

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 27, 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., 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 Mark Schwedes and Councilman Riccardo Dale were 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.

BURLCOJIF RENEWAL PRESENTATION

Paul Miola, BURLCOJIF representative, presented to Council the benefits of renewing membership in the organization.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the JIF lobbies against State laws that negatively impact municipalities. Mr. Miola confirmed same.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: June 13, 2023

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

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

BILL LIST

Bill List for June 27, 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: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent: Dale, Schwedes

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Spotted Lanternfly Grant Program: City Administrator Wolbert explained that the State is offering grant funds to municipalities to combat spotted lanternflies. It was recommended that the City not participate in the grant program, as the program comes with requirements that the City cannot fulfill, such as hiring additional personnel or a qualified contractor. Council agreed with the recommendation.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-6: An Ordinance of the City of Beverly Governing Short-Term Rentals

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-6. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-6. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Ordinance 2023-6. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Ordinance 2023-7: An Ordinance of the City of Beverly in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XX of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Zoning” (Amending Prohibited Uses)

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-7. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-7. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Ordinance 2023-7. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-63: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Contract Renewing Membership in the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-63. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-64: Resolution Authorizing the Submission of Grant Application to NJDOT for the 2024 Road Improvement Project

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-64. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-65: Resolution Adopting Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Program Policies and Procedures Manual

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-65. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-66: Resolution Cancelling Outstanding Checks from the Moorestown Township RCA Fund

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-66. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-67: Resolution Amending Resolution 2023-54 Authorizing Transfer of Funds within Certain Regional Contribution Agreement Accounts

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-67. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden stated that the City will do its best to address any illegal short-term rentals.

Councilwoman Williams reminded the public that the basketball tournament sponsored by the Community Events Committee will be held on July 22nd.

City Administrator Wolbert provided the following updates: the 2021 Road Program has started on Jennings Street; PSEG will begin the restoration of County-owned roadways; Endeavor EMS received reaccreditation; and the City’s TCDI grant application for a Circulation Plan Element was approved and awarded \$75,000.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Cindy Robertson, 179 Warren Street, thanked the Council for adopting Ordinance 2023-6.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that the Beverly Free Library will be dedicating the library’s new porch to late resident Domenic Astemborski on July 23rd. Additionally, Mr. Haaf expressed that he believes certain State laws severely prohibit municipal government from operating efficiently.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, provided a brief update on the planning of a night market, and inquired if the Haaf Family Arts Foundation can install a little free library with a rock garden at Farnum Park in honor of a certain resident.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2023-68: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege

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

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-68 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Common Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:21PM to returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:38PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:38PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: July 11, 2023