 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:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- *2021 EPA Brownfields Grant*

City Administrator Wolbert explained the purpose of the aforementioned grant, and inquired if the Common Council would consider applying for same for the former Beaunite Mills area, as the property is contaminated. The Council agreed to move forward.

Additionally, Mr. Wolbert stated that he received correspondence from the Burlington County Bridge Commission, which stated that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is considering projects with regional impact. The DVRPC will provide the project study, funding, and project coordination. Accordingly, Mr. Wolbert stated that he will be in contact with representatives from the DVRPC to discuss opportunities as it relates to same.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-84: Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Darryl C. Howard as Police Officer for the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Heron and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-84. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2020-85: Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Paula M. Steere as Full-Time Code Enforcement Officer, Housing Secretary, and Tax/Finance/Payroll Clerk for the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-85. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Heron, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2020-86: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Club Liquor License to W.A. Cortright Jr., Post 115 for the 2020-2021 Licensing Year

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adopt Resolution 2020-86. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

BILL LIST

Bill List for September 22, 2020

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the payment to Endeavor Emergency Services. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the payment on tonight's bill list is the third installment, and that there will be one additional before the end of the year.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to approve the Bill List of September 22, 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 asked that all be mindful of their health during this time.

Councilwoman Heron hoped that all were staying safe during the ongoing pandemic.

Councilman Lowden updated the Council on various matters pertaining to the Fire District, including the idea of moving the date of the district's elections to November to coincide with future general elections. Additionally, Mr. Lowden inquired as to the status of the recently hired police recruits, the purchase of a new fingerprint machine for the Police Department, NJDOT roadway grants, and a prior insurance claim. City Administrator Wolbert provided clarification for all matters.

Councilman Schwedes noted that he would like to move forward in hiring a third employee for the Public Works Department.

Council President Bancroft thanked Mr. Haaf for mowing public areas during times when the DPW was short staffed.

City Administrator Wolbert discussed alternatives to trick-or-treating on Halloween as a precautionary measure during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Wolbert also updated the Council on the following matters: the new car radios were finally installed for the Police Department, DPW has addressed potholes around Jennings Street, and the new chipper will be inspected this week prior to purchase.

The Municipal Court report for August 2020 and the Endeavor EMS Report for June 2020 were reviewed without comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the status of the chicken keeping ordinance, the opening of the EMS building, the elevator in the Municipal Building, specific details as it relates to Bond Ordinance 2020-7, and how to discourage suspected crime at the riverfront. City Administrator Wolbert addressed Mr. Haaf's inquiries.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the Beverly Bee can incorporate house decorating pictures for Halloween in November's edition. Council agreed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2020-87: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-87 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

City Solicitor Coleman stated that the purpose of Executive Session is to discuss personnel matters, and that no action will be taken after the conclusion of same. The Common Council and support staff entered Executive Session at 5:54PM.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to exit Executive Session. Motion carried. Council returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:57PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Heron to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:58PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

Approved: October 13, 2020