

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 – 5:00PM**

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 5:01PM.

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 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

- January 26, 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 was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for February 9, 2021

Councilman Lowden inquired if the new chipper was received. City Administrator Wolbert confirmed same.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams 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 2021-2: Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2007-13 Establishing Stormwater Requirements

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the above ordinance must be amended to incorporate mandatory changes to same required by the NJDEP. Mr. Wolbert noted that the most significant amendment is the requirement for stormwater improvements to be filed by deed with the County and receive NJDEP approval prior to the issuance of construction permits and the start of development. Slight discussion ensued.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the above ordinance will have an effect on the operations of the Sewerage Authority. Mr. Wolbert clarified that as Beverly does not have a combined water and sewer system, the Authority will not be impacted.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2021-2. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-27: Resolution Authorizing Payment to Beverly Revitalization Group, LLC in Relation to Regional Contribution Agreement Credits Issued to Property Located at 217 Cooper Street (Block 1054, Lot 7) and 432 Wilmerton Street (Block 1170, Lot 5)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-27. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-28: Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, Burlington County, and State of New Jersey in Support of Senate Bill S3410 and Assembly Bill A5352 Regarding Rate Increases from Internet Service Providers

Councilman Lowden thanked the Council for its consideration of the above resolution.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-28. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-29: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2020 Appropriation Reserves

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the City anticipates any additional transfer of funds to cover landfill costs. City Administrator Wolbert stated that there should be no additional transfers for same, and noted that as landfill costs significantly increased during the pandemic, extra funds will be included in this year's budget.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-29. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

City Administrator Wolbert stated that an invitation was received for the Mayor and Council to attend the grand opening of a vegan café in the downtown district.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden noted that snow removal by the DPW was excellent after the last snowstorm, and congratulated Clerk Midgette on completing the Clean Communities Certification program.

Council President Bancroft reflected Mr. Lowden's statement.

Councilman Schwedes also congratulated Clerk Midgette, noted that the new vegan café has an online presence for menu review, and thanked the DPW staff for their efforts in snow removal.

Councilwoman Williams congratulated Clerk Midgette and noted that she looks forward to establishing a Clean Communities Program in the City.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that Officer Kenyatta Kelly recommended that the City establish a program to recognize individuals that are doing good for the community, and offered to meet with the Community Outreach Committee to discuss details of same.

Mr. Wolbert informed Council that the City has foreclosed on 11 properties with municipal liens, which totaled over \$300,000. Once the in-rem foreclosure process is complete, said delinquency total will decrease to \$39,000, and the properties can then be developed with the intention of generating additional tax revenue.

Regarding snow removal, Mr. Wolbert stated that the new dump truck for DPW is delayed in arrival, and the DPW staff is doing its best during snowstorms with the old truck and salt box. However, Mr. Wolbert noted that with the funds received from the County for reimbursement of snow removal on county-owned roadways, the City may be able to purchase a more efficient steel edge plow that will aid in ice removal as well. Mr. Wolbert stated that the DPW staff worked 48 hours of overtime due to the last snowstorm, and that the City is still seeking a third member to join the DPW staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Robertson, 613 Erhardt Ave, inquired if the City has a plan to repave deteriorated roadways. City Administrator Wolbert explained that the City submits applications to the NJDOT for grant funds to resurface worn roadways, and noted the roadways that were recently approved for funding. In addition, New Jersey American Water will be correcting certain sections of roadways once the pipeline replacement project is completed, and the DPW continues to patch potholes throughout the City.

Mr. Robertson also inquired if the position of Code Enforcement Officer has been filled, as there are some issues with inoperable vehicles left on roadways. Mr. Wolbert stated that there is currently a part-time Code Enforcement Officer until a full-time replacement is found, and that he will address the vehicle issue with the Police Department.

Mr. Robertson commended the DPW staff for its snow removal efforts.

There being no further 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 5:39PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: February 23, 2021