

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 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

- February 23, 2021

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

Legalization of Marijuana: City Administrator Wolbert explained that the City needs to consider the adoption of an ordinance either allowing or prohibiting marijuana licenses within the City now that recreational use marijuana has been legalized. The Economic Development Committee has discussed this topic, but it will still need to be further considered as the rules and regulations have yet to be promulgated on the matter. City Solicitor Coleman noted that though the regulations haven't been established, the adoption of a local ordinance is required within 180 days after the approval of the legalization bill.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the City will be notified if a neighboring municipality approves a marijuana facility. City Administrator Wolbert explained that if the facility will be within 200ft of the City's boundaries, the City legally has to be notified of same by the neighboring municipality's Planning Board of the public hearing on the development application. City Solicitor Coleman further noted that if the neighboring municipality's Planning Board approves the application, the City has no legal recourse if it disapproves of the facility.

Councilwoman Williams inquired if the ordinance to be considered by the Council will pertain to medical or recreational marijuana. Mr. Wolbert clarified that the ordinance will be for recreational use.

Councilman Dale expressed that he believes it would be in the best interest of the City to allow only distribution type marijuana facilities instead of retail locations. Council President Bancroft agreed with Mr. Dale's comments.

Discussion ensued on the matter, and it was determined that the Economic Development Committee will meet to further consider the type of licenses and locations within the City that should be made available for recreational marijuana facilities.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for March 9, 2021

Councilman Lowden inquired as to the payments to PSEG. City Administrator Wolbert clarified that one payment is for metered services, and the other is for unmetered services.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if the City will need to purchase additional body worn cameras for the Police Department. Mr. Wolbert noted that the City will need to purchase two additional cameras and accessories, the funds of which will be provided for in this year's budget and may be reimbursable through grants.

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-37: Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Mark Conard, Jr. as Police Recruit

City Administrator Wolbert noted that there was a provision in the offer of employment stating that if resignation occurs within two years of employment, the employee will be required to reimburse the City for any expenditures incurred for the purchase of certain gear and training. Accordingly, the matter is being reviewed by the City's appointed Labor Counsel.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-37. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-38: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Safety Contract with the Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund as it Relates to the 2021 Safety Incentive Program

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-38. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

City Administrator Wolbert explained the purpose of the below resolutions.

Resolution 2021-39: Resolution Requesting a Six-Month Extension of Time for Construction Contract Award from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2019 Municipal Aid Grant for the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Project

Resolution 2021-40: Resolution Approving Proposal from Environmental Resolutions, Inc. for Engineering Design and Construction Services Related to the 2021 Road Improvement Project (Jennings Street, Perkins Street, Church Street, Parker Street)

Resolution 2021-41: Resolution Approving Supplemental Proposal from Environmental Resolutions, Inc. for Engineering Design and Construction Services Related to the 2018 Road Improvement Project (Magnolia Street)

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-39 through 2021-41 by way of Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-39, Resolution 2021-40, and Resolution 2021-41. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follow:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller read aloud a letter from the Palmyra High School Post Prom Committee requesting a donation for this year's post prom event. City Administrator Wolbert stated that last year, a private resident and the Beverly City Police Association contributed to the event, but the City cannot use tax payer funds to make donations. However, there are remaining funds available in the Municipal Alliance Aid Program that may be able to be utilized for this purpose with approval from the City Auditor.

Mayor Miller also noted that he received email correspondence from Mr. Frank Schultz, the Deputy State Director from Senator Menendez's Office explaining that if the COVID-19 Relief Bill is passed, the City may be eligible for approximately \$243,517 in State aid.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller encouraged COVID-19 vaccinations and the continuation of wearing masks.

Councilman Lowden stated that he will reach out to the members of the Economic Development Committee to determine a time for a meeting to further discuss the marijuana law.

Councilwoman Williams stated that she'd like to meet with the Clean Communities Committee, and has sent an advertisement to the Beverly Bee for the community wide yard sale in April.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no members of the public present at tonight's meeting, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close public comment. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:38PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: March 23, 2021