

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 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., 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 D’Alfonso. Councilman Schwedes was absent from tonight’s meeting.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

The following opening statement was read by City Clerk D’Alfonso:

“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

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if explanations can be given on Resolution 2021-117 through Resolution 2021-119.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session: November 23, 2021

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to approve the above listed set of minutes. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

OLD BUSINESS

- *OPA Center of Place Designation*: City Administrator Wolbert stated that a meeting was held with the Office of Planning Advocacy for the next steps in pursuing the Center of Place designation. Accordingly, the City needs to host a public visioning session to solicit input for future development in the City. It was determined that the same will be scheduled for this coming January.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for December 14, 2021

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Dale (PO# 21-00633)

Absent: Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-115: Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage on 618 Broad Street (Block 1277, Lot 10, FKA Block 77, Lot 10)

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2021-115. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2021-116: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Contract with Endeavor Emergency Squad to Provide for Emergency Medical Services to the City of Beverly

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the renewal contract contains a small price increase compared to the previous contract, but that the increase is worth the quality of service that has been provided by the organization.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the present members of the organization for their dedicated service to the community.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-116. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

President Conrey of Endeavor Emergency Squad thanked the Council for their continued support.

Resolution 2021-117: Resolution Adopting Technology Risk Management Standards in Compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund's Cyber Risk Management Plan's Tier One Requirements

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the purpose of Resolution 2021-117 through Resolution 2021-119 is to ensure that the City meets the Municipal Excess Liability Fund's requirements for cyber security. In meeting these requirements, the City will pay less for cyber security insurance.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-117. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-118: Resolution Adopting Technology Risk Management Standards in Compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund's Cyber Risk Management Plan's Tier Two Requirements

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-118. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2021-119: Resolution Adopting Technology Risk Management Standards in Compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund's Cyber Risk Management Plan's Tier Three Requirements

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2021-119. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

The Council wished all Happy Holidays.

Mayor Miller encouraged the public to continue to take precautions against COVID-19 as the country has surpassed 800,000 deaths from the virus.

Councilman Lowden stated that there will not be a Land Use Board meeting this month, and that there has been an increase in public interest in the Historical Society.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that City Hall's HVAC system is undergoing repairs for a freon leak, quotes are being sought for a new police vehicle as the current vehicles continue to break down and require repairs, and though roof repairs have been completed on City Hall, the entire roof will need to be replaced in the coming year.

Additionally, Mr. Wolbert stated that the State legislature has introduced a bill to allow municipalities with a population under 2,500 to withdraw from Civil Service due to the negative impacts Civil Service regulations has on the hiring practices of small municipalities.

Resolution 2021-121: Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill A1335 and Senate Bill S2667 Authorizing Certain Municipalities of the State of New Jersey to Withdraw from Civil Service (Title 11A)

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-121. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, regarding the OPA visioning session, commented very highly of City Administrator Wolbert's talent and ability to lead same. Additionally, Mr. Haaf suggested that the Council invite the school students who participated in the Haaf Family Arts Foundation writing contest to a future Council Meeting to recognize their efforts.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the Council for the implementation of a mini-grant program for Clean Communities.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2021-120: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Executive Session to Discuss Matters Involving Attorney-Client Privilege and Contract Negotiations

City Solicitor Coleman stated that no formal action will be taken at the conclusion of same.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2021-120 and convene in Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Common Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 8:20PM and returned to the dais at 8:45PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: December 28, 2021