

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 23, 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, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas Coleman, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette. Councilwoman Bernadine Williams was absent from tonight's meeting.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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

No members of the public were present at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 9, 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, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Williams

OLD BUSINESS

- *2021 JIF Elected Officials Training Program*: City Administrator Wolbert reminded members of Council to complete the training program by May 1st in order for the City be eligible for a \$250.00 deductible on its JIF assessment.

- *Memorial Day Parade & Dunks Ferry Ceremony*: Council considered holding a Memorial Day Parade in light of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising case count. After some discussion, it was determined that the Memorial Day Parade will not be held this year due to public health concerns.
- *Reopening of Basketball Court*: Council considered the reopening of the City’s basketball courts. After some discussion, it was determined that due to the continuation of the pandemic, the basketball courts will remain closed, and the matter will be reconsidered in the next several months.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Resume In-Person Council Meetings*: City Administrator Wolbert inquired if members of Council would like to commence in-person Council Meetings, and asked that Council contact the City Clerk with individual preferences for same.
- *Community Garden PILOT Program*: City Administrator Wolbert stated that he was contacted by the individuals who operate the Community Garden about the possibility of establishing a chicken raising program on garden grounds. Various concerns were raised during discussion of same, including the maintenance of the chicken coop, vandalism, animal predators, and escaped chickens. Additionally, the keeping of chickens is currently prohibited in the City by ordinance. It was determined that further information about the program is required before a decision on approval of same can be made.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for March 23, 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, Bancroft
 Nay:
 Abstain:
 Absent: Williams

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-3: Ordinance of the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$243,000 for the Completion of Various Road Improvement Projects in and for the City

City Administrator Wolbert noted that the above ordinance is required in order for the NJDOT to reimburse the City for the road improvement projects. Award of contract for the projects are anticipated to be completed in May.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to introduce Ordinance 2021-3. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-42: Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage on 502 Laurel Street

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-42. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-43: Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage on 436 Laurel Street

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-43. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-44: Resolution Accepting Resignation of Shari Key as Tax Collector for the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-44. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden summarized the previous Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the Economic Development Committee met to discuss the new marijuana legislation and whether or not the sale of marijuana should be permitted within the City. It was determined that only marijuana licenses involving distribution, cultivation, and manufacturing shall be permitted within the C-3 Zoning District. Retail licenses will not be

permitted. Accordingly, an ordinance for same will be placed on a future agenda for Council's consideration.

Mr. Wolbert also summarized the following matters: parking will be prohibited on the south side of Cherry Street between Melbourne Avenue and Manor Road with the approval of the City Engineer; certain roads by the riverfront will be adopted into the City's Park System by way of ordinance; and that certain expenditures, such as the City Hall roof replacement and the installation of the new phone system, are still underway.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:40PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 13, 2021