

**CITY OF BEVERLY
BURLINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2024 – 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, Councilmember Robert E. Lowden, Jr., Councilmember Bernadine Williams, Councilmember Kelsey Snively, Councilmember Riccardo Dale, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, City Solicitor Thomas Coleman III, Esq., and City 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 2024-1, was posted on the Official Bulletin Board in City Hall, published in The Burlington County Times on January 7, 2024, 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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Brent T. Shelton – Police Officer

City Solicitor Coleman administered the aforesaid oath of office.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the budget includes a stipend for the Mayor and members of City Council, and inquired about which City officials are involved in the process of contract negotiations.

Alice Jester, 622 Spruce Street, inquired if the City has a contract for mosquito control and noted that the calendar on the City’s website needs to be updated.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, inquired about the complaint process to report mosquito populations.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: July 23, 2024

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

Aye: Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Dale

Absent:

BILL LIST

Bill List: August 13, 2024

A motion was offered by Councilmember Lowden and seconded by Councilmember Snively to approve the bill list. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain: Williams (PO 24-00215)

Absent:

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 2024-14: Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beverly Amending Ordinance 2021-2 Establishing Stormwater Management Requirements

A motion was offered by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Snively to introduce Ordinance 2024-14. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Ordinance 2024-15: Ordinance Establishing an All-Way Stop Sign Controlled Intersection at Bentley Avenue and Cherry Street Pursuant to the Authority of N.J.S.A. 39:4-197

A motion was offered by Councilmember Snively and seconded by Councilmember Williams to introduce Ordinance 2024-15. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Ordinance 2024-16: An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank for the 2024 Calendar Year (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

A motion was offered by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Dale to introduce Ordinance 2024-16. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-99: Resolution Approving Change Order #2 for the Sanitary Sewer CCTV Project

Resolution 2024-100: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #3 for the Sanitary Sewer CCTV Project

Resolution 2024-101: Resolution Authorizing Sale of 201 Laurel Street (Block 1053, Lot 2.01) to Luis Ribeiro

Resolution 2024-102: Resolution Authorizing Sale of 202 Laurel Street (Block 1054, Lot 1) to Luis Ribeiro

Resolution 2024-103: Resolution Authorizing Sale of 205 Broad Street (Block 625, Lot 5) to Luis Ribeiro

Resolution 2024-104: Resolution Authorizing Special Needs Waiver for 303 Pine Street for Small Cities Grant Program

Resolution 2024-105: Resolution Appointing Danielle Wright as Provisional Violations Clerk

Resolution 2024-106: Resolution Authorizing Agreement with ROK Industries Inc. for Electronic Tax Sale Services

Resolution 2024-107: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (461 Broad Street)

Resolution 2024-108: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (522 Magnolia Street)

Resolution 2024-109: Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement of Overpayment on Tax Lien Redemption (Tax Sale Certificate #22-00018)

Resolution 2024-110: Resolution Authorizing Payment to Pro Cap 8 for Tax Sale Certificate Recording Fee (Tax Sale Certificate #23-00022)

Resolution 2024-111: Resolution Authorizing Refund to W.C Davis, Inc. for Rescinded Construction Permits

Resolution 2024-112: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #1 for the City Hall Roof Replacement Project

Resolution 2024-113: Resolution Introducing the 2024 Municipal Budget by Title

Councilmember Lowden requested that Resolution 2024-107 and Resolution 2024-108 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was offered by Councilmember Snively and seconded by Councilmember Williams to adopt the Consent Agenda (Resolution 2024-99 through Resolution 2024-113, with the exception of Resolution 2024-107 and Resolution 2024-108). Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-107: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (461 Broad Street)

Councilmember Lowden expressed that the State of New Jersey needs to help offset the costs of tax-exempted properties, as it can significantly impact the budget and tax rate of smaller municipalities.

A motion was offered by Councilmember Snively and seconded by Councilmember Williams to adopt Resolution 2024-107. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay: Lowden

Abstain:

Absent:

Resolution 2024-108: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes on Property Qualifying for a Veterans Property Tax Exemption (522 Magnolia Street)

A motion was offered by Councilmember Dale and seconded by Councilmember Snively to adopt Resolution 2024-108. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Dale, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay: Lowden

Abstain:

Absent:

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Williams noted that the Community Events Committee will be hosting Community Day this upcoming weekend.

The EMS reports for June 2024 and July 2024 were reviewed without comment.

The Municipal Court report for July 2024 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

Gary Centinaro, 503 Cooper Street, inquired if the City is interested in purchasing certain properties he currently owns.

Cynthia Robertson, 179 Warren Street, commended the efforts of the Code Enforcement Official for addressing property maintenance issues and the DPW staff for curb painting. Additionally, Ms. Robertson stated that she was happy to see new businesses thrive in the City's downtown commercial district.

Alice Jester, 622 Spruce Street, expressed her belief that Community Day wasn't well advertised, asked if Council would reconsider the keeping of chickens, and noted that the "deaf child in area" sign needs to be replaced on Spruce Street.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, commended the Community Events Committee for their efforts in preparing for Community Day, noted upcoming Haaf Family Arts Foundation events, and asked if the New Jersey League of Municipalities could be a resource to petition the State for financial assistance to offset the cost of tax-exempt properties.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, stated that it is difficult to hear Council Members in the back of the meeting room.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2024-114: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations

City Administrator Wolbert stated that there will be no action taken after the conclusion of Executive Session and that the purpose of same is to discuss contract negotiations.

A motion was offered by Councilmember Lowden and seconded by Councilmember Snively to adopt Resolution 2024-114 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried. The Mayor, Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 6:11PM and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:27PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered by Councilmember Snively and seconded by Councilmember Dale to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:27PM.

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: August 27, 2024