

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 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 Bancroft, Councilman Robert E. Lowden, Jr., Councilwoman Bernadine Williams, Councilman Mark Schwedes, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas Coleman III, Esq., and City Clerk Caitlin D’Alfonso. Councilman Riccardo Dale was absent from tonight’s meeting.

Council President Bancroft called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

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.

Kelsey Snively, 132 Riverbank, inquired about the resolutions for the sale of public property.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired about the purchase price of the auctioned properties on tonight’s agenda.

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: December 12, 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: Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Lowden

Absent: Dale

BILL LIST

Bill List: December 27, 2023

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams 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

No old business was presented at this time

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-131: Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Entry Level Law Enforcement Officers Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 11A:4-1.3

City Administrator Wolbert noted that the aforesaid resolution is necessary due to hiring changes implemented by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilman Schwedes to adopt Resolution 2023-131. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-132: Resolution Authorizing the Discharge of Mortgage on the Property Known as 528 Cramer Ave (Block 411, Lot 14)

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-132. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-133: Resolution Authorizing the Release of Certain Executive Session Minutes

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-133. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-134: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 522 Third Street (Block 627, Lot 4) to Loona Cadely Jeanty

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-134. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-135: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 20 Pine Street (Block 1590, Lot 31.01) to Loona Cadely Jeanty

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-135. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-136: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 215 Locust Street (Block 624, Lot 7) to Loona Cadely Jeanty

A motion was offered by Councilman Lowden and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adopt Resolution 2023-136. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Schwedes, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

Resolution 2023-137: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 526 Second Street (Block 624, Lot 7) to Adriano Silva

Councilman Schwedes inquired about in which City account the funds from the sale of the aforesaid public properties will be deposited.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Lowden to adopt Resolution 2023-137. 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

Council President Bancroft thanked Councilman Schwedes for his service to the City of Beverly.

Councilman Schwedes expressed that it was a honor to serve on the Common Council, and noted that he is proud of how the City has progressed during his tenure and hopes that same continues into the future.

Councilman Lowden thanked Councilman Schwedes for his dedication to the City. Mr. Lowden also thanked the Haaf Family Arts Foundation for the dedication of the Little Free Library in front of City Hall.

Councilwoman Williams thanked Councilman Schwedes for his service.

City Administrator Wolbert noted that PSEG will begin its vegetation management through the City. Mr. Wolbert also thanked Councilman Schwedes for his support through the years he has served on Council.

City Solicitor Coleman thanked Councilman Schwedes for his service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Cynthia Robertson, 179 Warren Street, thanked the DPW for fixing the potholes on Van Kirk Street.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, commended Councilman Schwedes for his service.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, asked if public parking could be addressed in front of the Post Office.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilman Schwedes and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: January 2, 2024