

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MAY 23, 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 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. Councilman Riccardo Dale was absent from tonight’s meeting.

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

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, asked for clarification on the purpose of Resolution 2023-52.

Ronald Paice, 527 Broad Street, inquired about the role of the City Administrator as detailed in Ordinance 2023-4.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: May 9, 2023

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to approve the above listed set of minutes. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Williams

Absent: Dale

BILL LIST

Bill List for May 23, 2023

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

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the previous discussion about short-term rentals, Air B&Bs, and other transient accommodations, Councilman Lowden stated that he would like the Council to consider introducing an ordinance prohibiting same at the next regular meeting. After slight discussion, it was determined by a consensus of Council to proceed with an ordinance for same.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-4: An Ordinance Establishing Guidelines Concerning the General Public's Access to All City Buildings and Facilities

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-4. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2023-4. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Ordinance 2023-5: An Ordinance of the City of Beverly Amending Ordinance 2015-7 Regarding Property Maintenance

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-5.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, inquired about the need to amend the City's property maintenance ordinance. City Administrator Wolbert clarified same.

There being no further comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-5. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2023-5. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-52: Resolution Authorizing Submission of Application to NJDCA for the Lead Grant Assistance Program

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-52. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden reminded the public of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade, discussed the events of the Riverfront Historical Society, updated Council on the Fire District's recent activity, and inquired about the auction of City-owned properties.

Councilwoman Williams noted that the Fishing Derby is scheduled for June 3rd.

City Administrator Wolbert explained that the City was informed NJAW is to replace all lead or galvanized water pipes by the year 2031.

The Endeavor EMS Report for April 2023 was reviewed, with Mr. Schwedes noting that the response time for Beverly residents has decreased.

The Municipal Court Report for April 2023 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Jeff Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, inquired if there were any legal processes to handle squatters.

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, noted that the Beverly Free Library and the School District partnered together to have an event in which the schoolchildren were provided with library cards.

Ronald Paice, 527 Broad Street, noted the upcoming Memorial Day Service at St. Stephen's Church, recommended that the Council consider implementing a jitney service to address the parking constraints in the City, and inquired if outdoor exercise equipment can be installed at the riverfront park.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, stated that the Haaf Family Arts Foundation is planning summer events.

Karen Weisinger, 44 Pine Street, noted that ponding is occurring on a section of Pine Street.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that the Farmer's Market is set to begin in June, inquired about the State's new housing lead testing law, and expressed his disappointment that the public was not given an opportunity to give input on any future ordinance to regulate transient accommodations as stated at a previous Council Meeting.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2023-53: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations

City Administrator Wolbert stated that no formal action will be taken at the conclusion of Executive Session.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-53 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:21PM, and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:44PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:44PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: June 13, 2023