

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2023 – 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., Councilman Riccardo Dale, Councilman Mark Schwedes, Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, 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 2023-1, was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on January 6, 2023, 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, a Moment of Silence, and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the purpose of Resolution 2023-39 and Resolution 2023-42. Council President Bancroft 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.

PRESENTATION

Joe Henry – Hardenbergh Insurance: Mr. Henry, as part of the BURLCOJIF’s Safety Incentive Program, provided a required safety presentation to the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: February 28, 2023

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:

BILL LIST

Bill List for March 14, 2023

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:

OLD BUSINESS

Chicken Ordinance: City Administrator Wolbert stated that the City has received objections from residents about the inability to keep chickens on residential properties. An ordinance was introduced by Council in 2020, but was never adopted due to multiple concerns about implementing same. Additionally, the City's Code Enforcement Officer has received complaints regarding noise, smell, and cleanliness of illegally owned chickens on neighboring properties. After discussion, it was determined that Council may reconsider the keeping of chickens on residential properties after review of presented information.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-39: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Chesterfield Township for Certified Recycling Professional Services

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2023-39. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2023-40: Resolution Appointing Marlene Hallinger as Part-Time and Substitute Crossing Guard

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-40. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2023-41: Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage on 301 Broad Street for Small Cities Program

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2023-41. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

Resolution 2023-42: Resolution of Intent to Submit a Grant Application to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for FY2024 TCDI Grant Program

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-42. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller read aloud correspondence from the Beverly Free Library requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$2,000.00. Councilman Schwedes stated that he would like to increase the monetary contribution to the library provided in previous years. It was determined that this matter will be discussed with the Finance Committee.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden stated that on May 6th, the City will be hosting a shredding event, dumpster day, and e-waste recycling event.

Councilwoman Williams noted that the City is planning a Citywide cleanup for the Clean Communities program.

City Administrator Wolbert summarized the City’s upcoming planning initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Ron Paice, 527 Broad Street, noted the upcoming events at St. Stephen’s Church.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, noted the upcoming art show hosted by the Haaf Family Arts Foundation. Additionally, Ms. Snively recommended that the Council consider the keeping of quail for smaller residential lots that may not be able to accommodate chickens.

Marsha Patten, 326 Wheatley Ave, stated that she owns multiple chickens that serve as emotional support animals, and asked the Council to take this into consideration.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, thanked the Council for its support to the library. Mr. Haaf also concurred with the keeping of quail for smaller parcels.

Jessica Brown, 1083 Warren Street and President of the Home and School Association, asked if Council would consider waiving the fee for the facility use application for the organization's upcoming event in April.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to close public comment. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2023-43: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations

Mayor Miller left the meeting at 6:25PM and did not attend Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2023-43 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

City Administrator Wolbert noted that no action will be taken at the conclusion of Executive Session. The Common Council and support staff entered same at 6:29PM, and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 7:07PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:53PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: March 28, 2023