



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 19, 2015

WORK & REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

INVOCATION – Rev. Tom Douglass, Highland Community Church

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong; Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED – Chris

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works – met today and discussed the purchase of a new truck for public works, flooring for city hall, the purchase of a new generator, the 2014 and 2015 road programs. The Highland Avenue project will be discussed Tuesday with the County and should start by the summer. Thanked Public Works dept. for a great job with the snow removal and plowing. They asked residents that if they use blowers, they don't blow the snow back into the street. Any large potholes on State Roads can be reported to 1-800pothole. Her next mtg is 3/19 @ 3:30 p.m.

Jim – Public Safety – haven't met since last meeting. His next meeting is 3/3 @ 7 p.m.

Frank - Parks & Playground – discussed the wagon wheel harnesses to be replaced before the start of baseball season. Also Phase I will be starting shortly for backstop area. The clubhouse second floor will be completed by volunteers at no charge. The background check process still has a few glitches, so anyone interested in spring sports should get it in right away. There is an amended ordinance on the agenda tonight to vote on that makes a change to the original one to allow a temporary badge. Concerts in the park schedule is being worked on. Eddie Dennis presented a blue print for Turner Ave. and Kunkley sites. His next meeting is 3/17 @ 7 p.m.

Don – Finance – they met tonight and discussed foreclosure properties in town. There is a lot owner on President Ave., which is a paper street and also, landlocked, so they want to donate it back to the city. Taxes on it are \$5,000, but we are reviewing the policy we have in place first. His next meeting is 3/19 @ 6:00 p.m.

Chris – mentioned they had a budget meeting and another is scheduled for next week, but right now the plan is to keep the tax rate flat for the second year in a row. Expenses and debt will stay the same. There will be a capital program, but not as big as last year's. We are thinking about \$850,000 for this year.

Mike – Community Affairs – announced upcoming events in town. Spoke about Res. #46 and #47, routine resolutions approved every year. His next meeting is 3/5 @ 5:00 p.m.

Kim – Economic Development – Her meeting is 3/5 @ 6:30 p.m.

ASSEMBLYMAN CHRIS BROWN – thanked Council for letting him come in and give them updates on what is happening in the State. He spoke about a bills that are up for votes dealing with Atlantic City and the tax problems that are occurring.

Mayor – attended a JIF meeting today who handles our insurance for the city. He's on the Atlantic County Improvement Authority and he has spoken to a rep from ACCC about a concept for another training restaurant maybe here in Absecon.

Administrator – spoke on Resolutions #45 and #48.

Chris – discussed the budget of Atlantic County; Atlantic City and Absecon and made comparisons of the valuation of the towns.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public- Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton
All were in favor.

Eileen Tucker – Meadowview Ave. – wanted to read a letter into the record that she had sent to Council and Mayor on the way her father (Bill Wenz) who has worked here for 22 years and the way he was treated at work, making him choose to retire when he hadn't planned on doing that.

Mayor – with Bill's consent, he read a letter that he had sent to Bill in November responding to his comments.

Bill Wenz – 676 Chancery Lane - Galloway – responded back with comments regarding the Mayor's response to him back in November.

Tim Maguire – told Bill if he wanted to pursue anything, he should send a letter to him and he will look into it. If not, we won't go any further with his allegations. He feels the people should be talked to at City Hall and see what the environment is like.

Dave Condon – 16 O'Brien Ave. – EHT – employee who retired yesterday after almost 26 years. Explained what his job was and how this was his second home. He was told when he was hired by Bill Hurd and all the employees when hired, to be respectful of each other and the residents and try to help them out the best you can. He was a witness to some of the allegations made by Bill and he was appalled. Things have changed over the years and it's not the atmosphere it used to be and that needs to be changed. He hated to see Bill treated that way and an investigation should be done into the matter and suggested a personnel committee be established again.

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

REGULAR MEETING

- 02** Amending Ordinance 05-2014 and 08-2014 – Authorizing criminal history background checks for employees and volunteers involved with City programs or services that can/will have contact with minors.

Chris – explained the change is a time limit for the badges once the process is started. It can go 30, 60 90 or even longer to hear anything back. The solution was to have temporary badges issued, but then do we put a time limit on those or not?

Mayor – spoke to the Business Administrator from Somers Point and he indicated that they are experiencing as much as a two month delay in receiving responses from the State to the applications too. He feels a 90 day period would be appropriate maybe.

Tim – explained that these applicants are volunteers and we want to encourage them to come out. He then explained why the background check came about and maybe a phone call could be made after it's been 60 days to see what the holdup is.

Frank –If you do have a record, that application usually comes back quicker. He feels that someone needs to police this process. After his committee meets, there could be a change to the ordinance at second reading.

Motion to introduce – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

2015 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

- 01** An Ordinance creating Chapter 150 of the Code of the City of Absecon entitled Vacant and Abandoned Residential Properties.

Motion for second reading – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

Mayor – this will implement a recent State law that allows us to require the holders of liens on residences in Absecon that initiated foreclosure action. It requires to register an agent to be responsible for the property.

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

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

2015 RESOLUTIONS

- 45 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Inter-local Agreement with Atlantic County for Aerial Mosquito Spraying.
- 46 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon Blue Devils.
- 47 Granting a Raffle License to Holy Spirit High School, Inc.
- 48 Authorizing the City Administrator to advertise for Part-Time Tele-Communicators.

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this 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 considered separately.

Resolutions #45 to #48

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

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,569,559.84

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes, abstain A0005; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/5/2015

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

Chief DeRitis – announced that the road work will begin again on Monday on Mill and Wescoat Roads.

A budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-12-15