

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 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

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the need to rescind Ordinance 2007-5.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, inquired about which positions require psychological evaluations for City employment.

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

Councilman Lowden arrived to the meeting at 5:32PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: October 10, 2023

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

Aye: Dale, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Lowden

Absent:

BILL LIST

Bill List for October 24, 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: 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 2023-13: An Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 2007-5 Entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Accumulation of Brush, Weeds, and Debris and Requiring the Maintenance of Trees on Private Property”

Council President Bancroft opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-13. There being no comments, a motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-13. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Ordinance 2023-13. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2023-14: Ordinance Amending Chapter XX of the Code of the City of Beverly Entitled “Zoning” as it Pertains to Accessory Structures

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to introduce Ordinance 2023-14. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-112: Resolution Authorizing the Submission of Grant to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for Public Safety Equipment

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Dale to adopt Resolution 2023-112. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2023-113: Resolution Approving Compensation for the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-113. 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

Mayor Miller noted that there exists erroneous speculation on social media regarding conceptual development projects in the City.

Councilman Lowden reminded the public of the upcoming General Election on November 7th.

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

City Administrator Wolbert provided an update on the status of road programs in the City.

Councilman Schwedes inquired about the hours in which the EMS building is staffed.

The Municipal Court Report and Endeavor EMS Report for September 2023 were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

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

Beverly Haaf, 124 Riverbank, stated that the Beverly Free Library has gained non-profit status and can now apply for grant funds.

Carmella Saulong, 26 Warren Street, offered her services to update the City's website and establish an official social media account.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the City was still involved in negotiations with a developer for Cooper Street. Additionally, Mr. Haaf inquired about roadwork on Jennings Street and stated that the property located at 2 Walnut Street is still operating as an Air B&B.

Kathleen Middleton, 164 Riverbank, noted that she has experienced noise disturbance from the various activity at 2 Walnut Street.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Dale and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:52PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: November 14, 2023