

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 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 for Ukraine, and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the list of capital items to be purchased through Ordinance 2022-9 and the purpose of Resolution 2022-103. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: October 11, 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

Commercial Unit Registration: City Administrator Wolbert noted that a draft ordinance has been prepared for commercial unit registration, which would allow the City to inspect these units to ensure that same are being utilized in conformance with City's Zoning Code.

BILL LIST

- Bill List for October 25, 2022

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams 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 2022-9: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Capital Equipment in and for the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum Of \$128,500 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$122,075; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

City Administrator Wolbert summarized the need for the aforementioned bond ordinance.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2022-9. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Ordinance 2022-10: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Road Improvements for the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$324,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the City of Beverly, County of Burlington, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$51,300; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection with the Foregoing

City Administrator Wolbert noted that the purpose of the aforementioned ordinance is to provide funding for the 2022 Road Improvement Program.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2022-10. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-98: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Veterans Tax Exemption (1048 Ashton Ave)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-98. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-99: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Veterans Tax Exemption (326 Wheatley Ave)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-99. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-100: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Veterans Tax Exemption (64 Riverbank)

Councilman Lowden inquired if the City has the ability to offset the cancelled revenue from veteran tax exemptions. City Solicitor Coleman stated that the City is limited in this capacity.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-100. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-101: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Veterans Tax Exemption (604 Wheatley Ave)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2022-101. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-102: Resolution Authorizing a Lien for Property Maintenance Charges on 521 Spruce Street

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2022-102. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-103: Resolution Accepting City of Beverly's Planning and Implementation Agreement and Proposed Mapping for Centers of Place

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-103. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2022-104: Resolution of the City of Beverly Requesting an Eight-Month Extension of Time for Construction Contract Award from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Aid Grant for the 2021 Beverly Road Program Project (Jennings Street, Perkins Street, Church Street, and Parker Street Improvements)

City Administrator Wolbert noted that NJDOT misplaced the City's application for this project; therefore, additional time will be needed to resubmit same and award a contract.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2022-104. 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 City's staff.

Councilman Lowden noted the positive intent of the veteran tax exemption law, but expressed that the State should be assisting municipalities in offsetting the lost revenue.

Councilwoman Williams stated that the Community Events Committee will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat this weekend, and that the tentative date for the Tree Lighting is December 10th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, noted that the Haaf Family Arts Foundation will be judging the pumpkin painting contest for the PTA.

Ronald Paice, 527 Broad Street, invited those in attendance to St. Nicholas Day to be held at St. Stephen's Church on December 3rd.

Dannie McLaughin, pastor for the Bethel AME Church, spoke in favor of the veteran tax exemption law.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the commercial unit registration ordinance will include home offices. City Administrator Wolbert noted that registration will be required for home offices as the ordinance is presently drafted, but the document is subject to change as it's a preliminary draft.

Karen Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, inquired about the process to place a lien on a property for property maintenance charges. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

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 Dale and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:02PM.

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

Approved: November 8, 2022