

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 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 and Councilman Riccardo Dale were absent from tonight's meeting.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

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 Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the preliminary public comment. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session: September 14, 2021
- Executive Session: September 14, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes 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 28, 2021

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

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-12: An Ordinance of the Common Council Determining Wage and Salary Ranges for Employees of the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to introduce Ordinance 2021-12. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-95: Resolution Approving Change Order No. 1 to General Code for Codification Services

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-95. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2021-96: Resolution Appointing AJ Harris as As-Needed Laborer and Equipment Operator for the Department of Public Works

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-96. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2021-97: Resolution Establishing Employee Salaries for the 2021 Calendar Year

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-97. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2021-98: Resolution Refunding Overpaid Taxes on 651 Walton Ave

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2021-98. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Schwedes noted that the Farmer's Market has ended, and that it was a successful year.

Councilman Lowden commented positively on the result of the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Project. City Administrator Wolbert noted that there are some details that still need to be addressed, including: replace inlet grates, install the proper signage, spread topsoil, and general clean-up. Mr. Lowden asked if the County has completed the improvements on Cooper Street. Mr. Wolbert confirmed same. Additionally, Mr. Lowden noted that the Historical Society will be holding an open house this coming weekend.

Councilwoman Williams stated that movie night was successful, and that the next event will be the Fishing Derby to be held on October 23rd.

City Administrator Wolbert updated Council on the following matters: the City plans to use its American Rescue Plan Funds to map and geolocate the stormwater and sewer systems, but additional guidance regarding said funds is still forthcoming; the new DPW truck will be having the salt spreader and safety lights installed this week; a COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be held tonight at the Beverly Housing Authority; and that currently, 62% of Beverly's population has been vaccinated.

On a separate topic, Mr. Wolbert stated that the Mayor received a letter from the Haaf Family Arts Foundation requesting permission to place small lending libraries in various areas

throughout the City; however, lending libraries are considered accessory structures and are not permitted within the front yard pursuant to the City's Zoning Code. Additionally, the same are not permitted within the County's right-of-way or the City's right-of-way.

Council President Bancroft expressed concerns of vandalism should the lending libraries be installed. Kelsey Snively, Executive Director of the Haaf Family Arts Foundation, stated that the same is committed to actively maintaining the libraries. John Haaf of the Haaf Family Arts Foundation noted that they would like to place the lending libraries in public parks.

Slight discussion ensued on the regulations of the City's Zoning Code regarding accessory structures. It was determined by the Common Council to amend the Zoning Code to specifically include lending libraries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Snively, 1315 Maple Ave, Roebing, New Jersey 08554, reminded the Council of the upcoming events sponsored by the Haaf Family Arts Foundation.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, commented on the article in the Beverly Bee regarding items donated to the Historical Society by Mr. Wolbert. City Administrator Wolbert stated that he found a book on Paul Farnum and the Farnum Street Preparatory School, which was the first preparatory school for teachers in the United States, and donated same to the Historical Society.

Additionally, Mr. Haaf inquired if tonight's Executive Session involved discussion on vacant property for sale. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the sale of City-owned vacant property will not be discussed.

Mr. Haaf commended Councilman Dale, Councilwoman Williams, and City Administrator Wolbert for the success of movie night.

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 2021-99: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Executive Session for Matters Involving Real Property and Attorney-Client Privilege

City Administrator Wolbert stated that action may be taken at the close of Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-99 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried. The Common Council and support staff entered Executive Session at 5:39PM.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to exit Executive Session. Motion carried. The Common Council and support staff returned to the dais at 5:9PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:59PM.

Caitlin Midgette, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 12, 2021