



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

**Carie A. Crone, RMC**  
**Municipal Clerk**

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 12, 2015 (3/5/15 rescheduled mtg)**

**WORK & REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE** – Councilman Ring

**INVOCATION** – Rev. Dave Delaney, Central United Methodist Church, Linwood

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Cain, Mayor Armstrong

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

**STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris**

**NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECODED – Chris**

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**Jessica** – reviewed and went over page 2 of a handout, showing the differences between the 2014 and 2015 budgets. Explained the capital program and what would be spent.

**Chris** – explained the capital budget expenditures and why the \$1.140 million was reduced by \$236,700, in order to keep a flat tax rate again this year. The way to do this was to postpone the purchase of the emergency generator. He talked to Eddie about it and the \$75,000 FEMA grant for this generator is good for the next two years, so we don't have to fund it now; we have until the summer of 2017 to use this grant. He was hoping to find a cheaper generator to supplement the current one that is still working, but past its warranty and only supplies power to the police dept. and a small part of the administrative side.

**Jessica** - We can still put this in the capital budget this year, but we don't have to borrow the funds this year. In case of a problem, it would be authorized to purchase.

**Chris** – read off the list of items for the capital budget and asked that we find \$61,700 to reduce in order to stay the same as last year. He recommended it be taken from the road program, bringing it to \$621,000.

**Jim** – asked about the work being done at the ball fields. Thought we were doing it all.

**Frank** - Phase 1 is being done now. Phase 2, \$90,000 is in the budget this year and phase 3, \$60,000 will be put in next year's budget.

**Chris** – we will introduce the budget tonight then.

## **REPORTS**

**Sandy – Public Works** – no report

**Jim – Public Safety** – met and discussed the traffic at Ohio & New Road due to the construction on Mill Road. Discussed two new police officers to be hired. The Red Roof Inn investigation is ongoing. He has received positive feedback from a few residents on the good work that Public Works has done with the snow removal. Thanked Bill Hoch, who was present and he asked them to tell his co-workers too.

**Chief DeRitis** – explained the process of hiring and selecting the two new officers. The formal swearing in will be done at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also mentioned that the Mill Road project was told by the DEP that they need to be done by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Frank - Parks & Playground** – next meeting is 3/17 @ 7 p.m. He gave an update on the ball field work being done. The estimate was too expensive, so they reviewed it and made changes to it. Tonight we will award the contract and also approve a change order, due to the lower cost now. The pre-construction meeting will be held on 3/13 at 2 p.m. He asked coaches to attend also. Ord. #2 is on the agenda, which amends the criminal background check process. It is taking some time for them to come back, so a temporary badge will be able to be issued.

**Don – Finance** – next meeting is 3/19 @ 6 p.m. Looks like we will not have a tax increase with the city budget, however, the school and county will increase. We should have a surplus of around \$579,000.

**Mike – Community Affairs** – announced upcoming events in the area. Res. #53 the Irish American Cultural Society is having their annual raffle. They met tonight and the president of Rolling Thunder attended and asked if they could put a Chair of Honor in the lobby with no cost to us. If everyone agrees, we can do a resolution for the next meeting. It's a remembrance of officers who are MIA. His next meeting is 4/2 @ 6 p.m.

**Kim – Economic Development** – met tonight and discussed possible anchor stores to come to NJ Ave. to attract people down there. They are preparing an information flyer for businesses to explain assistance they can get from the state. The Planning Board approved a new grocery store to go on the WHP at the old Enterprise site and gave an update on Absecon Gardens. Four condos are under contract; one has been sold and 3 townhouses are under contract. Her next meeting is 4/2 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Administrator** – explained Ord. #3, we don't need to go over the appropriation from last year, but we are \$28,000 less than last year. We do this to establish a cap bank. Res. #50 and 51 are releasing escrow fees.

**Chris** – announced we will be receiving \$1,250 from JIF for our safety program for 2014

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Camp

All were in favor.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **2015 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

- 03** An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14)

Motion to introduce – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips

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

### **2015 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION**

- 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.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

## **2015 RESOLUTIONS**

**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.**

- 49** Appointing two full time patrol officers.

- 50 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by James Regan.
- 51 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by the Traditional Roman Catholic Church.
- 52 Authorizing the Mayor and other City Officials to execute a 2015 Safety Contract with the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 53 Granting a Raffle License to the Irish American Cultural Society of South Jersey.
- 54 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 7 W. Colorado Avenue.
- 55 Authorizing the introduction of the 2015 Municipal Budget.
- 56 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the Pitney Park Baseball Field Improvements – Phase I.
- 57 Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the contract for the Pitney Park Baseball Field Improvements – Phase I.
- 58 Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for 2014 and 2015 on the property located at Rhode Island (Block 72, Lot 3).

Resolutions #49 to 58 were in the Consent Agenda.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 300,802.62**

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes, Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, abstain on C0128 & F0096;

Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/19/2015

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/12/2015

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_