

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
691 Water Street  
AUGUST 14, 2021**

Mayor Kennedy opened the special 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 Warren County 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. This meeting was also advertised in accordance with the law as a virtual ZOOM meeting with instructions to the public for attendance and comment.

**Roll Call:**

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

Mayor Kennedy recognized Paul Sterbenz.

Paul Sterbenz - review of NJDOT Transportation Trust Fund grants. Belvidere has received \$1,489,657 in DOT grant funding over the last several years. Improvements included Front Street, Mill Street, Oxford Street and Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets. Grant approval has been received for Wall and Paul Streets and an application has been filed for Parker Street. Parker Street is an approximately \$350,000 project that includes sidewalk and curbing.

Mayor Kennedy - good financial management of the grant allowed for additional work on Fifth Street. Some sidewalk work has been done but the Mayor made clear that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Tax rate has been flat the last two years. The Town can only control the municipal portion of the tax rate which is approximately 25% of the total rate. Warren County has been helpful with many projects and the Town continues to work with them whenever possible. The sewer system was inspected over a three-year process. Will be working on a stronger property maintenance approach.

Jason Stout - in contact with ArborPro for a quote to inventory all trees that are the responsibility of the Town and prioritize maintenance of same.

Councilman Roth - Town applying for a Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) grant through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This grant is \$125,000 per year for 5 years to revitalize communities. A team has been created to work on the submission of this grant. Monies would be used for revitalization of the downtown business district and the promotion of Belvidere as a two-river community.

**Public Comment:**

Joseph Kennedy, Jr. - property maintenance is key to revitalization. Blighted properties must be targeted by the Town.

Adam Sadlon - NPP great idea. Need more hours from the Zoning Official.

Juda Liper - parking and crosswalks at Fourth and Greenwich.

Robert Shelton - intersection visibility around Town. Need for walking connectivity throughout Town.

Virginia Walton - parking issue at Fourth and Greenwich due to needs for the elderly attending St. Patrick's Church.

Rose Haller - thanks for all the social media posts. For Betty Merring, "bring back the weekly senior lunch".

Nancy Mason - need for a tree replanting program

Lori Smyth - traffic enforcement and pedestrian crossings

Councilwoman Napolitani - referring to an email received for Harry Brown. Mr. Brown - operation of businesses in residential areas. Poor property maintenance. Street sweeping and deterioration of curbs.

Councilman Zmigrodski - growth will require a major overhaul of the stormwater infrastructure

Councilwoman Miers - materials allowed for sidewalks

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani to adjourn the special meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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