



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

**JULY 17, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Pastor Frank Brown, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Port Republic

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Camp, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Seher

ABSENT: Vizthum, Ring

ALSO PRESENT: City Solicitor, Tim Maguire; Mayor John Armstrong; Jessica Thompson; Jessica Snyder

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

PRESENTATION – Commendation of Absecon Firefighters Rob Kuhn and Dale Conover Mayor Armstrong – presented a commendation to Rob for saving a girl from choking while on vacation and then while traveling home the both of them pulled a person from a burning vehicle and controlled the fire with extinguishers until emergency personnel arrived. He then thanked all the firefighters for what they do.

PRESENTATION – Absecon EMS

Barry Bruner – new Chief Executive Officer – recapped the subscription program that was recently in the newspaper. It replaces the solicitation program and in lieu of donations, this program was started. It's a dedicated fee that would cover your co-pays if you don't have secondary insurance. If you subscribe, you wouldn't get billed for using the ambulance service. It's all on an individual basis, depending on the type of insurance one has. The cost of it is \$50 for the year. The State has been recommending this since 1995. It will run on a calendar year, from August to August. He then explained how it works and the pricing. It is not retroactive or prorated.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works – met today and the 2013 road program is actually ahead of schedule and should finish within the next two weeks. The 2014 road program is under way for bids. The tennis courts will be getting some work done on them also. The grant jobs are in the permitting

stage and they should be in place by the end of the year and then out to bid and start construction in the Spring. NJ American Water is replacing some water lines in town. The generator has been ordered for the Public Works dept. Res. #134-2014 is the approval of the purchase for the John Deere wheel loader. Her next meeting is Thursday, 8/21 @ 3:30 p.m.

Chris – confirmed that the cost would not be 524K, that is the model number. It will be \$143,000.

Councilman Phillips – Public Safety – their meeting will be cancelled 8/5 due to National Night Out. **Parks & Playgrounds** – background checks are well under way for the coaches. No one will be allowed on the field if not wearing their badge. Signs were ordered for the soccer and baseball fields. Lights are being looked at for repair and maintenance. Concerts in the Park are going well. They are planning on looking to try to get some money for the fields. Even though they look good, they need some upgrades to the drainage. Ed Dennis will get a package with a breakdown of prices. The next meeting is 8/19 at 7 p.m. Committee members would like to be involved with the Turner Ave. and Kunkley property projects.

Mayor Armstrong – explained Ord. 12-14 dealing with hotel/motel id's. They were required to keep information for an indefinite period of time. This will change it to 60 days.

Councilman Camp for Finance – thanked the Absecon fire and police depts. for their work during the storm on Tuesday night. Electric had gone out in certain areas. They met with Glenn Insurance reps for JIF and we are doing well this year. Our contract is up this year, so we are looking at signing up for another 3 years. Hopefully, the cost will go down from what we pay now at \$450,000. Next finance meeting will be 8/21 at 6 p.m.

Councilwoman Horton – Community Affairs – the next meeting is 8/7. Asked people to attend National Night Out on 8/5.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – next meeting is 8/7. Her and Rob Reid have asked businesses about getting low interest loans.

Mayor John Armstrong – Absecon Gardens' improvements have advanced and they are close to being marketed.

Council President Seher – feels Church Street repairs need to be done before any C.O. is issued. The Mayor agrees with him too. He spoke about Ord. #13-14, which cleans up the codebook dealing with the Mayor appointing School Board members. They are elected now. Family Promise gave a presentation regarding their organization and as of now they have added 3 more congregations participating. Mentioned Assemblyman Brown's letter dealing with casinos in Atlantic City closing and the impact it has on all of us too. He is asking for support by a resolution that we ask the State not to permit the expansion of casino gaming outside of Atlantic City before Jan. 31, 2016.

Mayor – agrees, but he has reservations about NY moving ahead with casinos. People at the State level are concerned and the push to allow casinos in North Jersey is an effort to block the loss of revenue to our State. He is not a fan of expansion in North Jersey either.

Chris – there was a 5 year commitment by the Governor and State Senate President to the casinos in AC, and doesn't understand why they feel differently now. They need to give an explanation as to why they are doing this. He is still looking for the 2005 traffic study analysis that was the basis for them deciding that an exit 40 full interchange was not needed on the Parkway. We should OPRA that document.

Jessica Thompson – we should be receiving informal bids for our capital program and the bond anticipation note next week. It should be for about \$1.5 million. Will report on it at the next meeting. Spoke about getting the meetings live on the television.

Jessica Snyder – June reports

Clerk's office – \$14,342.65

Court – \$11,751.82

Construction - \$5,801.00

Tax Collector - \$282,876.51

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Oscar Dutch – 120 Hobart Ave. – commented about the central dispatch committee. It is moving along and it might be 2 ½ years out. Stockton is not holding it up; it just takes time. It's been narrowed down to 5 companies to build it on 10 acres of ground that Stockton has given to the County for \$1.00 at the corner of Mays Landing Rd & Duerer St. The school will share the building with us and they will maintain it; so it's a win-win situation for the County. CRDA has given \$3.5 million for communications to AC, but they can't build it there, so they will be joining the County now.

Jerry Cohen, Fire Chief – 809 Chelsea Road – thanked Council and the Mayor for recognizing the two firefighters tonight. Welcomed Bill Wenz back to work. Asked about the street sweeper because you never know when it will come down; as well as leaf pickup. Other towns put up signs to notify and asked if we could do something like that.

Councilwoman Cain – they have discussed the street sweeping and has asked about a schedule or notification made. The problem is if something comes up and they can't do it that day, residents would get mad. It was also hard to get a schedule to do the whole city. She will bring it up again with Lloyd, but there are only 6 of them, so taking a person away permanently would hurt them. As to the leaf pickup, there will be a Fall schedule like was done in this past Spring.

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

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 12** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 216-Hotel and Motel Registration, reducing the period required for certain document retention.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips

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

- 13** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 19-Education, Board of, deleting section 2-appointments; vacancies, and reserving the same for future use.

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Phillips

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

2014 RESOLUTIONS

- 134** Authorizing the City's participation in the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) for contract #060311-JDC, acquisition of a wheel loader 524K.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under item, Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be discussed separately.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Phillips
ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$2,152,188.90

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/3/2014

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Camp
ROLL CALL: Camp, abstain; Horton, yes; Cain, abstain; Phillips, abstain; Seher, yes

MINUTES WILL BE CARRIED TO NEXT MEETING FOR MORE VOTES

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully,

Carie Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____