

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2021 – 7:30PM**

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 7:30PM.

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 7:30PM was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on October 29, 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 26, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden 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

No new business was presented at this time.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for November 9, 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: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Williams (PO#21-00575)

Absent:

RESOLUTION & OATH OF OFFICE

Resolution 2021-110: Resolution Appointing Isael Torres Jimenez as Special Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-110. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Officer Isael Torres Jimenez was sworn-in by City Solicitor Coleman as Special Law Enforcement Officer (S.L.E.O II) for the City of Beverly.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-13.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the sales price of the property. City Administrator Wolbert stated that the property is being conveyed to the School District for the price of \$1.00.

Kelsey Snively, 1315 Maple Ave, Roebing, New Jersey 08554, questioned if the property will have vehicle access from Cooper Street. Council President Bancroft explained that the property will only have access by way of Oak Street.

Councilman Lowden, in response to public comments made at the previous Council Meeting that conveying the aforementioned property to the School District removes the parcel from the tax rolls, noted that the City does not currently collect taxes on the lot as the property has been City-owned for several years, and that the sale of same to a private entity is not feasible because

the lot is not buildable pursuant to the City's Zoning Code. Accordingly, the best use of the property is to convey same to the School District to meet the district's immediate needs.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-13.

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-14: Ordinance Amending Chapter XX of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Zoning” to Establish Section 20-22 “Little Free Libraries”

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to introduce Ordinance 2021-14. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-111: Resolution Approving Change Order #2 for the 2019/2020 Road Improvement Project

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-111. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2021-112: Resolution to Pursue Plan Endorsement and Authorization to Submit the Municipal Self-Assessment Report

Councilman Schwedes noted that a change needs to be made in the assessment report to reflect that it's currently a seller's market, not a buyer's.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-112. 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

Mayor Miller reflected on the meaning of Veteran's Day.

Councilman Schwedes thanked City Administrator Wolbert for his efforts in preparing the municipal assessment report, congratulated Officer Jimenez, and stated that the American Legion will be holding a Veteran's Day memorial ceremony at Monument Cemetery.

Councilman Lowden stated that recycling collection will still take place on Veteran's Day, there will be a Land Use Board meeting next week, that he would like to schedule an Emergency Services Committee meeting, and noted that the Historical Society has newly acquired items and offers private tours by request. Regarding the General Election, Mr. Lowden stated that the County experienced low voter turnout. Additionally, Mr. Lowden stated that he would like a proclamation to be presented in honor of resident Dominic Astemborski.

Councilwoman Williams stated that the Community Events Committee will be hosting a holiday tree lighting on December 11th at the Municipal Building. Additionally, the Community Outreach Committee is working on creating a logo and letterhead.

City Administrator Wolbert updated Council on the following matters: PSEG will be doing widespread gas line replacements throughout the City, which will result in approximately 68% of the City's roadways to be repaved; the School District will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for children ages 5 – 11 years of age; the PTA plans to host a "Breakfast with Frosty" event at the EMS building; and that he will be presenting a speech on Veteran's Day at the Beverly National Cemetery.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if there will be a cost to the City for police officers during the PSEG gas line replacement project. City Administrator Wolbert stated that PSEG will be covering the costs for police coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Snively, 1315 Maple Ave, Roebling, New Jersey 08554, stated that City Administrator Wolbert was thanked at the PTA meeting for his efforts during the Trunk-or-Treat event.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked Council for considering the ordinance for Little Free Libraries, and stated that the Monument Cemetery will be participating in Wreaths Across America for Veteran's Day.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that a proclamation for Domenic Astemborki is an excellent idea, as he improved and contributed to Beverly's community throughout the years.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to close the public comment portion of the meeting. 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 8:08PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: November 23, 2021