

**CITY OF BEVERLY  
BURLINGTON COUNTY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 26, 2021 – 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 Thomas 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 and notice of the electronic format, Resolution 2021-1, was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on January 8, 2021, transmitted to the Camden Courier Post, filed with the Municipal Clerk, and was mailed to all persons requesting and paying for 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 preliminary public comment. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Reorganization Meeting: January 5, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden 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 presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*City Hall Roof Replacement:* City Administrator Wolbert informed the Council that City Hall is in need of a roof replacement, and that the project will have to be bid since the cost of same may surpass the bid threshold. Councilman Schwedes inquired as to when the City plans to undergo same. Mr. Wolbert stated that he anticipates the project to take place during the warmer months of this year.

*Council Committee Assignments:* Council President Bancroft stated that this year's Council Committee Assignments have been completed and a copy of same was distributed to the Council by the Municipal Clerk.

*NJDEP Overburdened Community Designation:* City Administrator Wolbert explained that legislation was recently passed by the State, in which overburdened areas, or areas suffering from economic and environmental issues, were to be identified by the NJDEP. The City has received notice that a section of the municipality has been identified as being overburdened. Accordingly, the City may qualify for funding to mitigate same.

## **BILL LIST**

- Bill List for January 26, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to approve the bill list. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **ORDINANCE – FIRST READING**

**Ordinance 2021-1: An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Section 20-27 of Chapter XX Entitled “Zoning” of the Code of the City of Beverly to Create Additional Permitted Uses in the C2 Downtown Commercial District**

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to introduce Ordinance 2021-1. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 2021-20: Resolution Appointing John Newsome to the Beverly Sewerage Authority**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-20. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Schwedes, Williams

Nay:

Abstain: Lowden, Bancroft

Absent:

**Resolution 2021-21: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Two (2) Poweredge T340 Servers from Dell Marketing, LP through New Jersey State Contract #19-TELE-00656**

Mayor Miller inquired about the purchase of the servers. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same, and noted that the following resolutions will be to replace all outdated computer equipment in the building.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-21. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2021-22: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Eight (8) Optiplex 5080 Computer Towers from Dell Marketing, LP through New Jersey State Contract #19-TELE-00656**

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-22. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2021-23: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Two (2) Acer V227Q LED Computer Monitors from SHI International Corp through New Jersey State Contract #89851**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-23. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the installation costs were included in the price for the aforementioned computer related purchases. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the City's IT vendor will handle the installs, and that the price for same will be paid through the appropriated amount in the City's budget for IT services.

**Resolution 2021-24: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Mower from Lowther's Service Center, Inc.**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-24. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2021-25: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2020 Appropriation Reserves**

Councilman Lowden inquired about the transfer of funds into the Street Lights account. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-25. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2021-26: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (651 Walton Ave – Block 1588, Lot 12.01)**

Councilman Lowden inquired as to the reason why only 70% of the property qualifies for the exemption. City Administrator Wolbert noted that a portion of the property doesn't qualify because it's rental space.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-26. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Miller informed that Council that correspondence was received from Burlington County regarding mosquito control spraying.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to authorize Burlington County to spray for mosquitoes in the City. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Mayor Miller asked that all continue to stay diligent of one's health during the ongoing pandemic, as several new strains of the virus have been identified.

Councilman Lowden provided Council with a summary of the previous Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting. Additionally, Mr. Lowden expressed that Ordinance 2021-1 is critical to provide economic opportunities in the downtown district. Finally, Mr. Lowden encouraged all to register for COVID-19 vaccinations.

City Administrator Wolbert notified the Council of the following: the Board of Fire Commissioners plan to update its Fire Code, including its fee schedule, and that the same must be adopted by the Council into the City's Code; the overall rate of infections of the COVID-19 virus has declined within the County, but there appears to be an increase within the City itself; the approval of a new phone system will be placed on a future agenda for Council consideration, as it will save the City 46% in costs for same; New Jersey American Water will be commencing the abandonment of a water main of Laurel Street within the next week; and the Economic Development and Budget Committee will need to meet in the near future to discuss certain matters.

*Municipal Court Report: December 2020* – Reviewed without comment.

*Endeavor EMS Report: December 2020* – Reviewed, with Council President Bancroft noting that response times remain around ten minutes.

## **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 Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:43PM.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

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

Approved: February 9, 2021