

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
APRIL 13, 2020**

Mayor Kennedy opened the workshop meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was conducted via ZOOM. Teresa Yeisley read the following notice 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 Star Gazette and/or the Express-Times, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ. This meeting was also advertised on the municipal website 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, Councilman Zmigrodski  
Absent - None

**Adoption of Minutes:**

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

February 24, 2020 regular and executive session

March 9, 2020 workshop meeting

**Municipal Budget 2020:**

**ORDINANCE NO. O2020x01**

**TOWN OF BELVIDERE**

**WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**CALENDAR YEAR 201920**

**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 2020 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 \$90,216.21 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 2020 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 \$90,216.21 and that the CY 2020 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 9, 2020 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 April 13, 2020 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.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Belvidere Town Council at a regular meeting held on April 13, 2020.

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. O2020x01

**The ordinance brought no public comment.**

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani and seconded by Councilman Roth to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance No. O2020x01.

**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**

John Mooney, Municipal Auditor advised on the daily changes to the budget process due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The State has not yet approved the Town's budget for adoption. The public hearing will be held tonight as advertised and adoption will take place on April 27th. He advised and there was discussion on a tax anticipation note and estimated tax bills. Kevin Benbrook will contact our bond counsel and draft a TAN resolution

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski and carried to open the public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

**The budget brought no public comment.**

**A motion** was made by Councilman Roth, seconded by Councilman Matlock and carried to close the public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

**The following resolution was read in full by Teresa Yeisley, Municipal Clerk:**

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski to adopt Resolution No. R2020x29.

**RESOLUTION NO. R2020x29**

**TOWN OF BELVIDERE**

**WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND INTRODUCED BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the local budget for the year 2020 was approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Town of Belvidere of the County of Warren that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2020 made:

Record Vote

AYES {Matlock  
 {Miers  
 {Mitchell  
  
 {Napolitani  
 {Roth  
 {Zmigrodski  
 {Kennedy

NAYS {None  
  
 ABSTAINED {None  
  
 ABSENT {None

	From	To
REVENUE		
1. Surplus Anticipated	275,000.00	274,736.08
3. Miscellaneous Revenues – Section B: State Aid Without Offsetting Appropriations		
Garden State Trust	3,430.00	5,291.00
EXPENDITURES		
8. General Appropriations - Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenue		
Municipal Alliance Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse:		
Local Match	1,000	1,897.08

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND INTRODUCED BUDGET**

Be it further resolved that three certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of Local Government Services for certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of the resolution amending the budget adopted by the governing body on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

**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**

**Matters to be Addressed:**

Christine Rolef initiated a discussion regarding DOT grants and award of same and percentage used for estimated tax bills.

Councilwoman Napolitani stated that Chief Scott is pleased with the cooperation he is receiving in addressing matters related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Kevin Benbrook advised he will draft letters to the Royston estate adjacent property owners. The minimum bid will be \$5,000. If there are no bids then the property will go to auction.

**Resolutions:**

**A motion** was made by Councilman Roth and seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski to adopt Resolution Nos. R2020x30 and R2020x31.

**RESOLUTION NO. R2020x30**

**TOWN OF BELVIDERE**

**WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF PREMIUM MONEYS (block 3, lot 11)**

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate 2019-012 dated October 16, 2019 on block 33, lot 11 was redeemed on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the premium paid at the sale in the amount of \$100.00 needs to be returned to US BANK CUST/PRO CAP 8/PRO CAPITAL 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 \$100.00 representing said refund.

US BANK CUST PRO CAP 8/PRO CAPITAL MGT II  
50 SOUTH 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 2050  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

Date: April 13, 2020  
Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

**RESOLUTION NO. R2020x31  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF PREMIUM MONEYS (block 36, lot 12)**

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate 2019-013 dated October 16, 2019 on block 36, lot 12 was redeemed on March 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the premium paid at the sale in the amount of \$100.00 needs to be returned to US BANK CUST/PRO CAP 8/PRO CAPITAL 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 \$100.00 representing said refund.

US BANK CUST PRO CAP 8/PRO CAPITAL MGT II  
50 SOUTH 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 2050  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

Date: April 13, 2020  
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 Zmigrodski and seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani to adopt Resolution Nos. R2020x32 and R2020x33.

**RESOLUTION NO. R2020x32  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
A RESOLUTION IMPLORING THE GOVERNORS OF NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA, AS WELL AS THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF ST. LUKE'S UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK AND THE LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK, TO PROMULGATE UPDATED PROTOCOLS REGARDING OBSTETRICAL LABOR, DELIVERY AND VISITATION**

WHEREAS, to witness the birth of a child is our best opportunity “to experience the meaning of the word miracle”, (Paul Carvel); and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest joys experienced by a spouse is being able to participate in the birth of and have that initial bonding with a new baby; and

WHEREAS, many Warren County couples have brought it to the attention of the Board of Chosen Freeholders that St. Luke’s University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network have imposed a ban on New Jersey visitors, including maternity visits; and

WHEREAS, this ban is particularly discriminatory against Warren County couples, as neither hospital in Warren County offers maternity services, leaving expectant parents no choice but to use medical facilities outside the County; and

WHEREAS, Warren County’s number of COVID-19 infections is far fewer than the amount reported in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley, where St. Luke’s University Health Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network maternity facilities are located, so a ban on family members assisting with the birth of a baby is an unnecessary and heavy-handed approach not supported by the facts; and

WHEREAS, the New York Department of Health has updated specific guidelines for obstetrical and pediatric settings providing for familial support in labor and delivery as well as the immediate postpartum period if the patient so desires; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli has issued an order to hospitals requiring them to one designated support person to be with the expectant mother, deeming such support to be essential to patient throughout labor, delivery and the immediate postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders shares the sentiment that a child’s birth is a special moment and should be celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of a bay without any family members present creates additional stress and anxiety, which could impact delivery; and

WHEREAS, an amended order on visitation, being cognizant of symptoms of COVID-19 and protocols the health, safety and welfare of all patients and staff, should be implemented to ensure a practical, prudent and reasonable policy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren requests that Gov Phil Murphy of the State of New and Gov. Tom Wolf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the respective Boards of Trustees of St. Luke’s University Health Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network, modify the policies for labor and delivery for the birth of a child to permit participation by designated family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Town of Belvidere hereby supports the efforts of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren as set forth in the foregoing resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Gov. Murphy, Gov. Wolf, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the respective Boards of Trustees fo St. Luke’s University Health Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

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 Governing Body of the Town of Belvidere at a meeting held on April 13, 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. R2020x33**

**TOWN OF BELVIDERE**

**WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMMEDIATELY ALLOCATE CRITICALLY NEEDED EMERGENCY AND ECONOMIC FUNDING TO THE COUNTY OF WARREN FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, in response to the deadly COVID-19 (“Corona Virus”) pandemic the Federal Government recently enacted several pieces of legislation aimed at reducing the economic impact and protecting public health; and

WHEREAS, the Corona Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”) is the largest emergency aid package in United State history and provides for over two trillion dollars (\$2,000,000,000,000) in emergency and economic aid and allocates billions of dollars of relief to individuals, businesses, the health care system and state, county and local governments; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020 the United states Senators for the State of New Jersey, Robert Menedez and Cory Booker, announced the release of the first wave of federal funding pursuant to the CARES Act under which New Jersey would receive a combined total in excess of eighty-two million dollars (\$82,000,000) in State and local funding and of which fifteen million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$15,7000,000) in discretionary funding was allocated to State Government’ and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that Northern New Jersey has one of the highest concentrations of confirmed cases in the entire world and is currently considered to be at the epicenter of the national and global emergency caused by the deadly Corona Virus, the County of Warren is one (1) of only four (4) New Jersey Counties not to receive any federal funding; and

WHEREAS, while several other Counties within the State with significantly less Corona Virus cases received federal aid, the tax payers and residents of Warren County and a few other Counties have been marginalized, ignored and left to carry the heavy burden and cost of responding to the most significant national emergency that has faced this County since World War 2 alone and without the benefit of critically needed federal and State assistance; and

WHEREAS, unlike in other parts of the State where testing centers have been opened with the help of State or federal assistance, Warren County, with the assistance of St. Luke’s Hospital and local municipalities, took action to open a testing center on it’s own initiative and funded solely by the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Town of Belvidere, Warren County, New Jersey implorres Federal and State Government to take notice of the significant impact on residents and taxpayers of Warren County caused by the Corona Virus epidemic and to take immediate action to correct and address the inequities caused by the current allocation of State and Federal aid and provide the necessary funding and resources to the County of Warren and municipalities within the County to protect the health and safety of the public.

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 Governing Body of the Town of Belvidere at a meeting held on April 13, 2020.

**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**

**Authorization to Pay Purchase Orders:**

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Zmigrodski to authorize the payment of the purchase orders in the amount of \$630,730.70.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Executive Session:**

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion** was made by Councilman Zmigrodski to adjourn the meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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