

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 28, 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 and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ron Paice, 527 Broad Street, inquired about the Small Cities Grant Program referenced in Resolution 2023-45. 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.

PRESENTATION

Chief Ekelburg – State of the Squad: Chief Ekelburg of Endeavor Emergency Squad presented the organization’s current state of affairs and discussed strategic plans for the future.

Joe Heether, 603 Wheatley Ave, inquired about Endeavor’s billing procedures and mutual aid responses.

Ron Paice, 527 Broad Street, asked if electric ambulances are a possibility in the near future.

Jeff Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, commended Endeavor’s staff, and inquired about local hospital transports.

Chief Ekelburg provided clarification to the above questions.

Council President Bancroft expressed gratitude for Endeavor’s service to the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: March 14, 2023

Executive Session: March 14, 2023

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale 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 28, 2023

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:

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-1: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing the City’s Current Development Fee Ordinance (Chapter 126, Sections 1 Through 9) with an Updated Development Fee Ordinance to Comply with Current State Affordable Housing Regulations

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-1.

There being no comments, a motion as offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-1. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2023-1. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

Ordinance 2023-2: Ordinance Establishing Indemnification of Public Officials, Officers, and Employees of the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to introduce Ordinance 2023-2. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-44: Resolution Cancelling Payment to WatchGuard and Issuing Same to Motorola Solutions for the Purchase of Redactive Software for the Police Department

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-44. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2023-45: Resolution Authorizing Small Cities Grant Agreement with the Property Owner of 65 Railroad Avenue

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-45. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2023-46: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2022 Appropriation Reserves

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-46. 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 Lowden noted upcoming events to be held by the Historical Society.

Councilwoman Williams reminded those in attendance of the upcoming dumpster day event.

City Administrator Wolbert updated Council on the following matters: PSEG will begin repaving the roadways that were opened during the Citywide pipe replacement project; the 2021 and 2022 Road Improvement Program will tentatively commence in May; and the status of the Delaware River chemical spill from Pennsylvania was discussed.

The Municipal Court Report and the Endeavor EMS Report for February 2023 were reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, notified Council that delivery issues with the Beverly Bee are being resolved.

Joe Heether, 603 Wheatley Ave, inquired about obtaining copies of resolutions and reports, and noted his experiences with unpermitted door-to-door solicitors.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, asked about the status of implementing a chicken keeping ordinance. Council President Bancroft noted that Council is still considering same.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close public comment. 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 6:37PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 11, 2023