

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 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: 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. Mayor Randy H. Miller was absent from tonight's meeting.

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, 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, asked about Chapter 20 costs included within the bond ordinances on tonight's agenda. City Solicitor Coleman explained that the Chapter 20 costs, also known as “soft costs,” are the anticipated funds owed for engineering, legal, publishing, and other professional fees in relation to the project. City Administrator Wolbert noted that bonding for the Chapter 20 costs allows the City to borrow the funds, rather than fund the upfront costs in the City's budget.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the preliminary public comment. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 24, 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: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent: Dale

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 September 14, 2021

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

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

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

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

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-8. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

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

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

Ordinance 2021-9: Ordinance Appropriating \$295,000 for the Completion of Various Road Improvement Projects

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-9. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2021-9. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Councilman Dale arrived to the meeting at 5:09PM.

Ordinance 2021-10: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Road Improvements in the Amount of \$114,950

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-10. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2021-10. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Ordinance 2021-11: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Capital Equipment in the Amount of \$177,745

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-11. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Ordinance 2021-11. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-83: Resolution Authorizing Local Examination of the 2021 Municipal Budget

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-83. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-84: Resolution Authorizing the 2021 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-84. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-85: Resolution Adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on the 2021 Municipal Budget.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, asked if the tax rate for the School District has been determined. City Administrator Wolbert confirmed same.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to close the public hearing on the 2021 Municipal Budget. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-85. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to add a Consent Agenda to tonight's agenda. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-86: Resolution Authorizing the Submission of Small Cities Housing Grant

Resolution 2021-87: resolution Approving Grant Management Plan for Small Cities Grant Program

Resolution 2021-88: Resolution Adopting Policy Manual for Small Cities Grant Program

Resolution 2021-89: Resolution Approving Citizen Participation Plan for Small Cities Grant Program

Resolution 2021-90: Resolution Appointing Mayor Randy H. Miller as Fair Housing Officer

Resolution 2021-91: Resolution Amending Resolution 2021-82

Resolution 2021-92: Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Movie Package from J-Dogs Catering & Amusements for Community Event

Resolution 2021-93: Resolution Appointing Mellen Merritt as Substitute Crossing Guard

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt the above listed resolutions by Consent Agenda. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilman Lowden read aloud a press release from the Beverly City Board of Fire Commissioners, which states that Fire District No. 1 has been awarded a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$241,040.00. The purpose of the grant is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies and to ensure that municipalities have adequate protection from fire hazards.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden and Councilwoman Williams noted that they are looking forward to the upcoming community movie night.

Councilman Schwedes noted that the Farmer's Market ends this month.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the milling and paving on Laurel Street, Bridge Street, Oak Street, and Putnum Street will begin tomorrow.

The Municipal Court Report for August 2021 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Snively, 1315 Maple Ave, Roebing, New Jersey 08554, informed the Council that the Haaf Family Arts Foundation will be holding an art show, live music, and pumpkin painting contest on the weekend of October 15th at the Beverly Housing Authority Office. There is also a craft class scheduled for October 6th, and a writing contest is being prepared in conjunction with the School District.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2021-94: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Executive Session for Matters Involving Attorney-Client Privilege

City Administrator Wolbert stated that no formal action will be taken after Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-94 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried. The Common Council and support staff entered Executive Session at 5:32PM, and returned to the dais at 6:40PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: September 28, 2021