

**City of Beverly
Burlington County
December 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 via conference call on the aforementioned date with the following in attendance: Mayor Randy H. Miller, Council President Robert H. Bancroft, Councilman Riccardo Dale, Councilman Robert E. Lowden, Jr., Councilman Mark Schwedes, Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Tom Coleman, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette.

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

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 November 19, 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

No members of the public were in attendance at tonight’s meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Regular Session: December 8, 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: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

DISCUSSION

C-1 and C-2 Zoning District: City Administrator Rich Wolbert stated that there were certain developers who submitted a zoning permit application to establish a hair salon business in the C-2 zoning district. Said application was denied, as hair salons are only permitted in the C-1 zoning district pursuant to the City's Zoning Code. Additionally, the application did not meet the specified requirements of the City's approved redevelopment plan. As this appears to be an oversight in the Zoning Code, it was inquired if the City would like to move forward in amending the current zoning ordinance to correct same rather than having the property owner seek a variance from the Land Use Board. After some discussion, it was determined by the Council to amend the zoning ordinance in the new year.

BILL LIST

Bill List for December 22, 2020

Councilman Schwedes inquired about certain payments as it relates to the Ragnasoft, Inc. Subscription and the Mercer County Police Academy. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to approve the Bill List of December 22, 2020. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-107: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter Into the Burlington County Cooperative Pricing System (#4-BUCCP) and Authorizing the Execution of Agreement for Same

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-107. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2020-108: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2020 Budget Appropriations

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2020-108. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller notified the Common Council that the City has been provided with the audit for Fire District No. 1, and that correspondence was received from same notifying the City that by vote of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire District elections will be moved to be held in conjunction with the general elections in November.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller encouraged the public to continue to take precautions during the ongoing pandemic.

Councilman Dale informed the Council that he has had several individuals express interest in participating in the ad hoc community outreach committee.

Councilman Lowden informed the Council of the following matters: the Fire District election for the proposed budget will be held in April; the Fire District is working closely with Delanco Township to provide for more efficient services; the Fire District is considering an extension of the interlocal services agreement with Edgewater Park Township; the Fire Marshal noted that the School District is following all appropriate protocols for fire drills; George Meredith was reappointed as Fire Chief for an additional term of two (2) years; and that Francis Varsaci was reappointed as Deputy Fire Chief for an additional term of two (2) years. Mr. Lowden also commended Fire Administrator Joseph Robinson.

Mr. Lowden inquired if the Council will be holding two (2) regular meetings in January in addition to the Reorganization Meeting. After some discussion, it was determined that the Council will schedule one (1) regular meeting in January, and that all future meetings will still be held remotely at 5:00PM until further notice to due continued health and safety concerns.

Councilwoman Williams inquired about the City's snow removal and salting process, as the roads appeared to be icy after the recent winter storm. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same, and noted that certain steps will be taken in the future to better improve the process. Additionally, Ms. Williams asked when the City plans to hire a new code enforcement officer. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the current officer is working part-time until a full-time replacement is hired.

Council President Bancroft reminded members of Council to submit their request for 2021 committee assignments.

The Common Council wished all happy holidays.

Municipal Court Report – November 2020: Reviewed without comment.

2020 Zoning Report: City Administrator Wolbert stated that by law, the Land Use Board is to report to the Common Council all of its activity for the year in order for Council to determine where areas within the zoning ordinance need to be improved or amended. There has been limited activity this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:34PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: January 5, 2021