

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

Mayor Kennedy 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 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.

Councilman Roth requested that discussion of the Scout Home maintenance be added to the agenda.

Roll Call:

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

Absent - None

Adoption of Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to adopt the August 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the August 14, 2021 special meeting minutes of the Belvidere Town Council.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Proclamation:

**Town of Belvidere
Proclamation**

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

Whereas, September 17, 2021 marks the two hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and the anniversary of its creation: and

Whereas, Chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution all over the world are requesting proclamations and recognition of the Constitution of the United State of America; and

Whereas, General William Maxwell Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Belvidere, Warren County, New Jersey, on December 21, 1931; and

Whereas, public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through September 23 as constitution week.

Now, Therefore, Be it Proclaimed by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Belvidere that September 17th through September 23rd, 2021, be designated as:

Constitution Week

In the Town of Belvidere, and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Joseph Kennedy, Mayor
September 13, 2021

Committee Reports:

Councilman Mitchell - pool is now closed for the season and a walk-through is scheduled. The pool appears to be approximately \$28,000 ahead of their budget. Heritage Day was a successful event. No meeting of the BOE to report on.

Councilman Roth - JCP&L very busy with storm activity. Received a spreadsheet with half of the lights requested. Good Will Fire had 16 calls in August. Squad will review and report on 911 calls for August.

Councilwoman Miers - budget expenditure reports were provided. Tentative meeting scheduled with CFO and Auditor regarding bonding. Met with State representative regarding planting of native species at Lions Park on Water Street.

Councilwoman Napolitani - the DUI in-person trial scheduled for last weekend was adjourned. Thomas Tutka started his ride-along's and training prior to starting at the police academy. 115 truck tickets have been issued so far this year with 18 issued since the sign on Manunkachunk. The sign does not appear to be making a big impact.

Councilman Zmigrodski excused himself from the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Councilman Matlock - the Historic Commission heard an application. Environmental Commission is preparing for winter. Planning Board has a variance application for 25 Water St. Jason Stout has received two quotes for the tree inventory and review.

Mayor Kennedy - would like to see the Shade Tree Commission incorporated into the Environmental Commission and eliminate the Pool Commission and have a Pool Committee. Kevin Benbrook advised that this can all be done by ordinances.

A motion was made by Councilman Matlock, seconded by Councilwoman Miers and carried authorizing Kevin Benbrook to prepare an ordinance permitting roadway contribution fundraising in the Town of Belvidere as requested by Warren County.

Previous Business:

A motion was made by Councilman Matlock, seconded by Councilman Roth and carried conditionally approving, with the consent of the property owner, the survey work by Swanson Land Surveying, LLC on block 45, lot 10.

New Business:

Mayor Kennedy advised Council about the new crosswalk signs throughout Town.

Councilman Roth initiated a discussion about the furnace at the Scout Home. The gas meter has been installed and the current furnace is in poor condition. Mayor Kennedy shared his concern about remediating the cold air influx before installing a new furnace. The Mayor requested that the Scout Home Association come up with a plan prior to any furnace installation.

A motion was made by Councilman Roth, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to secure quotes for the installation of a new furnace and remediation of existing insulation issues at the Belvidere Scout Home.

Councilman Zmigrodski return to the Council meeting at 8:00 PM.

Resolutions:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Roth to adopt Resolution No. R2021x53.

RESOLUTION NO. R2021x53

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REQUESTING APPROVAL TO START THE PROCESS OF LONG TERM FINANCING

WHEREAS, The Town of Belvidere wishes to implement a five (5) year capital plan and finance said projects through permanent financing in the amount of \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has discussed in detail what they would like to include in the five (5) year capital plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has the need for professional Bonding Attorney and Municipal Auditor Services (not included in the scope of the Annual Audit);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Belvidere in the County of Warren, New Jersey, authorize the Chief Financial Officer to contact Gibbons P.C. One Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102 and Nisivoccia Company 200 Valley Road Suite 300 Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856 to start the bonding process

Date: September 13, 2021
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Roll call:

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

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - None

A **motion** was made by Councilman Matlock, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2021x54.

RESOLUTION NO. R2021x54

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION TO HIRE AND PAY POLICE OFFICERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Belvidere Town Council hereby authorizes to hire the following as officers of the Belvidere Police Department:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Thomas Tutka	Officer in Training	\$39,685 eff. 9/1/21
Daniel Boenig	Officer in Training	\$39,685 eff. 10/1/21

Date: September 13, 2021
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Matlock and carried to adopt Resolution No. R2021x55.

RESOLUTION NO. R2021x55

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE FOR BLOCK 15, LOT 20

BE IT RESOLVED that the Belvidere Town Council authorizes the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2018-017 for block 15, lot 10, (56 Front Street) in the amount of \$30,005.30;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Belvidere cease foreclosure proceedings on the above referenced property.

Date: September 13, 2021
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Kevin Benbrook advised Council regarding the property, 613-619 Hardwick Street. This is a commercial property in disrepair, storing large equipment. The owner of the property has been sited multiple times by the Zoning Official. The property owner has not appeared in municipal court and the law does not allow a warrant to be issued for a zoning violation. **A motion** was made by Councilman Roth, seconded by Councilman Matlock and carried authorizing Kevin Benbrook to file an order to show cause in Superior Court regarding the matter above.

Kevin Benbrook advised that the owner of 601 Third Street is encroaching on the municipally owned alley to the rear of the property.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Matlock with Councilman Zmigrodski abstaining and all others voting "yes" authorizing Kevin Benbrook to send a letter to the owner of the property at 601 Third Street that all encroachments on the municipally owned alley are to be removed or the Town will remove said encroachments.

Councilman Matlock advised that the homeowners of 316 Sixth Street are waiting for response from their insurance carrier before demolishing or making any repairs to the garage/barn.

There was discussion regarding the empty boxes that are always on the side of the Food Mart on the Market Street side.

Ordinances:

There were no ordinances addressed at this time.

Appointments:

No appointments were made at this time.

Authorization to Pay Purchase Orders:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Matlock and carried authorizing the payment of the purchase orders, as submitted, in the amount of \$446,248.96.

Public Comment:

Virginia Walton - requested that her survey be considered when surveying block 45, lot 10. Would like to see Heritage Day be two days next year. The cost for day was between \$9,000 and \$10,000 but the event broke even.

Executive Session:

No executive session was needed at this time.

A motion was made by Councilman Matlock to adjourn the meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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