



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

**APRIL 3, 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. Dave Delaney, Central UMC, Linwood

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ring, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Seher

ABSENT: Vizthum, Camp

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong; City Administrator, Tom Henshaw; CFO, Jessica Thompson; Deputy City Clerk, Jessica Snyder; City Engineer, Eddie Dennis

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

PRESENTATION – Assemblyman Chris Brown – Airport Status

The airport is an important part of this area. We now have United Airlines that is flying into the airport. The two new hubs are being aided by CRDA so some of the risk is being assumed. We all agree that the government has no business running airlines or having any long-term effect. In order for the airport to be successful, the private sector has to start using the airlines. We have a clean, safe place for people to use and if we can offer people another product other than gaming, we can be a place they want to go to.

Council President Seher – he and the Mayor share a joint vision for the airport in marketing it for other than commercial traffic and support the idea of cargo use. He offered their help if he needs it.

Chris Brown - He has met with people from the Port Authority and there have been discussions to that effect. They’ve acquired equipment to help in that use also.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

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

All were in favor.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works & Sewer – have not met since last meeting. She thanked Bill Steiner from Public Works for a nice tour of the facility. He explained all the equipment and trucks to her.

Eddie Dennis, City Engineer – gave an update on the 2013 road program. It's under contract and the preconstruction will be scheduled this month. Hopes work can begin soon. On the 2014 road program, he presented a list of roads and he is working with Lloyd Jones in going over it and put together a final list and improvements for consideration. That will be discussed at the next committee meeting, which will be 4/17 @ 3:30 p.m.

Councilman Ring – gave Jim's Public Safety report – Jerry Cohen has been appointed the new fire chief.

Councilman Phillips – Parks & Playground – discussed the fields' conditions and the drainage problem at the wagon wheel area and some lights are out and are being replaced. Field scheduling should be done this Sunday. Concerts in the park bands have been secured and it will be posted in the Mainland Journal.

Council President Seher – asked about the ordinance dealing with background checks

Attorney, Tim Maguire – he sent out the new language for Section 7 to be inserted into the ordinance. He was waiting for an approval if it was okay.

Councilman Ring – questioned the language about all coaches needing a background check

Tim Maguire – it will be for Absecon personnel

It will go back to Parks and Playgrounds Committee. Their next meeting is 4/15.

Councilman Phillips – received an update from the 9/11 Memorial committee who has had many discussions and they are moving forward along with it.

Councilman Ring – Community Affairs – described the rendering to Council. An architect and engineer have volunteered their time. Need to find a suitable and appropriate location now. April 8th is a mural presentation at the school. Memorial Day parade will be 5/26 @ 9:30 a.m. The American Legion is getting a new electronic sign donated to them. Announced other upcoming events. He is now the Scout recruiter if anyone has a son who is interested at any age level. His next meeting will be 5/1/14 @ 6 p.m.

Council President Seher – explained that Council was thinking of getting a similar sign near City Hall. We can use that money for something else now.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – met tonight and discussed the residents at 40 N. Shore Rd. who are talking to the bank about allowing the path down in that area. They discussed the possible sale of city land to promote residential growth. Looking into a downtown façade upgrade with the NJ Ave. businesses and the clock plaza is supposed to get resurfaced, but they would like pavers around the clock instead and remove the benches and possibly install small trees or landscaping and making it a central focus of town. The next meeting is 5/1/14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Armstrong – he received a call from Arch Liston who inquired about the possibility of purchasing an ATV from our ambulance service that is used on beaches. He passed the information onto them for them to decide. Our website is up and running now. Spoke about the Conifer development to be at the old Clayton Block site on New Road. Ordinance #9 and Resolutions #79 through 85 on tonight's agenda cover pertain to the affordable housing. We must do this to comply with the law for affordable housing requirements for our town. This will be a 71-unit rental project and is a major component of our plan. Rob Reid will be here for the second reading of it in case questions arise.

City Administrator, Tom Henshaw – new lights were installed in the council chambers. Leaf pickup starts next week and the schedule is on the website. Lt. DeRitis was unable to attend tonight, so he explained Resolution 87 and the programs that it covers; which is the DARE program; National Night Out; Hooked on Fishing; Forrest Friends from the Marsh School; Life skills at both schools and Holy Spirit; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and a senior citizen program for medications.

Jessica Thompson, CFO – explained Ord. #8 dealing with the bond that will include all the capital item expenditures for this year's budget. It will take about 6 weeks to get through the process. Second readings for Ord. 6 and 7 are on for tonight. The budget will be posted on the website soon.

Deputy Clerk, Jessica Snyder – the mercantile license application renewals were mailed out to the businesses so they should expect them soon

Council President Seher – The Council and the Mayor have been invited to the ribbon cutting at 622-624 S. New Road for Galloway’s new family center on 4/23 @ 11:00 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 08** Bond Ordinance providing for various capital improvements in and by the City of Absecon, appropriating \$1,260,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$1,197,000 bonds or notes of the City to finance part of the cost thereof.

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring

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

- 09** Amending Chapter 224, Article XXXVI - Absecon Developmental Ordinance of the Zoning Map creating the Multi-Unit Rental Development District (MURD)

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION

- 06** An Ordinance of the City of Absecon, to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

Motion for second of Ord. #6-14 – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Phillips

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

Motion to open to the public for comment – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

- 07** Re-Appropriating \$79,114.59 proceeds of obligation not needed for their original purposes to provide for building improvements and recording and video equipment.

Motion for second of Ord. #7-14 – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Phillips

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

Motion to open to the public for comment – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

RESOLUTION OUT OF CONSENT

77 Appointing a member to the Zoning Board, namely Gregory Seher.

Councilwoman Horton – supported this appointment. He is a member of the Green Team and he cares about his community. He is committed to the betterment of Absecon and will be an asset to the Zoning Board.

Motion to move Res. #77 – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Phillips

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

Council President, Seher – explained he abstained because Greg is his son; Pat Sheeran resigned creating a vacancy. There were no other nominations so he stepped up.

CONSENT AGENDA

78 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by John Hill.

79 Urging the New Jersey Legislature and the Governor to accept the invitation of the Supreme Court to enact legislation to establish a new, more sensible approach to Affordable Housing in our State.

80 Urging the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing to promulgate regulations in accordance with the schedule the New Jersey Supreme Court established on March 14, 2014.

81 Authorizing the execution of an Affordable Housing Agreement between Conifer Reality, LLC and the City of Absecon.

82 Authorizing execution of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement to support the economic feasibility of an Affordable Housing Development proposed by Conifer Realty, LLC on Lots 2, 3 and 11 of Block 289 on the City's official tax map and commonly known as 701-705 South New Road.

83 Authorizing actions associated with the proposed Affordable Housing Agreement between the City of Absecon and Conifer Realty, LLC.

84 Endorsing the findings of the Planning Board Planner with regard to the lack of a density bonus for the 72-Unit Affordable Housing Development proposed by Conifer Realty, LLC on Lots 2, 3, and 11 of Block 289 on the City's official tax map and commonly known as 701-705 South New Road.

85 Resolution of Need for seventy-two Affordable Housing Units at 701-705 South New Road.

86 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely The Charles A. Hammell, American Legion.

87 Authorizing an application for the Municipal Alliance Grant for 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$836,300.35

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, abstain on C0225 & M0201; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 3/20/14

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Gerald Hoenes – 740 Shelburne Ave. – commended the Mayor for his explanation of the ordinances relative to what is going on. He thought the sign was a dead issue. He thought it was a waste of money. There are better ways to spend the money. Wanted to know if the bond payments are in the tax rate. Would like to know more about the Conifer project as to what it will look like. He knows it has to go to the Planning Board for approval.

Mayor - There are concept plans I can show to you if you want to stop in. There will be 14 1-bedroom units; 35- 2-bedroom and 22-3-bedroom.

Council President Seher – announced that the Superintendent of Schools is retiring. We had an agreement with the School Board to meet after the bond referendum was voted on. He feels we should get together asap before the school board makes a decision about the vacancies.

Jerry Hoenes – He knows what the main question is going to be; it's been talked about for years. The School Board will review it as they make a decision regarding the administration of the school. It's not going to be something that we may be able to do.

Council President Seher - If the question were answered to the satisfaction of the majority, they wouldn't keep asking it.

Jerry Hoenes – there is a defense, but maybe the School Board will change it and see what happens. Egg Harbor City went to one principal and one superintendent and eliminated one principal a year ago and they have less than 500 students. They have the two schools as well and they did it. They have no responsibility for their high school students; they just all go to Cedar Creek. We can see how it works out for them. If you go to towns with the same number of students or town size, you will find they have more administrators than us. There is much more work required from the State from an Administrator now than there was in the past. It needs to be discussed. It's our responsibility to defend it. He will look into a joint meeting date.

Motion to close public – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION - #88-2014

City Solicitor Tim Maguire – stated the issue to be discussed is negotiations concerning collective bargaining agreement or terms and conditions of employment contract. Basically what will be discussed will be a grievance that has been filed by the Public Works Dept. It will last approximately 30 minutes after which the public session shall reconvene.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilwoman Horton – second -
Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring
ROLL CALL: Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

Council President Seher – we are back in open session and it's 9:05 p.m.

City Solicitor Tim Maguire – we only discussed one issue that was concerning a grievance filed by the Public Works department concerning an interpretation of language in their contract.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Jessica Snyder, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____