

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
DECEMBER 29, 2014**

Mayor Stettler opened the special meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance and 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 Stettler, Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Sebold

Absent - None

Public Comment:

Harold Hess stated that he was opposed to hiring special counsel. Mayor Stettler was elected by the people to a four-year term.

John Clemmer agreed with Mr. Hess adding that this special meeting was unnecessary.

Robert Blum stated that there was no urgency regarding this matter and all involved should put their "egos and insecurities on the back burner".

Councilman Kennedy advised that this meeting was called specifically to address the 2008 change in the mayoral term and its compliance with State Statutes.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, and seconded by Councilman Kennedy to retain Kevin Benbrook to review and render an opinion on the 2008 ordinance changing the mayoral term from two to four years and the ordinance's compliance with State Statutes with the cost not to exceed \$1,000.

Councilwoman Miers urged that an objective opinion was needed. Mayor Stettler stated that this matter was not urgent. Councilman Makatura stated that the Town needed to seek an independent opinion and offered to pay for this work through his stipend. Mayor Stettler asked about the scope of work, the time frame and were any other attorneys contacted to do this work. Councilman Sebold asked what would happen if the opinion finds that the ordinance was not in compliance with State Statutes and what if the DCA advises otherwise. Councilman Kennedy called the motion and asked for a roll call vote.

Roll call:

Ayes - Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers, Councilwoman Napolitani

Nays - Councilman Sebold, Mayor Stettler

Abstentions - None

Absent - None

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Councilman Sebold and seconded by Councilman Makatura to adopt Resolution No. R2014x116. **Second withdrawn. Motion failed.**

A motion was made by Councilman Sebold, seconded by Councilman Kennedy and carried to adjourn the special meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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