

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 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, Councilman Riccardo Dale, Mayor Randy H. Miller, 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

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: October 12, 2021
- Executive Session: October 12, 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: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Best Practices Inventory: City Administrator Wolbert stated that the City is preparing to submit its best practices inventory for 2021, and explained the purpose of same. Mr. Wolbert guided the Mayor and Council through the inventory list, and stated that the City scored high enough to not lose State aid.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for October 26, 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: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-13: Ordinance of the City of Beverly, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Property Located at Block 1167, Lot 1 to the Beverly City School District

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the purpose of Ordinance 2021-13. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2021-13. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-107: Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (165 Warren Street)

Councilman Lowden inquired if the taxes on said property will be exempted in full or partial. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the taxes will be exempted in full.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-107. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-108: Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (20 Riverbank)

Councilman Lowden inquired if the taxes on said property will be exempted in full or partial. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the taxes will be exempted in full.

Councilman Schwedes requested that a letter be drafted to the City’s State representatives requesting financial aid due to the significant amount of tax exempt properties within the City, as the City must allow for said exemptions by State law.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-108. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-109: Resolution Accepting Resignation of Police Officer Mason Perkins

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-109. 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

Councilwoman Williams stated that the Fishing Derby went well, and that the Community Events Committee plans to host a holiday tree lighting ceremony.

City Administrator Wolbert acknowledged resident Daniel Cannon, 610 Bentley Ave, for protecting the safety of the school children by reporting a manhole issue on Bentley Ave.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that though the Council expresses concerns regarding the many tax exempt properties in the City, the Council still voted in favor to exempt two properties at tonight’s meeting. Mr. Haaf also congratulated the Community Events Committee for the public turn out at recent community events, and thanked City Administrator Wolbert for his steadfast dedication to the community. On a separate topic, Mr. Haaf inquired about the status of the zoning change to allow for little free libraries throughout the City. Mr. Wolbert stated that the draft ordinance is pending review by the City’s professionals. Finally, Mr. Haaf stated that in

reviewing the tax increases since 2004, the local rate has only increased by 18%, which shows an effort on the Council's behalf to spend money wisely.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:33PM.

**Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk**

Approved: November 9, 2021