

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 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, Mayor Randy H. Miller, City Administrator/Public Safety Director Richard Wolbert, Solicitor Douglas Heinold, and City Clerk Caitlin D’Alfonso. Councilmember Riccardo Dale 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 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Council President Bancroft opened public comment for agenda items only.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, inquired if the change order referenced in Resolution 2024-129 increases or decreases the original contract price.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: September 10, 2024

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

Aye: Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

BILL LIST

Bill List: September 24, 2024

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

Aye: Lowden, Snively, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-129: Resolution Approving Change Order #1 for the Sanitary Sewer CCTV Project for County Roadways

Resolution 2024-130: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #1 for the Sanitary Sewer CCTV Project for County Roadways

Resolution 2024-131: Resolution Authorizing Pay Estimate #2 for the City Hall Roof Replacement Project

Resolution 2024-132: Resolution Authorizing Special Needs Waiver for Small Cities Grant Program (297 Manor Road)

Resolution 2024-133: Resolution Authorizing Shared Services Agreement with the Beverly City Board of Education for the Painting and Striping of Curbs and Pavement on Bentley Ave and Melbourne Ave

Resolution 2024-134: Resolution Appointing Michael Bernardin as Part-Time Tax Assessor for the City of Beverly

A motion was offered by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Lowden to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolutions (Resolution 2024-129 through Resolution 2024-134). Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, as follows:

Aye: Lowden, Snively, Williams, Bancroft

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Dale

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this time.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Snively thanked the DPW staff for their efforts in maintaining Farnum Park. Additionally, Ms. Snively noted that there is an area of crumbling curb bordering the Riverfront Park and inquired about the possibility of installing a handicap ramp at that location.

Councilmember Lowden commended the new traffic improvements at the elementary school.

Councilmember Williams thanked the volunteers who assisted with Movie Night, and noted upcoming community events.

City Administrator Rich Wolbert stated that with the increase in rates from New Jersey American Water, PSEG, health insurance costs, and other goods and services, next year's budget will be difficult. Additionally, the State and County certified this year's budget, and the tax rate has decreased.

Solicitor Heinold spoke highly of the City's new tax assessor, Mr. Michael Bernardin.

The Municipal Court Report and the Endeavor EMS Report for August 2024 was reviewed without comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bancroft opened public comment.

John Haaf, 124 Riverbank, noted upcoming Haaf Family Arts Foundation and Beverly Free Library events.

Hal Robertson, 179 Warren Street, asked for increased patrols on Warren Street.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2024-135: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Common Council, and Support Staff to Enter into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations

A motion was offered by Councilmember Lowden and seconded by Councilmember Williams to adopt Resolution 2024-135 and convene into Executive Session. Motion carried.

Council President Bancroft stated that the purpose of tonight's Executive Session is to discuss contract negotiations and that no formal action will be taken at the conclusion of same.

The Mayor, Common Council, and support staff entered Executive Session at 5:45PM, and returned to the public portion of the meeting at 6:27PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Caitlin D'Alfonso, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 8, 2024