

**CITY OF BEVERLY  
BURLINGTON COUNTY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
  
COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
APRIL 13, 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, Solicitor Gina LaPlaca, 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**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 23, 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 at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented at this time.

## **BILL LIST**

- Bill List for April 13, 2021

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 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**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**

No members of the public were present for the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-3.

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION**

**Ordinance 2021-4: Ordinance of the City of Beverly, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Restricting Parking on Specific Streets (Cherry Street)**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to introduce Ordinance 2021-4. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Ordinance 2021-5: An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Section 20-6 and 20-28 of Chapter XX Entitled “Zoning” of the Code of the City of Beverly to Create Additional Permitted Uses in the C3 Waterfront Development District**

Councilwoman Williams inquired if the above ordinance will allow for the retail sale of recreational use marijuana in the City. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the ordinance will not permit retail sale as determined by the Economic Development Committee.

Councilman Schwedes inquired as to why distribution licenses were not included as permitted uses within the ordinance. Discussion ensued. It was determined by Council that distribution licenses should be permitted within the City.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to introduce Ordinance 2021-5 with the aforementioned addition of distribution licenses. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Solicitor Gina LaPlaca, Esq. noted that due to substantial changes made to Ordinance 2021-5, the same may need to be introduced at a subsequent Council Meeting.

**Ordinance 2021-6: An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beverly, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Imposing a Transfer Tax on the Sale of Cannabis by Licensed Businesses Operating in the City and a User Tax on Concurrent License Holders Operating More Than One Establishment**

Councilman Schwedes inquired that if an organization holds two separate cannabis licenses, if the City will be able to charge double the percentage of allowable taxes. Solicitor LaPlaca stated that though the rules on the Cannabis Law have yet to be promulgated, it may be possible for the City to charge double the percentage of allowable taxes in addition to a transfer tax.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to introduce Ordinance 2021-6. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was presented.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Councilman Lowden stated that he's received complaints regarding parking on Cooper Street, and noted that there are other areas in the City in which parking needs to be addressed.

Councilman Schwedes offered his condolences to the family of Domenic Astemborski, a lifetime resident of the City.

Councilwoman Williams reflect Mr. Lowden's comments regarding parking, particularly around the area of Third Street.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that areas of concern will be passed along to the Police Department. Additionally, Mr. Wolbert reflected on the loss of Domenic Astemborski, and the positive impact Mr. Astemborski had on the City.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Bancroft opened public comment. There being no members of the public present at tonight's meeting, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close public comments. 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 5:31PM.

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

Approved: April 27, 2021