

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
MARCH 28, 2022**

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.

Roll Call:

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

Adoption of Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Miers and carried to adopt the following minutes of the Belvidere Town Council:

March 12, 2022 budget workshop
March 14, 2022 workshop
March 14, 2022 executive session

Public Comment:

Nancy Mason - municipal budget and CAP ordinance. John Mooney, Municipal Auditor explained the CAP ordinance.

2022 Municipal Budget Introduction:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Roth to introduce Ordinance No. O2022x01.

ORDINANCE NO. O2022x01

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CALENDAR YEAR 2022

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Belvidere in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$94,894.91 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council hereby determines that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated, as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Belvidere, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Town of Belvidere shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$94,894.91 and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Town of Belvidere be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with the said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

NOTICE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Belvidere Town Council held on March 28, 2022 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final adoption by the Belvidere Town Council on April 25, 2022 via a regular meeting and virtual meeting held on the Zoom platform at 7:00 PM. or at any time and place to which said meeting may be adjourned. Instructions for attendance and comment can be viewed on the municipal website, belviderenj.net prior to the meeting. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance at that time. If you choose not to use this technology, you can mail your comments to the Municipal Clerk at the address below or email your comments to clerk@belvidere-nj.org by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting. 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, NJ 07823, Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The ordinance is also available on the municipal website, belviderenj.net.

Roll call:

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

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Zmigrodski

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Matlock to adopt Resolution No. R2022x39.

RESOLUTION NO. R2022x39

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SELF-EXAMINATION
OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Town of Belvidere has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2022 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Town of Belvidere that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. The with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitations on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

Certification

I, Teresa A. Yeisley, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, Town of Belvidere Warren County, New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Belvidere Town Council at a regular meeting held on March 28, 2022.

Roll call:

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

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Zmigrodski

Prior to the introduction, John Mooney gave a brief overview of the 2022 budget.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Matlock to introduce the 2022 Municipal Budget.

Roll call:

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

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Zmigrodski

Delmont Cole, Chief of the Good Will Fire Company introduced the line officers for 2022. There was discussion of their 2022 budget appropriation within the municipal budget.

Committee Reports:

Councilman Mitchell - Belvidere Ambulance Corps and Belvidere Emergency had 159 calls in February. The Good Will Fire Company had 15 calls in the month of February.

Councilman Roth - JCP&L is offering a power audit of municipal facilities. The BOE has submitted their budget to the superintendent. Their budget includes an increase with the public hearing set for May. Pool working on the plumbing and with DSM on the pumps. St. Patrick's Day parade came off very well. Bruno Associates is preparing a grant for the Scout Home to be submitted to the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Trust Fund. CCB had 360 visitors to the facility so far this year. NPP has applied for a grant through AARP, working on a Town slogan and met with the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Kevin Benbrook is assisting with a long-term management agreement between Belvidere and the State for control of their river front properties.

Mayor Kennedy - getting great results from the grant writer

Councilwoman Miers - nothing in addition to the budget introduction

Councilwoman Napolitani - our two newest officers have graduated from the academy and should be in the department full rotation within two weeks.

A motion was made by Councilman Matlock and seconded by Councilman Mitchell to extend health insurance coverage to Dawn Decker at retirement January 1, 2023 until she reaches the age of 65, memorializing this action by resolution at a future meeting.

Roll call:

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

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Recusal - None

Absent - Councilman Zmigrodski

Councilman Matlock - no report at this time

Correspondence:

A motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Matlock and carried to approve the following:

Belvidere American Legion Easter Egg Race April 9th

Good Will Fire Company Car Show June 18th (rain date July 2nd)

National Night Out August 2nd

Warren County Cultural and Heritage is sponsoring a grant for new historic markers in advance of the County's bicentennial commemoration in 2025. This information will be forwarded on to the Historic Commission.

Previous Business:

Councilman Roth initiated a discussion regarding the establishment of an Events and Recreation Advisory Committee to offer help and guidance to individuals or organizations wishing to sponsor an event in the Town. This committee would offer structure, consistency and improved communication.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to approve Raffle License application RL2022-07 and RL2022-08 for the Warren County Community College.

A motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to approve Raffle License application RL2022-09 for the Belvidere Lions Club.

Councilman Roth initiated a discussion about the creation of a new municipal website as recommended by the NPP team through their focus groups. They will be reaching out to Civic

Plus, a company that has done many municipal websites. This would be a combined effort with our current IT provider.

Resolutions:

There were no resolutions addressed at this time.

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 to authorize the payment of the purchase orders as submitted in the amount of \$148,002.03.

Public Comment:

Virginia Walton - events submission application

Susan Beale - dam removal

Dennis Riley - thank you for support of Good Will. Chose to refurbish pumper rather than incur the cost of a new pumper.

Rheva Smickle - received letter in regards to Scout Home. Glad Town will be involved in repairs and upgrades. Need to schedule meeting with Scout Home Association members and all interested parties.

Linda Stettler - alley map promised but still not received

Nancy Mason - once dam removal complete, Pequest will be perfect for slalom kyack course.

Marc Miller - thanks for planning efforts. Interested in river walk. Resides at 202 Depue and concerned with storm drainage off Second Street to the Delaware. Causing erosion.

Mayor Kennedy and Councilman Roth initiated a discussion about the consideration of a future tax rebate program for residents to repair their sidewalks.

A motion was made by Councilman Mitchell to adjourn the meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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