

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022 – 5:30PM**

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, Councilman Mark Schwedes, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas J. Coleman III, Esq., and Municipal Clerk Caitlin D’Alfonso.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

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. Notice that this meeting will be held at 5:30PM was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on May 27, 2022, transmitted to the Camden Courier Post, and was sent to all persons requesting same.”

The above was followed by the Flag Salute, Moment of Silence, and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to close preliminary public comment on agenda items only. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: May 24, 2022

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams 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, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Schwedes

Absent:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan Re-Examination: City Administrator Wolbert stated that the previous Master Plan Re-Examination, completed in 2014, is in need of an update. Accordingly, there is a resolution on tonight's agenda to authorize the submission of an application to the Burlington County Bridge Commission for planning assistance for an updated Master Plan Re-Examination Report.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for June 14, 2022

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:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/ADOPTION

Ordinance 2022-2: Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Chapter XXI of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Schedule of Fees”

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-2. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2022-2. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-55: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License to F&M Liquors

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-55. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-56: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Club Liquor License to W.A Cortright, Jr., Post 115

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2022-56. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Schwedes

Absent:

Resolution 2022-57: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Club Liquor License to the Athletic Club of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-57. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-58: Resolution Supporting an Appropriations and Levy Cap Exemption for a Three-Year Period for Increase in Liability, Worker's Compensation, Cyber Liability and Property Insurance

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the three-year period stipulated in the above resolution. City Administrator Wolbert stated that it was determined by the NJMEL to reexamine the matter after a three-year period.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-58. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-59: Resolution Authorizing Approval of Quote from Merchantville Overhead Door for Repair of Bay Doors at EMS Building

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-59. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-60: Resolution Authorizing Approval of Quote from Merchantville Overhead Door for Installation of Bay Door Controllers at EMS Building

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the bay doors to the EMS building were not installed properly when the structure was built, and that the original controllers were not meant for heavy use. Accordingly, Resolution 2022-59 and Resolution 2022-60 are necessary to correct these issues to ensure the safe and efficient functioning of the building for its intended purpose.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-60. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-61: Resolution Authorizing the Submission of Application to the Burlington County Bridge Commission for Master Plan Re-Examination Report

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-61. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-62: Resolution Authorizing Purchase of 2022 Ford Utility Interceptor for the Police Department Through New Jersey State Contract #20-FLEET-01189

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-62. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-63: Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Various Equipment for 2022 Ford Utility Police Interceptor Through New Jersey State Contracts #17-FLEET-00761, #17-FLEET-00768, #17-FLEET-00719

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-63. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:
Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Miller and Councilman Schwedes thanked the first responders for their efforts during this morning's event in Beverly.

Councilman Lowden noted that the Beverly-Edgewater Park Memorial Day Parade went well.

Councilwoman Williams stated that there was a large attendance at the Fishing Derby, and that the next community event will be a basketball tournament scheduled for July 16th.

City Administrator Wolbert summarized this morning's incident, and noted that the Beverly City Police Department was well-prepared and worked in harmony with other responding jurisdictions.

Council President Bancroft thanked Mr. Wolbert for his leadership.

The Municipal Court Report for May 2022 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, acknowledged the belated birthdays of two Council Members.

Cynthia Miller, 518 Spruce Street, inquired about the meaning of "OEM," and the date/time of Joint Land Use Board meetings. Additionally, Mrs. Miller asked how funds could be raised for future Memorial Day Parades. Slight discussion ensued on the acceptance of monetary donations and standard expenditures to plan a Memorial Day Parade.

Larry Williams, 22 Cypress Lane in Willingboro, asked about the missing swings at the Riverfront Park. City Administrator Wolbert explained that the insurance company will not cover the liability of said swing set because not only does the jump zone not meet the mandatory size requirements, but the property is contaminated and sits within a flood hazard zone. Accordingly, it is more appropriate and fiscally responsible to leave the Riverfront Park as an area for passive recreation. Additionally, Mr. Wolbert noted that the City has four active recreation areas within half a square mile, and that the upcoming Master Plan Re-Examination will also focus on recreational opportunities. Finally, Mr. Wolbert recommended that the Housing Authority consider re-installing playground or other recreational facilities.

Discussion ensued on potential recreational opportunities in the City.

City Solicitor Coleman left the meeting at 6:30PM.

Ronald Paice, 527 Broad Street, inquired about the date and time of the next Community Outreach Committee Meeting. Additionally, Mr. Paice noted that St. Stephen's Church would be willing to rent its hall for community events.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the DPW for patching the potholes on Jennings Street. City Administrator Wolbert noted that Jennings Street will be repaved – half by PSEG after the completion of the City-wide pipe replacement project, and the other half will be completed through the City's Road Improvement Project. Additionally, Mr. Haaf inquired about the status of the introduction of the Municipal Budget, stated that the Farmer's Market has an impressive inventory of fresh produce, and noted that the swing set at Farnum Park also does not appear to meet the insurance requirements specified earlier. Finally, Mr. Haaf stated that members of the community feel as if they are being neglected because the Riverfront Park does not have a playground.

City Administrator Wolbert, in response to Mr. Haaf's final comment, stressed that Beverly is one united community, and that this notion needs to be reinforced. All residents are included and considered in every aspect of the City's operations, and that the staff is always available to address concerns.

Council President Bancroft noted that the recreational areas at the Housing Authority were removed due to complaints from the residents of Delacove Homes.

Council President Bancroft and Mayor Miller noted that the City staff provide quality service to its residents.

Cynthia Miller, 518 Spruce Street, inquired about the public comment procedures at Council Meetings.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes 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 Councilman Dale to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:53PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: June 28, 2022