

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the purpose of Ordinance 2022-8. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: September 13, 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 September 27, 2022

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the payment to Servpro. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

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

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2022-8: Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 2014-1 Establishing a Program Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:21.1 Et Seq. for Certain Abatements of Real Property Taxes in Areas in Need of Rehabilitation or Redevelopment

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to introduce Ordinance 2022-8. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-91: Resolution Authorizing Payment to the Beverly Free Library

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-91. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Schwedes

Absent:

Resolution 2022-92: Resolution Authorizing License Agreement for Use of Facilities at Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-92. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-93: Resolution Appointing Jaron C. Jackson as Full-Time Police Officer for the Beverly City Police Department

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-93. 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 Haaf Family Arts Foundation thanking the City for its help and cooperation with the event the organization held the previous weekend at the riverfront park.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

The Mayor and Council congratulated the Haaf Family Arts Foundation for its successful event.

Councilman Lowden made note of the following: the Riverfront Historical Society will be hosting an open house on October 1st; the Land Use Board application for 250 Warren Street was postponed until October's meeting; and regarding the discussion at the previous Council Meeting about the official name of the riverfront park, Mr. Lowden stated that in his research it appears that the park's official name is the "Riverfront Park."

Councilwoman Williams stated that the City will be hosting a Dumpster Day/E-Waste Recycling/Shredding event on October 22nd.

City Administrator Wolbert stated that there will be a meeting with the Office of Planning and Advocacy regarding the Centers of Place designation. Additionally, the City's annual tax sale will be held tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Jeff Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, thanked Mr. Wolbert for his responsiveness to complaints.

Jessica Brown, 1083 Warren Street, requested that the Common Council waive the facilities use application fee for the PTA's event in October. Council agreed to same.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, made a complaint about weed growth on sidewalks. Council President Bancroft stated that the Code Enforcement Official has started to address this issue, but that the abatement process does take time.

Ronald Paice, 527 Broad Street, asked for a summary of Ordinance 2014-1. City Administrator Wolbert explained that the ordinance was established to create a property tax abatement program for qualifying property owners looking to make improvements to their home. Mr. Wolbert explained that though the program was thoroughly advertised, no one took advantage of the program. Additionally, as the City is preparing for new development, rescinding the ordinance will allow the City to realize the new tax revenue immediately.

Amy Bent, 130 Warren Street, inquired if the City has a noise ordinance in effect and stated that there are areas of Perkins Lane that are in poor condition. Mr. Wolbert explained that the City has a nuisance ordinance, rather than a noise ordinance, and that there are plans to repave Perkins Street with grant funds from NJDOT in the future. Additionally, Ms. Bent noted that there is a significant amount of bothersome noise coming from across the river in Pennsylvania. Mr. Wolbert stated that Senator Singleton's Office, in conjunction with the County Prosecutor's Office, is aware of this issue and attempting to address same, as it is a problem faced by most of the riverfront communities.

Cindy Robertson, 179 Warren Street, commented on a recent shooting in the City, and expressed that the City administration should be providing information to the public regarding same. Mr. Wolbert noted that releasing information may compromise the ongoing investigation.

Ariel Pina, 214 Magnolia Street, inquired about the City's redevelopment efforts. Mr. Wolbert summarized same.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, on behalf of the Haaf Family Arts Foundation, thanked the City for its support and noted that the organization will be hosting a fall art show on October 15th.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the Council on behalf of the library.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, recommended that the riverfront park be officially renamed the "Veteran's Riverfront Park."

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2022-94: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions (Attorney-Client Privilege)

City Administrator Wolbert stated that the purpose of tonight's Executive Session will be to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege and that no formal action will be taken at the conclusion of same.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-94 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:16PM and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:52PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:52PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 11, 2022