



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

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

**Phone (609) 641-0663x101**  
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**CITY COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 7, 2016**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING - 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by City Clerk, Carie Crone at 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION – Dr. Frank Blee, Absecon resident**

**STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Carie**

**NOTIFICATION OF MEETING - Carie**

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Frank Phillips, Council, Ward 1 was sworn in by Judge Joseph Marczyk

Sandy Cain, Council, Ward 2 was sworn in by Mayor John Armstrong

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Nomination for Chris Seher was made by Councilman Phillips – seconded by Councilwoman Cain

No other nominations. Nominations were then closed.

Roll Call: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

Chris was sworn in by Judge Joseph Marczyk and took over the meeting at this point.

## **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

Nomination for Don Camp was made by Councilman Vizthum – seconded by Councilwoman Cain

No other nominations. Nominations were then closed.

Roll Call: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes  
Don was sworn in by Lynn Caterson, Esq.

## **COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – FOR THE YEAR 2016**

**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.**

- 01 Authorizing the annual schedule of Regular Meetings of Absecon City Council for the calendar year 2016.
- 02 Confirming meetings of City Committees, Commissions and Boards for the year 2016.
- 03 Awarding a contract for professional services for a City Auditor.  
Ford, Scott, and Associates, LLC.
- 04 Awarding a contract for professional services of a City Attorney.  
Timothy P. Maguire, Attorney at Law
- 05 Awarding a contract for professional services for a Labor Attorney.  
Stephen Barse, Counselor at Law.
- 06 Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a Public Defender.  
James P. Swift, Esq.
- 07 Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services for a Municipal Prosecutor.  
Kristopher Facenda, Esq.
- 08 Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a City Planner.  
Stuart Wiser, Remington, Vernick & Walberg, Engineers
- 09 Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a Bond Counsel.  
Ronald Ianoale, Esq.
- 10 Appointing an Authorized Agent for the sale of City owned land.  
Jessica Thompson, CFO/Administrator
- 11 Authorizing the Tax Assessor as the Agent in Adjustment appeals to reduce assessments.

- 12 Designating the Interest and Penalty rate on unpaid taxes.
- 13 Designating the official newspapers.
- 14 Adopting the Cash Management Plan of the City of Absecon.
- 15 Establishing the 2016 Temporary Budget for Current Fund and Sewer Utility Fund.
- 16 Appointing a Risk Management Consultant for the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund.  
Michael F. Thomas, Glenn Insurance
- 17 Appointing a Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Fund.  
John Armstrong, Mayor
- 18 Appointing an Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.  
Jessica Thompson, CFO/Administrator
- 19 Appointing a Safety Coordinator for the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund.  
Lt. John DeRitis
- 20 Appointing a Councilperson to the Planning Board.  
Kim Horton, 1 year
- 21 Re-appointing members to the Zoning Board.  
Greg Seher  
Marina Koussoulis
- 22 Appointing a Mercantile License Clerk.  
Carie A. Crone, RMC
- 23 Appointing a Lien Clerk for the City of Absecon.  
Jessica A. Snyder, CTC
- 24 Ensuring Time Capsule to be opened in the year 2052.
- 25 Consenting to the Mayor's appointment of Jessica Thompson as City Administrator and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Employment Agreement between the City of Absecon and Jessica Thompson to serve in that capacity.

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

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS** was given by Mayor John Armstrong

## **COMMENTS**

**Mike** – congratulated Frank and Sandy and looks forward to another year of working with everyone. He hopes to complete items on his agenda for the city.

**Kim** – congratulated Sandy and Frank and looks forward to working with them again. She wished all the residents a Happy and Healthy 2016. She thanked all the groups and organizations and boards and all volunteers for the different projects that were done in 2015.

**Frank** – thanked the residents for giving him the opportunity to serve them again and he looks forward to the challenges we will face. He congratulated Sandy and thanked his family and wife for their support. He enjoys being on Council.

**Jim** – thanked the employees and volunteers of the city. Welcomed Frank and Sandy back. Happy New Year to all.

**Don** – welcomed Sandy and Frank back. He hopes that they will be able to keep the tax rate the same this year as well and no layoffs or furloughs will be needed. We have close to a million dollars in our fund balance as of now. Thanked the police dept. for a savings of \$44,467 of overtime.

**Sandy** – congratulated Frank and thanked the Mayor and looks forward to working with the Mayor and all the employees and professionals again. She also thanked her family for their support.

**Chris** – echoed all the comments previously said and he recognized several former council representatives in the audience and he thanked them for leaving the city in good shape for future councils. The work continues to be hard in these economic times. He would like to work more closely with the school board in looking at the big picture of the budget and the county as well. It would be nice to have them stay at a flat tax rate or even go lower. He spoke about the Bill before the Governor to sign to help Atlantic City out and how it would hurt all the municipalities. It could possibly raise the county portion of taxes 12 cents.

**Mayor** – he spoke more on the PILOT Bill to help bail out Atlantic City. There will be revised tax bills that will go out to all the residents now.

**Jessica Thompson** – congratulated Frank, Sandy, Chris and Don. We will be starting the budget process in the next couple weeks and hopes we can keep the tax rate flat again.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Mark Catona – 22 New Jersey Ave.** – asked about a massive sinking or “pot hole” again outside his property and he can’t get any help from the City since it’s a state road and they have to do it. It’s been ongoing for 2 years now. Chris said he’s probably on a list, but he asked Ed Dennis to try to make a call and maybe get a contact number for him.

**Mike** – we did hear back from the State that they plan on working on the White Horse Pike this spring but we don’t know the exact area yet. Jessica should have that letter.

**Mark** – his second issue is with his neighboring property, Cross Fit Gym. He is still feeling the vibrations and rumblings from them throwing the weights next door. There are still issues and it's an 85 year old building. He has a hard time conducting his business with clients. They were asked to do some work to control the problem, but it was never asked to be tested. This has been going on for a couple years now. He has used some type of meter that measures vibration and the highest was 3.9 and he read off the words that described that.

**Chris** – we can't give you an answer tonight. You keep saying we didn't test anything, but there is nothing to compare it to. We have no information to compare it to before they did the adjustments to their building that we asked them to.

**Mayor** – for the public's knowledge, he gave a quick synopsis of the time and attention the City has given into the complaint.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

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

1/21/16