

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JULY 27, 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 Mark 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

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that he was concerned about the tax bills due for the 3rd quarter and is relieved that estimated bills will be authorized per Resolution 2021-69.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 13, 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

Councilman Lowden inquired about the status of the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Project. City Administrator Wolbert noted that the pipe work has been finished, with the installation of curbs and handicap ramps underway. The final step before repaving the roadway will be to remove the old pump station from under Laurel Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Small Cities: City Administrator Wolbert explained that Community Grants, Planning, & Housing, LLC has been in contact to inquire if the City would be interested in submitting a small cities grant application. The City would be responsible for covering the costs of the grant application, and will have to contribute 5% matching funds. Mr. Wolbert stated that small cities grants are available for both housing rehabilitation and public facilities. Councilman Lowden expressed that the City should apply for funding for infrastructure projects, and inquired if said funds can be used to address parking issues within the City. It was determined that Mr. Wolbert would seek additional information on projects that can be funded with a small cities public infrastructure grant.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for July 27, 2021

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-69: Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-69. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-70: Resolution Authorizing Refund to Richard Wolbert for Vehicle Title and Registration Fees

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-70. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-71: Resolution Authorizing Refund to Bernadine Williams for Community Event Expenditures

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-71. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-72: Resolution Authorizing Refund to Riccardo Dale for Community Event Expenditures

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-72. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-73: Resolution Appointing Suraya Gallagher as Part-Time Provisional Technical Assistant to the Construction Official

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-73. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-74: Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract to Pioneer General Contracting Co., Inc. for Emergency Repairs of the Sluice at Broad Street

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-74. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller noted that Senator Troy Singleton will be hosting a food truck event this weekend at the Beverly Elementary School for Beverly residents.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the City has been receiving various property maintenance complaints, and though the complaints are quickly addressed by the Code Enforcement Officer, the abatement process can take an extended period of time, particularly as it relates to vacant properties. Accordingly, Mr. Wolbert has been in discussion with the City Solicitor to determine if there is a way to shorten the abatement process so violations can be addressed in a reasonable amount of time to ensure the health and safety of the community.

Additionally, Mr. Wolbert stated that the Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works have been working well together to address any issues that arise during severe weather. It has also been recommended by Sergeant Theresa Davison that periodic meetings be held with the Emergency Services Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that the library has received zoning approval to expand its porch.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, expressed his disappointment that a Community Day will not be planned for this year, and noted that the Haaf Family Arts Foundation will be holding an event in the upcoming months at the Housing Authority's office to include a pumpkin painting contest and artists. There will be no charge for the event. Councilwoman Williams stated that though there will be no Community Day this year, the City still plans to hold a fishing derby in October.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:36PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: August 10, 2021