

**CITY OF BEVERLY  
BURLINGTON COUNTY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
  
COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
AUGUST 9, 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 Mark Schwedes, Councilman Riccardo Dale, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas 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 Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close public comments on agenda items only. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Regular Session: July 26, 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**

*Cosden Site Remedy Modification:* City Administrator Wolbert stated that the EPA is modifying its cleanup plan of the property for the remaining active contaminants. This new plan will be implemented over a period of five years. A public meeting to discuss this plan will be hosted by the EPA on August 16th. Councilman Schwedes inquired if the public will be notified of any further modifications to the site cleanup. Mr. Wolbert confirmed same. Councilman Lowden asked if the contamination is due in part to fertilizer runoff from adjoining municipalities. Mr. Wolbert noted that the contaminants are not from fertilizer, and that the most concerning contaminant lies beneath the water table.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the contaminants below the water table are hazardous to human health. Mr. Wolbert stated that the EPA report noted no principal hazards, and that the concern primarily effects irrigation or private wells. Once the contamination is eliminated, the EPA will release the property to the NJDEP, who will hopefully release it back to the City.

## **BILL LIST**

- Bill List for August 9, 2022

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes 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:

## **ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**Ordinance 2022-4: Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-4. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-4. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2022-4. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Ordinance 2022-7: Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 2016-6 Establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee**

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-7. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2022-7. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 2022-78: Resolution Authorizing the 2022 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-78. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

#### **Resolution 2022-79: Resolution Adopting the 2022 Municipal Budget**

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the following budgetary items: the anticipated increase in miscellaneous revenue; the increase in the capital improvements appropriation; the decrease in the School District's budget; and the local budget increase. City Administrator Wolbert offered the following explanations to Mr. Haaf's above inquiries: the anticipated increase in miscellaneous revenues is due to the increase in fees charged by the municipality; the amount budgeted for capital improvements includes the American Rescue Plan Funds that will be utilized to provide aid to the Endeavor Emergency Squad and to map the sewer and stormwater systems; the School District's budget did see a decrease due to an increase in State aid; and the local tax increase is approximately 12.8 cents on the dollar. Slight discussion ensued.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-79. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2022-80: Resolution Establishing Employee Salaries for the 2022 Calendar Year**

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-80. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2022-81: Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for the 2022 Small Cities Grant Administration**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-81. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

**Resolution 2022-82: Resolution Reappointing Randy H. Miller to the Beverly Housing Authority**

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-82. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-83 was inadvertently adopted by incorrect title. A motion was offered by Council Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to rescind adoption of Resolution 2022-83. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2022-83: Resolution Authorizing Subscription to Guardian Tracking Employee Performance Management Software System for the Beverly City Police Department**

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-83. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

## **Resolution 2022-84: Resolution Establishing the City of Beverly as a Stigma-Free Zone for Mental Health Awareness**

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2022-84. 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**

Councilman Schwedes thanked the staff for their efforts in the budget preparation.

Councilman Lowden invited the public to the Historical Society's open house.

Councilwoman Williams noted that the Community Events Committee will be hosting a movie night for children this Saturday.

City Administrator Wolbert distributed a map provided by the New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy illustrating the City's critical environmental sites (CES) as it relates to the City's pursuit of the Centers of Place designation. Mr. Wolbert stated that the City has areas of CES due to flood hazard zones, and that any developer interested in developing areas along the riverfront will need to abide by flood hazard regulations. Mayor Miller inquired if the map can designate the dunes as an area outside of CES since the area is both dry and of higher elevation. Mr. Wolbert stated that the dunes have been included in the CES area because they contain certain kinds of vegetation that are indicative of wet substrate. Mr. Wolbert noted that the Council needs to give approval of the CES map for OPA to finalize the document. The Council approved the CES map as submitted.

On a separate topic, Mr. Wolbert stated that the installation of the School District's modular units will commence in the next few days.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, noted that there are raccoons and significant overgrowth at 20 Pine Street, and asked if there have been advances in the anticipated public auction for the property. Mr. Wolbert stated that the ordinance to authorize the auction will be before Council's consideration within the next few months. Additionally, the DPW staff will be addressing the overgrowth and other issues on the property in the coming weeks.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about certain markings on OPA's CES map. Mr. Wolbert clarified that same designates the City's flood hazard areas, which models FEMA's stormwater

map. On a separate topic, Mr. Haaf stated that Mr. Wolbert is an extremely valuable employee who does a lot for both the City and community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:23PM.

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**Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR**  
**Municipal Clerk**

Approved: August 23, 2022