

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 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, 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. Councilman Mark Schwedes 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, Moment of Silence in remembrance of 9/11, and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about Resolution 2023-88.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: August 22, 2023

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

Aye: Dale, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Lowden, Schwedes

Councilman Lowden arrived to the meeting at 5:33PM.

BILL LIST

Bill List for September 12, 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, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2023-12: An Ordinance Repealing Local Pay To Play Ordinance, Chapter 14, Article I of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Political Contribution By Business Entities,” That Has Been Preempted By P.L.2023, C.30.

Councilman Lowden inquired about the change in reportable contributions.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2023-12. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-88: Resolution Reaffirming the Local Examination of the 2023 Municipal Budget

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-88. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-89: Resolution Extending Grace Period for 2023 Third Quarter Taxes

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-89. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-90: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #2 for the 2022 Road Improvement Project

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-90. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-91: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #4 for the 2021 Road Improvement Project

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-91. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-92: Resolution Authorizing Property Maintenance Lien on 521 Spruce Street

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-92. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-93: Resolution Authorizing Property Maintenance Lien on 406 Cramer Ave

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-93. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-94: Resolution Authorizing Renewal Agreement with GTBM, Inc. for E-Ticketing Software for the Beverly City Police Department

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-94. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-95: Resolution Accepting Resignation of James Nevins as Police Officer

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-95. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-96: Resolution Appointing Danielle Wright as Part-Time Court Help for the Municipal Court

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-96. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Schwedes

Resolution 2023-97: Resolution Appointing Thomas Schoenleber as Substitute Crossing Guard

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-97. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-98: Resolution Authorizing the City of Beverly to Enter into a Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program Agreement with the Property Owner of 1040 Warren Street (Block 307, Lot 4)

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-98. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilwoman Williams stated that the Community Events Committee will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 28th.

City Administrator Wolbert noted that the NJDEP and other state representatives toured the City's riverfront in relation to the upcoming Climate Change Hazard Vulnerability Assessment plan. Additionally, Mr. Wolbert noted that the City's tax rate has been finalized and that this year's budget is a tax decrease.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Cindy Robertson, 179 Warren Street, thanked Ms. Williams for her efforts in planning community events. Ms. Robertson also inquired about the 3rd quarter tax bills.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, thanked the Code Enforcement Officer for her efforts in enforcing property maintenance codes. Mr. Robertson noted that certain manholes do not appear to be secured properly after PSEG's pipe replacement project.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, noted upcoming Haaf Family Arts Foundation events.

Luis Crespo, 623 Broad Street, inquired about a potential issue with the publication of a political advertisement in the Beverly Bee.

Joh Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that a new Little Free Library has been installed at Farnum Park.

Joseph Heether, 603 Wheatley Ave, inquired about the grace period for the 3rd quarter taxes.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2023-99: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Matters Involving Attorney-Client Privilege

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-99 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:03PM and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:32PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:33PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: September 26, 2023