

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Patrolman Larry Welch

Patrolman William Romero

City Solicitor Coleman administered the oath of office to the above listed individuals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: January 25, 2022

Executive Session: January 25, 2022

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: Schwedes (Executive Session minutes)

Absent:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Bag Up NJ Campaign: City Administrator Wolbert inquired if, in response to the statewide ban of plastic straws and bags to be effective May 4th of this year, the Council would be in favor of purchasing reusable bags with the City's Clean Communities Grant Funds and distribute two per household. Council agreed with same.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for February 8, 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 2022-33: Resolution Authorizing the City to Enter into an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Burlington County Soil Conservation District for Stormwater Management Facility Inspections

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-33. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-34: Resolution Appointing Isael Torres Jimenez as Full-Time Police Officer for the City of Beverly

City Administrator Wolbert stated that Officer Torres is currently serving the City as a S.L.E.O Class II, but will be appointed through Civil Service's Alternate Route Program as a fully qualified Police Officer contingent upon his successful completion of the S.L.E.O. II Waiver Course with the Camden County Police Academy.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-34. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-35: Resolution Appointing Paula Steere as Full-Time Housing Secretary and Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Beverly

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the above resolution. City Administrator Wolbert explained that Ms. Steere currently holds these positions on a part-time basis, but will be returning to the City to fulfill these roles full-time.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-35. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-36: Resolution Approving Quote from CM3 for HVAC Upgrade and Repair Services

City Administrator Wolbert explained the necessity of the above resolution.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-36. 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 Ms. Alyssa De La Pena, nurse for the Beverly City School District, thanking the Council for her Hometown Hero nomination as part of the Small Town Civic Volunteer Award for all her efforts to keep the school children, school staff, and residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller encouraged the public to continue to take safety precautions against COVID-19, as the country has reached 900,000 deaths due to the pandemic.

Councilman Schwedes expressed his appreciation for the newly hired police officers.

Councilman Lowden inquired about the current number of officers employed by the City. City Administrator Wolbert noted that there are a few transitions occurring in the department, but the City is close to having the amount of officers that are necessary and supported by the City's budget. On a separate topic, Mr. Lowden stated that the ban on plastic bags and straws is long overdue, and is in favor of the City purchasing reusable bags for residents. Finally, Mr. Lowden inquired as to when there will be another Economic Development Committee meeting. Mr.

Wolbert stated that the committee will meet upon the completion of a draft update to the City's Redevelopment Plan.

Councilwoman Williams inquired about why the State is also banning paper bags as well. Council President Bancroft explained that the manufacturing of paper bags not only takes away from necessary resources, but adds to air pollution. On a separate topic, Ms. Williams asked if there can be a meet and greet for the Police Department. City Administrator Wolbert said that same can be planned for the future.

City Administrator Wolbert updated the Council on the following matters: City Hall has reopened to the public due to the significant decrease in COVID-19 cases; the EMS building will be completed by the end of the February for use by Endeavor EMS; a request will be submitted to the County Board of Elections to move the polling location from the elementary school to the EMS building in light of the new State Law prohibiting police officers within 100ft of polling locations in order to protect the safety and well-being of the students; the new street signs continue to be installed throughout the City; there was a sewer main collapse at Spruce St. and Putnum St. that has since been repaired; and the City Engineer is preparing to submit road improvements plans for the 2022 NJDOT grant for Jennings Street.

The Endeavor EMS Report for December 2021 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that the Beverly Free Library is interested in applying for another Clean Communities Mini-Grant. Additionally, Mrs. Haaf also stated that the library is hosting programs in February called the "Arts of Living."

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that he is in favor of moving the polling locations to the EMS building. Additionally, Mr. Haaf inquired if the City received any further information regarding the NJAW mandate to install backflow preventer. City Administrator Wolbert stated that no additional information has been received. Regarding the ban on plastic bags, Mr. Haaf inquired if it effects the plastic bags used for trash collection. Council President Bancroft stated that the plastic bag ban primarily pertains to restaurants and stores. Mr. Haaf questioned if the Haaf Family Arts Foundation could donate to the cost of reusable bags for advertising space on same. Mr. Wolbert explained that the City cannot accept financial donations. Councilman Schwedes, as an alternative, suggested that the foundation purchase the reusable bags and donate them to the City. Mr. Wolbert stated that same would be acceptable since it's not of monetary value.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close public comment. 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 8:19pm.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: February 22, 2022