



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

**MARCH 6, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Lisa Whittaker, Youth with a Mission, Absecon

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

PRESENTATION – Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo spoke about a bill introduced regarding the County Tax Assessing program. Atlantic County is considering it. Gloucester County has implemented this type of program.

Don – heard there are 5 communities up North trying to do it and asked if he knew of it.

Vince – he didn’t but he explained that a bill is coming out that should explain the whole idea of shared services. Also mentioned that State Aid would be reduced if a town doesn’t sign up for shared services if it’s available to them. He will keep people posted on this.

Chris asked to open it to the public for questions.

All were in favor.

Motion was made by Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

Chris – asked which bill Atlantic County’s is being drafted after – Gloucester or Monmouth County

Bill – it’s a mixture of both really and our county is interested in it.

Motion to close – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works – no report but wanted to recognize public works again for the snow cleanup

Eddie Dennis – explained the two conceptual projects that are to get completed with grant funds. One was at Turner Ave. where the old swim club was. It’s currently a park and the area is dilapidated. He explained what work would be done at that location. The other site is the Kunkely property, which is adjacent to the bulkhead area down at Faunce Landing Road. It’s the dirt parking area and he described the changes to be done. There would be some elevated parking installed, as well as a deck about 20 x 42 ft. in size. It will not be secondary

boat ramp or water access, unless possibly the Pedal, Paddle Run and those types of crafts. No trailer parking will be allowed, but there will be 26 spots made out of crushed shells.

Jim – Public Safety met Tuesday and discussed the Police Certification process. Improvements and requirements of the building are being done this year and it will be moved into 2015. They talked about police presence at the school and they will continue to be there in the morning as they can to make sure speeding is under control. He was wrong about this year being the last year for the police furniture budgetary process. There is one more year left so 2015 will be the last. Welcomed volunteer firefighter Ethan Roswell. Snow plowing was a success. EMS finances were discussed and they are catching up on their bills. They are still running with a 24-hour staff but are asking for volunteers.

Dave Buchanan - a dispatcher here explained the Police Unity Tour, which honors officers who died while on duty. We only had one who was hit by a drunk driver on 9/2/56. He is raising funds to ride his bike 320 miles from North Jersey to Washington, D.C. Each member has to raise \$1,800 and it goes to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in D.C. He will be doing some fundraising throughout the next 2 months.

Frank – Parks Playground – had not meeting since last council meeting. Worked on the ordinance dealing with background checks on people who deal with children in any capacity.

Mayor – the ordinance was redrafted and structured to provide implementation by Galloway Township. We passed the resolution to accept this shared services agreement subject to it being able to end in 30 days by either party, but he doesn't know if Galloway passed that resolution yet. Another concern he had was the appeal process mentioned and explained why. It might open us to liability and should be evaluated by our risk manager.

Frank – thinks there are only certain things you can appeal on.

Mayor – it's not how the ordinance reads

Chris – was this appeal process in the original copy of the ordinance and we copied from Galloway right?

Tom – yes it was. It's modeled after Galloway's and they have the same insurance company as us.

Frank – doesn't understand why we are having a hard time passing this ordinance when other towns have.

Mayor – concerned about liability and feels it should be looked into.

Discussion on how to proceed was held.

Tim – if you introduced it tonight and then the insurance company looks at it and determines it's okay; then you could adopt it at the next meeting. If they say it's not okay, then it would have to be reintroduced.

Mayor – couldn't we introduce it without that appeal section and then if we can put it in, we amend the ordinance?

Frank – the coaches are already doing it so he didn't see the need to rush it and get it wrong.

Tim – the timing isn't as important then. You can go forward with the removal of Section 7 tonight or wait and come back with the changes.

Chris – why can't we introduce it without Section 7 and if we are allowed to have it put it back in two weeks.

Consensus was to introduce Ord. #5 tonight but remove section 7 and changing sections 8, 9 and 10 to 7, 8 & 9.

Mayor - asked Tom if Galloway signed the shared services agreement Resolution that was passed two weeks ago.

Tom - he said he sent it, but she has been busy and will get it to him soon.

Don – Finance committee met and discussed: road program; tennis courts and loader for Public Works; generator for Public Works bldg; sign for City Hall; carpets in City Hall; recording system upgrades; ABTV upgrades; Police Dept. furniture and radios and fire dept. a/c unit.

Chris – we will be moving on the budget at the 3/20 meeting. Don mentioned the capital budget items tonight.

Mike – Community Affairs – announced upcoming events and possible events.

Mike made a motion to add Res. #67 to the agenda – second – Councilwoman Horton
All were in favor.

Mike – he explained how having this resolution would get the Green Team started. His next meeting is 4/3.

Kim – Economic Development – Absecon PTO and the Green Team will be having movie night at the end of the school year at the football field.

Mayor – the tax sale was today and 109 properties with a total of \$173,277 and last year was 50 properties at \$98,045. It includes delinquent tax bills and sewer bills. It's more than doubled, an indication of our taxpayers and the trouble they are experiencing. He attended the Senior Appreciation Dinner and it was a great event.

Frank – Bob and Eva Shultz were honored as citizens of the year at the Senior Dinner

Mayor – our settlement hearing is scheduled for 3/20 before Judge Isman. He will evaluate the settlement agreement between the City and Visions. We did receive opposition papers filed with the Court this week from one of the unit owners. He read them and their concern is a deed restriction on the property and he hopes the Judge will see they are a distinct difference from our issues we are resolving with Visions. Still working with the professionals and other developers who make up our Fair Share Housing Plan. There is litigation at the State level to force COAH to release its third round of obligations of all municipalities. In closed session tonight, we will discuss our negotiations with the PBA with regard to their contract. There could be action taken after that. He has been working on the website construction and it's coming along. Mentioned flood insurance and the rising cost and a new bill that the President should sign to have the increases go up gradually.

Tom – very rough draft was sent to our solicitor for review and recommendations. He will hand it when he gets it back. Thanked Public Works for the fine job they did with the snow and ice. They are trying to come up with a schedule for street sweeping and leaf collection this year. ASAC is finalizing the athletic fields uses and schedule. The Green Team resolution isn't until 12/31/14 this year, so he asked Carie to put it on the agenda for the Reorganization meeting so it's on every year from now on.

Mayor – suggested an ordinance be done so this action doesn't need to be done.

Jessica – finishing up the budget and should be ready for introduction at the 3/20 meeting. Couple other budget items will be on the next meeting also.

Eddie – will be working with the Public Works committee to come up with the road program list for 2014. April will be the preconstruction meeting for the 2013 road program. A couple blocks of Morton and Lisbon Avenue will be done.

Chris – reminded all of the school board election on 3/11 from 1-9 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. He was not happy with the ballot that came out; didn't think it gave enough information. Spoke about the problems at Beazer Homes and the odors they are having and trying to work it out with the ACUA. The Gas Co. is looking for another 50-year agreement to have access to city streets. Eddie is going to talk to them about how they cut into our streets. We are asking the County to look into some traffic calming effects on Pitney Road.

Don – explained Resolution #65,

Mayor – explained Resolution #66, regarding safety training throughout the year.

Chris – acknowledged the annual D&R from the Zoning Board for the year 2013. Spoke about county tax portions on the different cities.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Camp – 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 INTRODUCTION

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

Chris – we will be deleting section 7 and then changing the numbers of the remaining sections.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

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

Tom – we will be updating our codebook with this money and it will go through 2015

Motion for second reading – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

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

Motion to open to public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

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 – Councilman Phillips

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- 62** Accepting a Volunteer Firefighter into the Absecon City Fire Department.
- 63** Allowing the Absecon Education Association to use the Absecon Football Field June 13th, 2014 for Movie Night.
- 64** Allowing Police Tele-communicator David A. Buchanan to solicit funds for the Police Unity Tour.
- 65** Opposing the decision rendered by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission Rejecting a proposal to allow construction of a natural gas pipeline and defeating a memorandum of agreement, which had been supported by the staff of the Pinelands Commission, the staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the staff of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 66** Authorizing the Mayor and other City Officials to execute a 2014 Safety Contract with the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 67** Establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee for the City of Absecon.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Phillips

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$242,225.09

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, except for 9637; A0032 and J0014; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/20/14

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/27/14

Chris – had a few minor clerical issues so they will be amended

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes, except for 2/20; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes, except for 2/27; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

CLOSED SESSION – Res. #68

Tim – announced item to be discussed as an update on the collective bargaining agreement with the PBA. The length of the discussion should be about 15 minutes. Council expects to take action when they return.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

Tim - It's now 9:51 p.m. and we are back in open session. Discussed was the update concerning negotiations with the PBA and potential ratification of a settlement setting forth the major terms of the agreement to be reached by all parties. It would still have to be ratified by the PBA and also council.

Resolution #69-2014 – Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement and such other documents necessary to effectuate that Memorandum of Agreement with the Mainland PBA Local 77 for the years 2012 through 2015.

Motion for this resolution to be added to the agenda – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

Motion to approve Res. #69 – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

Chris – thanked the Mayor for his time and diligence in working with our labor attorney and Leon Costello as well in explaining contract 101.

Discussion about the administrator's contract and his request was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____