

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 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, Moment of Silence for the passing of Mr. Mike Schuerer, and Roll Call.

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: September 12, 2023

Executive Session: September 12, 2023

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams 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 September 26, 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

No new business was presented at this time.

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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.

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-12.

There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-12. Motion carried.

Councilman Lowden inquired about the legal definition of a “business entity” as it pertains to the aforesaid public law.

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

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-100: Resolution Authorizing Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Grant Agreement for 616 Erhardt Ave

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-100. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-101: Resolution Authorizing Special Needs Waiver for 616 Erhardt Ave for Small Cities Grant

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-101. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-102: Resolution Appointing David Muñoz as Fire Subcode Official

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-102. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-103: Resolution Appointing Ryan Hofmann as Substitute Fire Subcode Official

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-103. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-104: Resolution Authorizing Facilities Use Agreement with Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish for Community Event

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-104. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Resolution 2023-105: Resolution Authorizing J.F McKernan Architects to Provide Professional Services in Relation to the City Hall Roof Replacement and Foyer Improvement Project

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-105. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-106: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (64 Church Street)

Councilman Lowden expressed that the State should be compensating municipalities for the lost tax revenue as a result of tax-exempt properties. Mr. Lowden noted that for small municipalities like Beverly with constrained budgets, tax-exemptions significantly affect the community and its residents.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-106. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Williams, Bancroft

Nay: Lowden

Abstain:

Absent: Dale, Schwedes

Resolution 2023-107: Resolution Authorizing Emergency Appropriation for Police Vehicle Transmission

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to table Resolution 2023-107. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miller noted that the Burlington County Recycling Program now accepts pizza boxes under certain conditions.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Lowden inquired if the Laurel Street project will be completed before the start of October; asked about the status of the Jennings Street project; inquired about hiring additional police officers; asked about the traffic circulation plan element; inquired about a punch list for the PSEG road improvements; and noted upcoming events for the Riverfront Historical Society.

Councilwoman Williams noted the upcoming Trunk-or-Treat event and the next Community Outreach/Events meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, inquired about the landscaping at Family Dollar; the status of the project at 250 Warren Street as approved by the Joint Land Use board; inquired about the Laurel Street project; and noted upcoming Haaf Family Arts Foundation events.

Joe Heether, 603 Wheatley, asked about the residency requirements for police officers; inquired about certain police procedures; inquired about the Small Cities Grant program; and expressed agreement with Councilman Lowden regarding tax-exempt properties.

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 2023-108: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Matters Involving Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-108 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

The Mayor, Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:17PM and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:58PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:59PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 10, 2023