



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

Phone (609) 641-0663x101  
Fax (609) 645-5098

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**  
**WORK & REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Moment of Silence

**ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: Mayor

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

**STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris**

**NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED – Chris**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

All were in favor.

**Charlie Morgan – 708 Elberon Ave.** – his street was recently paved and recently it was marked out as if work is to be done. Rumors are spreading as to what is being done and he wanted to know if Council is aware of anything.

**Frank** – does not know what they are doing, but there is a moratorium for 5 years and if they did they'd have to replace it to the same condition. He had a similar situation but nothing was ever done on his street.

**Sandy** – they're not supposed to dig anything up on that street and she doesn't know why either.

Jessica is to look into it with the City Engineer.

Motion to close public - Councilman Camp - second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

## REPORTS

**Sandy - Public Works** – they met this afternoon and items discussed were: the grant for Pennsylvania Ave. was approved, which the Mayor will speak on later. The 2015 road program is going strong and the work on Connecticut Ave. might be headache with school in session, the lights on Marin Drive need to be looked into since many are broken and out, but they are not owned by AC Electric but by the homeowners and their homeowner's association was dissolved. On the driveway off of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. into the ball fields, two speed humps are to be installed to control traffic speed. At Traymore & Haddon Ave. there have been a few accidents occurring, so we are looking into the placements of the stop signs and possibly additional signage or lines being painted. Next meeting is 10/15 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Jim - Public Safety** – Res. #144 is back on the agenda tonight relating to the Ambulance Squad fees

**Chris** – asked if crossing guards can handle traffic congestion and can they control traffic

**Mayor** – crossing guards can stop traffic for the crossing of students only, they don't have authority to control other traffic moves

**Jim** – that's correct. In the past, there were crossing guards who were experienced and did direct traffic, but he thinks changes were made to them directing traffic in the past couple of years. He will look into it and talk to the Chief and find out.

**Frank - Parks & Playground** – the 9/15 meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase for the Park program will go out to bid on 9/29<sup>th</sup> and awarded on 10/1. If all is well the sod will be installed in certain areas to control erosion problems first. Next meeting will be 10/20 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Don – Finance** – we have used 75% of our budget this year so far and are on target as long as no unexpected expenses come up. We received our Best Practices Report and we received a 47 out of 50. He then discussed certain things that they look at. We also will be sending letters out to properties that the City has liens on and try to get collect on them before we foreclosure on them. We are now able to scan our tax and sewer bills, cutting down on paperwork. Next meeting will be 10/15.

**Jim** – spoke about Res. #156 on the agenda tonight accepting money from the Federal Body Armor Fund

**Jessica T.** – said that the Best Practices Report will be emailed out soon. If you receive 80% or better you don't lose state aid.

**Chris** – explained to the public how the Best Practices Report came about. The good news is we've always received a good rating.

**Mike – Community Affairs** – the Chair of Honor dedication is tomorrow night and he thanked everyone who was involved. It's also the Field of Dreams opening night. He then announced other upcoming events in town. Spoke on Res. #149 and #155. Route 30 is to get paved in the spring of 2016, but doesn't know exact locations in Absecon. Next meeting is 10/1 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Kim – Economic Development** – next meeting is 10/1 @ 6:30 p.m. Vikki Phillips, owner of Animal House is the new president of ABCD and she invited the Economic Development group to their 10/22 mtg.

**Mayor** – the repaving of Pennsylvania Avenue has been approved and thanked Jim Whelan for his efforts in us receiving these funds. He commented on the Fair Housing litigation that is ongoing for the third round rules for each town and he explained what is happening. He discussed the 227 foreclosed properties in Absecon and how the City is trying to handle the maintenance of them and violations. There is a new registration fee required for rental properties and yearly inspections. The redevelopment of the Absecon Creek is still in the works and the Visions agreement for reimbursement of the City for \$400,000 should come in by the end of this year.

**Chris** – thanked the Mayor for not taking “no” for an answer from the State for the denial of the grant money for the Absecon Creek work. He thanked Senator Whelan as well and invited him tonight, but he couldn't attend. He also thanked the Mayor for his attention to the Fair Housing matters that are happening and saving the City legal expenses.

**Jessica** – Resolutions #157 through #160 are needed to be added to the agenda tonight and she read them off and explained them. An Executive session is needed tonight to discuss a donation of land.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Tax Collector - \$5,387,681.24

Court - \$12,901.50

Construction - \$11,434

Clerk's Office - \$1,578

## **REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to add Resolutions #157 through #160 to the agenda made by Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring  
All were in favor.

- 144 Authorizing the rates for the Absecon Emergency Services Ambulance Squad.
- 149 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the John D. Young Blind Center.
- 150 Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2015 and the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2015 on the property located on Rhode Island (Block 72, Lot 3).
- 151 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 991 Pitney Road (Block 4, Lot 31).
- 152 Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for the quarters listed for the properties listed due to owners being Exempt Veterans.
- 153 Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for 2015 and 2016 for the properties listed due to owners being exempt per the Tax Assessors records.
- 154 Authorizing a refund of taxes of the properties listed for the 3rd quarter of 2015 due to owners being Exempt Veterans and payment was made erroneously by Wells Fargo.
- 155 Granting a Raffle License to Holy Spirit's Father's Club.
- 156 Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2015 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$3,405.24 from the Federal Body Armor Fund.
- 157 Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2015 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$175,000.00 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- 158 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the 2015 Road Improvement Program for Pennsylvania Avenue.

- 159 Authorizing Remington, Vernick & Walberg, City Engineers, to administer the construction and inspection of improvements for the 2015 Road Program for Pennsylvania Avenue.
- 160 Appointing a Part-Time Tele-Communicator for on-call purposes.

## 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.

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

## APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,266,344.31

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain – second – Council Ring  
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes abstain A0005; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes & abstain on 9474; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes –09/03/15  
Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum  
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

## Chief John DeRitis entered meeting.

**Chris** - asked for an update on the radios situation.

**John** – we have been slowing getting some over the years. We are fine now but he feels the program should be extended by putting money in the budget just in case. Crossing guards are not allowed to direct traffic. The department had a productive weekend regarding arrests; they made 7 in two days by targeting some of the problem areas.

## CLOSED SESSION

**Tim** – stated the reason needed was a matter concerning the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property. It's estimated to be 30 minutes or less, after which the public meeting shall reconvene.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring  
All were in favor.

**Tim** – it's now 8:30 p.m. and we are back in public session. We discussed the one matter of the potential acquisition of land and no official action was taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 10/1/15