



**CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Chris Seher at approximately 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Tom Douglass, Highland Community Church, Galloway

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vizthum, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Ring, Seher

ABSENT: Camp

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong, Tom Henshaw, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

PRESENTATION – Absecon Board of Education

Superintendent Jim Giaquinto – shared a brief power point presentation that gave an overview of the bond referendum, which will go to the voters on March 11th. Items listed for repairs are: roofing, lighting, restroom rehabs and other renovations. The total cost estimate for this work comes to \$5,210,497.00 and eligible for up to 40% debt service aid from the State that is available, which is approximately \$2,000,000 of the project. There is no guarantee that this level of funding will continue so that is why they want to do this work now. The tax impact projected is at \$35-38 for every \$100,000 assessed value over the life of the amortization schedule.

Robbie Acampora, Advisor from Phoenix Financial - gave specifics on the tax impact for the next three years. It's a 17-year repayment schedule, with a 3.75% rate. They will sell tax-free municipal bonds. Rates are low for a number of years now, but she put a cushion in case the rates are higher when they go to finalize everything. It's been 6 years since this state funding has been available.

Bill Thompson – thanked Council for giving them the time tonight to attend the meeting and also thanked the Mayor for putting it in the Current. He explained why he thought this was the time to do this work. He hopes everyone will support it and feels it will benefit everyone. He invited all to the next school board meeting on 2/25.

Kim – wanted to know what the criteria were to get the 40% funding.

Kevin Settembrimo, architect – everything we submitted was available towards the 40% funding. He explained the types of funding that were available.

Mayor – asked if there was a firm commitment for the 40%.

Kevin – yes, they have an approval letter from the State and explained how it would work.

Chris – wanted to know how you received the money.

Robbie – explained it comes in the form of the State Aid.

Chris – asked if they had any other capital projects planned within the 10-15-year estimate.

Jim – they don't anticipate any other plans to the extent to go out for referendum. Things will get done but not to this extent. They will be put in the 2% cap and would be minor projects.

PUBLIC PORTION –

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Fred Soper - 115 Hobart Ave. – it was mentioned that the school-sending problem was resolved. That has to be creating a problem on our budget. We pay the tuition for that so how do you maintain that 2% increase?

Bill – it's not fully resolved, but 4 years ago options for high school opened up between choice schools and county full-time high school being available. Some options don't cost the taxpayers money other than transportation cost.

Jim – last year of the 102 graduates, approximately 20-25 went to Holy Spirit; currently freshman class in O.C. has 5; Mainland, 19 freshman; Charter Tech is about 8 per class and ACIT has the most at 37. Pleasantville has 9 and some go the Prep. Students who go to a choice school, parents get aid in lieu of \$884.00 per student.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Kim – maintaining the schools can only enhance our real estate and young families will move here.

Chris – we've tried to make it known that this council is working hard to keep the city tax portion at a flat rate of 0% increase. Tonight was an excellent presentation and they made compelling arguments. He feels this might be the best year to do it and a better time to absorb the increase.

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works and Sewer – discussed the NJ Ave. and Highland Blvd. roadwork, which hopefully bids will go out this summer. FEMA grants for Turner and Kunkely properties are waiting for paperwork. Explained to residents the process of sewer problems and they should call public works first, because once you call a paid company, you will not get reimbursed.

Jim – Public Safety – next meeting is March 4. The Absecon EMS and Fire Dept. are looking for volunteers.

Chief Dave Risley – 4 new cameras were added in Heritage Park. The bulkhead is the next area to be done.

Frank – Parks and Playgrounds – we are implementing background checks for coaches or anyone who deals with minors. We will have shared services with Galloway for it. If someone is rejected, you will have an opportunity to appeal. Privacy will be protected and you will get either a yes or a no; it won't say specifics. ASAC will be doing the field scheduling now for the different sports. Donations for Concerts in the Park are now being accepted and the schedule is now full.

Mayor – explained Galloway's role in the background checks and our agreement with them. He would like some wording changed dealing with a payment schedule, which he would like it be monthly. It doesn't give a description of services either in the agreement either. His other concern is the ordinance to be voted on allowing ASAC to schedule the fields and standards they will follow in allowing resident and non-resident teams to use the fields. It should include a requirement for insurance; a hold harmless indemnification agreement; criteria for the condition of the fields, etc.

Jim – Finance – announced next budget meeting would be 2/27 at 7 p.m. since Don is absent.

Mike – Community Affairs – announced upcoming events in town

Kim – Economic Development – next meeting is 3/6 @ 6:30 p.m. Ord. #3 should be finalized tonight to change the parcel size for development in the C1 zone on the WHP. They are looking for an artist to assist with painting the sewer pump stations artwork, which will be approved with Res. #58.

Chris – a zoning board member has resigned so he asked for suggestions on nominations.

Mayor – working toward 3/20 to have our Fair Share Housing Plan and Visions property settled by Judge Isman. Website is in test mode now. He is working with TelVue, the provider for our ABTV on getting it upgraded.

Chris – He is having second thoughts about the informational sign that is supposed to cost around \$13,000. Some residents mentioned the practicality of it and he thinks it might not be a good idea after all. Agrees with the State focusing on tourism now in Atlantic City, which is down 18% in two years. Cape May has gone up though.

Tom – spoke about Ord. #4 getting our codebook up to order. It will get paid over 5 years. Res. #56 is amending Res. #50 to change wording. Thanked Public Works for the snow removal this year. He will work on the Ordinance for the use of fields.

Jessica – we are finishing up the 2013 annual audit and

Carie – monthly reports

Tax - \$2,494,309.75

Construction - \$3,690

Municipal Court - \$11,338.73

Clerk's office - \$5,498

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

03 Amending Chapter 224-44 A. (5) of the Developmental Ordinance of the City of Absecon.

Motion for second reading – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes
Motion to open to public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Horton
All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

04 Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation in the amount of \$19,100.00 for the codification of Ordinances.

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

- 05 Authorizing Criminal History Record Background Checks for employees and volunteers involved with City Programs or Services that can/will have contact with minors.

PULLED

CONSENT AGENDA

- 56 Amending Resolution 50-2014, authorizing the hiring of a part time Electrical Subcode Official for the City of Absecon.
- 57 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Galloway for the purpose of doing Background Checks for all sports programs and certain other City Services that have contact with minors.
- 58 Authorizing the painting of artworks on all City sewer-pumping stations.
- 59 Authoring a Special Emergency Appropriation for the Codification of Ordinances.
- 60 Authorizing the Absecon Social and Athletic Club (ASAC) to develop and implement schedules for the City of Absecon on a temporary basis.
- 61 Accepting donations and grants for the 2014 Summer Concerts in the Park Series.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,468,082.38

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, except for G0041, H0097 and K0059; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/6/2014

Closed Session as to form and content only – 2/6/2014

Motion to approve regular minutes of 2/6/14 – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to approve closed session minutes of 2/6/14 – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____