

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
691 Water Street  
JANUARY 4, 2016**

Mayor Kennedy opened the workshop meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 the Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ.

**Roll Call:**

Present - Mayor Kennedy, Councilman Fitzgerald, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Tutka

Absent - None

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Matters to be Addressed:**

Howell Street

Councilwoman Miers gave a brief history of the issues before Council regarding Howell Street. Kevin Benbrook advised Council of the following:

Howell Street was dedicated but never accepted by the Town. The street can be vacated if Council determines it is not needed as a public right of way. Rights must be reserved for public utilities. Private and access rights will remain undisturbed for the contiguous property owners. The width of the street cannot be reduced because the Town does not own the property and therefore any encroachments are not an issue for the Town. Both northerly and southerly sections can be vacated. The street can be retained but not maintained. Could consider a special assessment for improvements. Adjoining property owners can maintain street. Any contamination not ultimately the Town's responsibility. Discussion ensued.

Morris Scott - excavation and encroachments allowed by the Town. Grading causing contamination on their property.

Carol Scott - not in favor of vacation.

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers to authorize Kevin Benbrook to prepare a vacation ordinance for Howell Street with notification to all concerned.

**No second. Motion dies.**

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Makatura and carried to authorize Kevin Benbrook to prepare a vacation ordinance for the southerly portion of Howell Street with notification to all parties within 200 feet.

**A motion** was made by Councilman Makatura and seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani to retain the rights to Howell Street as a non-maintained right of way from Water Street north.

**Roll call:**

**Ayes - Councilman Fitzgerald, Councilman Makatura, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Napolitani, Mayor Kennedy**

**Nays - Councilwoman Miers**

**Abstentions - Councilman Tutka**

**Absent - None**

Budget

Councilman Fitzgerald laid out his plan for the formulation of the 2016 budget.

**Public Comment:**

Samuel McDonald (165 Market Street) - curbing on Market Street in need of repair. Recycling can for downtown area. Residents at 155 Market Street parking in front rather than in the rear of their building and smoking in front of the building.

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilwoman Miers and carried to adjourn the workshop meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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