

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
July 24, 2023**

Mayor Miers opened the regular meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance and the following notice was read in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Express Times NJ Zone and/or the Express-Times or Newark Star Ledger, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ and on the municipal website, belviderenj.net.

Roll Call:

Present - Mayor Miers, Councilwoman Koop, Councilman Mitchell, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Roth, Councilman Zmigrodski
Absent - Councilman Matlock

Adoption of Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Koop, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani with Councilman Zmigrodski abstaining and all others voting "yes" to adopt the June 10, 2023 workshop meeting minutes of the Belvidere Town Council.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Koop - review of all confirmations for Victorian Days event. The committee also approved two scholarships for \$1,000.

Councilman Roth - working with the school to have students work the Victorian Days event to earn community service credits. The CCB is working with the High School to encourage more student involvement at the center. There was no storm damage at the pool. They are currently over on their anticipated revenue and under on their expenditures. They are also working on tightening up the execution of the grant. JCP&L has committed to upgrading 42 street lights primarily in the business/courthouse districts. Currently they have completed 9 of the upgrades. The NPP renovations for Riverside Park have stalled slightly while we wait for electrical quotes. Mayor Miers reviewed the list of businesses provided by the State and determined that there are 237 active businesses. We now need a plan to move to the next step.

Councilman Mitchell - The Nature Conservancy held an informational meet/greet on June 17th at Riverside Park regarding the dam removals. The Good Will Fire Company has some concerns regarding the dam removals. They plan on providing a list of those concerns. The Councilman thought it would be appropriate to recognize the efforts of the department during the recent storms. Council agreed.

Councilman Zmigrodski - the DPW is requesting to upgrade the large dump truck. It is currently in major disrepair. Councilman Roth suggested that part-time help be hired for the DPW.

Teresa Yeisley - updated Council on matters involving the recent storms.

Councilwoman Napolitani - the court financial report was provided in the meeting packet. The court received a favorable review on their procedural audit. Police Officer, Mike O'Mealy tendered his resignation effective July 31st. Chief Scott advertised the open position and has chosen a candidate. The candidate is certified with six years experience and is trained to run the LEAD program. There will be a salary increase and this added expenditure has been cleared with the CFO.

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani and seconded by Councilman Roth to hire Sierra DiMaio at Step 5 effective August 7, 2023.

Roll call:

Ayes - Councilwoman Koop, Councilman Mitchell, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Roth, Councilman Zmigrodski, Mayor Miers

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Matlock

Mayor Miers - commended all involved on the response to the recent storm event.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was addressed at this time.

Previous Business:

No previous business was discussed at this time.

New Business:

No new business was discussed at this time.

Resolutions:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilwoman Koop and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2023x56.

RESOLUTION NO. R2023x56

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF PREMIUM MONEYS (block 34, lot 11)

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate 2020-013 dated October 28, 2020 on block 34, lot 11 was redeemed on June 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the premium paid at the sale in the amount of \$1,100.00 needs to be returned to PRO CAP8/PRO CAP MGT II, lienholder of the aforementioned certificate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Belvidere hereby authorizes the CFO to make payment in the amount of \$1,100.00 representing said refund.

PRO CAP 8/PRO CAP MGT II
PO BOX 774
FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034-0774

Date: July 24, 2023
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A motion was made by Councilwoman Koop, seconded by Councilman Roth and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2023x57.

RESOLUTION NO. R2023x57

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES FOR THE RE-
INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL METERS FOR REGISTERED STORM-
DAMAGED PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, the storms of July 14th and 15th, 2023 caused significant damage to multiple residences within the Town of Belvidere; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary for JCP&L to pull the electrical meters on several of these properties for the safety of the residents and first responders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Belvidere hereby authorizes the Construction Department to waive the electrical permit fees for re-installation of the electrical meters for any registered, storm-damaged properties.

Date: July 24, 2023
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A motion was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilman Roth and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2023x58.

RESOLUTION NO. R2023x58

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO ARBORPRO URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT TO COMPLETE A TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE

WHEREAS the Town of Belvidere plans to complete a Tree Inventory and Assessment Service with photos; and

WHEREAS the Town has obtained a grant from the New Jersey Department of environmental Protection to help fund this work; and

WHEREAS the Town solicited quotes for said Tree Inventory and Assessment Service from two reputable companies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Belvidere hereby awards a contract for the Tree Inventory and Assessment Service with photos including a five-year subscription services to the following:

ArborPro Urban Forest Management
22605 La Palma Avenue, Suite 509
Yorba Linda, CA 92866

Certification

I, Teresa A. Yeisley, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, Town of Belvidere, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Belvidere Town Council at a regular meeting held on July 24, 2023.

Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. O2023x06

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN \$125,000 FOR RESURFACING OF PARKER STREET

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Belvidere wishes to appropriate the sum up to \$125,000 from the Capital Fund Balance for the Resurfacing of Parker Street; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Belvidere Town Council that:

1. There are funds available in the Capital Improvement Fund of the General Capital.
2. There is hereby appropriated that sum of up to \$125,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund of the General Capital for the aforementioned purpose.

3. There is no debt authorized by this ordinance.
4. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage following a public hearing to be conducted thereon and publication of notice of final passage with the requirements of the law.

NOTICE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Belvidere Town Council held on June 26, 2023 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final adoption by the Belvidere Town Council at a meeting to be held on July 24, 2023 at Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere, NJ at 7:00 P.M. or at any time and place to which said meeting may be adjourned. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance at that time. Any member of the general public can obtain a copy of said ordinance at no cost at the Municipal Clerk's Office, 691 Water Street, Belvidere, Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. . The ordinance is also available on the municipal website, belviderenj.net

Notice is hereby given that the forgoing ordinance was adopted by the Belvidere Town Council at a regular meeting held on July 24, 2023.

Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A motion was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski and carried to open the public hearing for Ordinance No. O2023x06.

The ordinance brought no public comment.

A motion was made by Councilman Zmigrodski and seconded by Councilman Roth to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance No. O2023x06.

Roll call:

Ayes - Councilwoman Koop, Councilman Mitchell, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Roth, Councilman Zmigrodski, Mayor Miers

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Matlock

Authorization to Pay Purchase Orders:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Koop, seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski and carried authorizing the payment of the purchase orders, as submitted, in the amount of \$403,179.02.

Public Comment:

Robert Czopath, 601 Third St. - request for consideration of reimbursement of legal expenses incurred in dispute over property line regarding alley in rear of property. Kevin Benbrook advised that the deeds show that half of the alley is owned by Dr. Czopath.

A motion was made by Councilman Zmigrodski and seconded by Councilman Roth to reimburse legal expenses to Dr. Czopath in the above referenced matter in the amount of \$773.75.

Roll call:

Ayes - Councilwoman Koop, Councilman Mitchell, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Roth, Councilman Zmigrodski, Mayor Miers

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Matlock

Rheva Smickle - received Brightspeed flier and called but was told they had no service in the Town.

Linda Stettler - thank you for taking action for Dr. Czopath.

Mark Young - 75 in attendance for second Sunset Serenade concert and nine entrants for the Very Berry contest.

Executive Session:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilman Mitchell and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2023x59.

RESOLUTION NO. R2023x59

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings act, Chapter 231,P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Belvidere, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter; and
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is:
Subject: Potential Litigation
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public:
When Resolved.

Date: July 24, 2023

Teresa A. Yeisley, R.M.C./C.P.M.

Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A **motion** was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Roth and carried to return to regular session.

Kevin Benbrook advised that the Council discussed possible litigation with regards to 106 Mansfield Street.

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani to adjourn the meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 8:12 PM.

Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM

Municipal Clerk/Administrator