

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 8, 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 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., Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas J. Coleman III., Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette. Councilman Schwedes 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, 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. Notice that this meeting will be held in-person at 5:00PM was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on May 30, 2021, transmitted to the Camden Courier Post, and was sent to all persons requesting same.”

The above was followed by the Flag Salute and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to close preliminary public comment on agenda items only. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Joe Henry, Hardenbergh Insurance, stated that an annual safety presentation is required to be on an agenda of the Common Council as a requirement of BURLCOJIF. Mr. Henry discussed with the Common Council and attending public the importance of wearing seatbelts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 25, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden 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, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent: Schwedes

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 June 8, 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, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent: Schwedes

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-7: Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Amending Ordinance 2002-6 Entitled “General Park Rules”

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-7.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired as to the purpose of the above ordinance. City Administrator Wolbert explained that park rules need to be updated to include activities such as vaping. Additionally, this ordinance will expand the park boundaries to the surrounding roads. Mr. Haaf noted that there are many park rules that aren't followed, such as consuming alcoholic beverages and smoking, that lead to a build-up of debris within the park. Mr. Wolbert explained that an updated ordinance will make park rules easier to enforce, especially if the boundaries of the park system are expanded.

Mr. Haaf recommended that additional rules be included in the ordinance, including the ability of law enforcement to search bags on park premises for alcoholic beverages and smoking materials, and to block off access to the park at dusk. City Solicitor Coleman stated that law enforcement cannot check bags without probable cause that a crime has been committed, as random bag searches violate search and seizure laws and 4th amendment rights. Regarding the closure of parks at dusk, City Administrator Wolbert stated that not only would it be challenging to close off the entirety of the waterfront, but it would make patrols in that area difficult. A brief discussion ensued on the enforceability of park rules.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-7. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2021-7. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-55: Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Authorizing Renewal of a Club Liquor License to the Athletic Club of Beverly, Inc. for the 2021-2022 Licensing Year

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-55. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-56: Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Authorizing Renewal of Club Liquor License to the W.A Cortright, Jr., Post 115 for the 2021-2022 Licensing Year

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-56. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-57: Resolution Appointing Full-Time Police Officer Recruit William E. Romero, Jr.

City Administrator Wolbert noted that though Councilman Schwedes is absent from tonight's meeting, he is in favor of Resolution 2021-57 and Resolution 2021-58. The recruits are scheduled to begin the Police Academy this September.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-57. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-58: Resolution Appointing Full-Time Police Recruit Larry L. Welch, Jr.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-58. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-59: Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Authorizing the Discharge of Mortgage on Property Known as Block 201, Lot 37, FKA Block 1, Lot 17.18 A/K/A 133 Dory Court

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-59. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-60: Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Authorizing the Discharge of Mortgage on the Property Known as Block 1590, Lot 14, FKA Block 90, A/K/A 70 Pine Street

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-60. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller commended the Beverly Free Library and Riverfront Historical Society for the start of this year's Farmer's Market and the mural dedication. Mayor Miller noted that Beverly had representation from the municipal, state, and federal level at the event.

Councilman Dale noted that the Community Outreach Committee is looking to start a one-way communication Facebook page to share information to the community.

Councilwoman Williams stated that the Community Outreach Committee is also looking to schedule community events in the future, including a basketball tournament, fishing derby, and Community Day.

Councilman Lowden stated that the Delanco Sewerage Authority dedicated a plaque to Doug Weller, the Executive Director of both the Delanco and Beverly Sewerage Authority. Mr. Lowden also noted that the Riverfront Historical Society will be hosting a Juneteenth zoom presentation. Finally, Mr. Lowden stated that parking on Elizabeth Street needs to be addressed, and asked that the City revisit the idea of installing a parking lot at the corner of Oak Street and Cooper Street.

City Administrator Wolbert updated the Common Council on the following matters: trash and recycling collection continue to be delayed due to a labor shortage; the new DPW truck is to be delivered within the next few days; certain A/C units within the Municipal Building need repairs; the Municipal Building will reopen to the public next week, as COVID-19 cases continue to decrease; and the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Program is scheduled to commence on June 28th, with PSEG correcting pipes under Laurel St. prior.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked those who came for the mural dedication and commended resident Dale Thompson for her efforts in organizing the event.

Kelsea Snively, 1315 Maple Ave in Roebling, informed the Council of upcoming events and information sessions for the Haaf Family Arts Foundations. New classes include modern dance and intro to acting, both of which are free and for children from 2nd through 8th grades. Additionally, Ms. Snively noted that the foundation would like to be involved in the Community Outreach Committee.

Sergeant Theresa Davison of the Beverly City Police Department noted that the department will be involved in the torch run for the Special Olympics with neighboring jurisdictions.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, commended the City staff for being available and responsive to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, even with the Municipal Building being closed. Additionally, Mr. Haaf asked if the City could address the overgrown brush at the range light on the riverfront. City Administrator Wolbert stated that he would contact the U.S Coast Guard to provide maintenance for same. Mr. Haaf inquired about the occupancy of the former Pioneer Railing building. Mr. Wolbert stated that the property was purchased by a metal artist as a satellite studio. Finally, Mr. Haaf inquired as to the status of the future EMS building. Mr. Wolbert stated that the City is still in the process of trying to locate certified electricians that are able to perform the necessary repairs and upgrades.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale 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 6:08PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: June 22, 2021