

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2022 – 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 Mark Schwedes, Councilman Riccardo Dale, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas Coleman, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin D’Alfonso.

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 2022-1, was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on January 9, 2022, transmitted to the Camden Courier Post, filed with the Municipal Clerk, and was mailed to all persons requesting and paying for 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 public comments on agenda items only. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Reorganization Meeting: January 4, 2022

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: 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 January 25, 2022

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-25: Resolution Amending Resolution 2022-3 Awarding Contracts for Professional Services for the City of Beverly for the 2022 Calendar Year

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-25. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-26: Resolution Amending Resolution 2022-17 Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into Shared Services with the Township of Willingboro

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the above Resolution. City Administrator Wolbert explained that Willingboro Township contacted him and stated that they are no longer able to provide shared services for public works or vehicle maintenance, but that they are still willing to provide services for animal control.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-26. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-27: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Safety Contract with the Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for the 2022 Safety Incentive Program

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-27. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2022-28: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Burlington for Snow Removal and Related Services on County-Owned Roadways

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-28. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2022-29: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into an Agreement with the County of Burlington for Recycling and Solid Waste Services

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-29. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2022-30: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Opt into the Alternate Route Hiring Process for the Position of Entry Level Law Enforcement Officer

Councilman Dale inquired about the above Resolution. City Administrator Wolbert explained that implementing the alternate route hiring process will allow the City to hire certified police officers without an individual having to take the Civil Service Law Enforcement Exam. This will allow the City and other Civil Service municipalities to quickly and more efficiently address staffing issues.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-30. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2022-31: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2021 Budget Appropriations

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-31. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller read aloud correspondence received from the Burlington County Health Department regarding future mosquito control spraying.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Schwedes requested that an announcement be made once City Hall reopens to the public. City Administrator Wolbert confirmed same and stated that residents are still being served at the Municipal Building, and once COVID-19 cases begin to decrease City Hall will be reopened.

City Administrator Wolbert, in light of the continued issues with New Jersey American Water mandating the costly installation of backflow preventers at commercial and public facilities by the property owners, inquired if the governing body would like correspondence to be sent to the City's legislative representatives to investigate the matter. The Common Council was in favor of same.

On a separate topic, Mr. Wolbert inquired if the Common Council would be in favor of the City applying for membership with the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce. The Common Council agreed with same.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Heether, 603 Wheatley Ave, stated that he believes there to be a billing issue with EMS services provided to the City, as he received a bill for an ambulance transport from Delran EMS since Endeavor Emergency Squad was unavailable. Since the City pays Endeavor by way of contract to provide emergency medical services to the City, Mr. Heether expressed that residents shouldn't be billed regardless of which organization provides the medical services. Additionally, since Endeavor soft bills residents, Mr. Heether feels that the same consideration should be given by other EMS organizations that may service City residents to ensure equality in billing.

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the City's basic emergency medical services are provided by Endeavor, but if same is unavailable to respond to a call, a different organization will be dispatched by the County as part of mutual aid. Additionally, Endeavor soft bills Beverly City residents because of the agreement with the organization, and that entering into a contract with all other organizations that may be dispatched to Beverly in the rare event that Endeavor is unavailable is not financially feasible.

City Solicitor Coleman further noted that providing emergency medical services is not an essential service of a municipality, and the annual amount paid to Endeavor as part of the agreement with the City is similar to a franchise fee. Additionally, the amount paid per year to Endeavor is not nearly enough to cover the organization's operating expenses. Furthermore, the City has no authority over which EMS organization is dispatched by the County as part of mutual aid.

Councilman Schwedes inquired if Endeavor services the Township of Delran by way of mutual aid, and if Endeavor soft bills Delran residents. City Administrator Wolbert stated that Endeavor does service Delran Township if needed by way of mutual aid, but the billing practices of each EMS organization vary as they are private organizations.

Mr. Heether asked for contact information for the individual at the County level that designs the grids for mutual aid.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, stated that the City's website is out of date. Additionally, Ms. Snively inquired if there will be a Community Outreach Committee meeting in February. Councilman Dale stated that a meeting is still to be determined due to the ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the Common Council for its willingness to contact the City's legislative representatives regarding NJAW's mandate to install backflow preventers. Mr. Haaf noted that not only is it costly to residents just for the initial installation, but there will be additional fees paid to NJAW for quarterly inspections of the equipment. City Administrator Wolbert noted that non-compliance may lead to water shut offs.

On a separate topic, Mr. Haaf inquired about Resolution 2022-25. Mr. Wolbert explained that the resolution is to add an additional economic development planner for this year.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2022-32: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Executive Session to Discuss Matters Involving Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege

City Administrator Wolbert stated that no formal action will be taken at the conclusion of Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2022-32 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried. The Mayor, Common Council, and support staff entered same at 8:23pm.

Councilman Schwedes left the meeting at 8:30pm.

The remainder of the Common Council, the Mayor, and support staff exited Executive Session and returned to the dais at 9:11pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: February 8, 2022