

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 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., Councilman Mark Schwedes, Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas J. Coleman III, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin Midgette.

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, inquired if there will be public input on the 2021 Municipal Budget. City Administrator Wolbert stated that a public hearing will be held on the budget at the meeting of September 14th. Additionally, Mr. Haaf inquired as to the purpose of Resolution 2021-78. Mr. Wolbert explained same.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 27, 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, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:
Abstain: Schwedes
Absent: Lowden

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 August 10, 2021

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

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

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

Ordinance 2021-8: Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to introduce Ordinance 2021-8. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-75: Resolution Authorizing Release of Escrow Funds to 438 Cooper Street, LLC Relating to a Land Use Board Application for 438 Cooper Street (Block 1168, Lot 3)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-75. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-76: Resolution Authorizing Release of Escrow Funds to Henry Planter Relating to a Road Opening Permit for 511 Laurel Street (Block 1273, Lot 4.01)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-76. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Lowden

Resolution 2021-77: Resolution to Introduce the 2021 Municipal Budget

Councilman Lowden arrived to the meeting at 5:10PM.

City Administrator Wolbert explained that this year's budget is a 3.8 cent increase, which results in an average increase of \$50 annually per household for municipal purposes. Mr. Wolbert noted that some of the major items that are driving the budget increase are engineering soft costs, the increase in street lighting fees, and the overall general price increase of goods and services. Accordingly, funds were utilized from surplus to help offset these additional costs. Additionally, it was noted that the City experienced a decrease in revenue due to changes in the court system and UCC fees. The American Rescue Plan Funds have been incorporated into this year's budget.

Mr. Wolbert stated that this year's budget includes the completion of the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Project, a new police vehicle, two new police officers, a new trailer for Public Works, codification, final upgrades to the EMS building, safety light bars for the new Public Works vehicle, emergency repairs to the riverfront sluice, and the implementation of new and efficient computer software. Additionally, the City is working to foreclose on certain properties with the intent to sell them to have them placed back on the tax rolls in order to offset the reserve for uncollected taxes.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-77. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-78: Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2021-22 Authorizing the Purchase of Eight (8) Optiplex 5080 Computer Towers from Dell Marketing, LP through New Jersey State Contract #19-TELE-00656

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-78. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-79: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Seven (7) Optiplex 5090 Computer Towers and One (1) Dell Precision 3450 PC from SHI International Corp through New Jersey State Contract #89851

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-79. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

City Administrator Wolbert explained that at the last Council Meeting, it was determined by Council to seek further information on the submission of a small cities grant application for public infrastructure. It was determined that the cost of the grant application through CGP&H would be approximately \$15,000, and the City would have to match 10%-15% of the grant funds. The City is not able to budget for the matching funds at this time. Accordingly, the City can submit for a small cities grant for residential improvements, and recaptured funds can be used to implement this program without extra costs to taxpayers. It was determined by Council to submit a small cities grant application for residential improvements, which shall be administered using the same grant guidelines as previously implemented by the City.

Additionally, Mr. Wolbert provided an update on the following matters: the City will be receiving reimbursement for damages that occurred during severe weather in August 2020; the City has received body worn camera grant funds; a meeting will be held with Seaside Waste to discuss the ongoing trash collection issues; designs for the new school trailer are displayed in the Municipal Building; and mosquito spraying will take place later this week.

Councilman Schwedes stated that the farmer's market is still ongoing.

Councilman Lowden noted that the Historical Society has added new items to its collection, and thanked Mr. Wolbert for his budget and estimated tax bill explanations.

The report for Endeavor EMS for June 2021 was reviewed. Mr. Schwedes inquired as to why the report is a month behind. Mr. Wolbert stated that there may be a delay in reports, as Endeavor requires statistics from central communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that he wished other residents were present at tonight's meeting to hear the explanation of the estimated tax bills and the budget introduction. Mr. Haaf noted that the City has an excellent School District that is worth the cost of what is owed in taxes.

Mayor Miller stated that City employees provide excellent customer service, and Council President Bancroft noted that the employees have worked in the office through the worst of the pandemic.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, asked for any political ads to be submitted to her as soon as possible for next month's edition of the Beverly Bee.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to close public comment. 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 6:41PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: August 24, 2021