



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 3, 2016

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM
MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Barry Ross, Word of Life Christian Fellowship, Galloway

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING - Chris

ROLL CALL

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

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

REPORTS

Frank - Public Works – explained the work being done around city hall. The pothole truck is out filling holes where they are found. The pump stations are getting cleaned out and the pits will be done when it warms up. There were about 12 sewer calls just in February. He discussed Oak Drive, which is on the list for the road program this year and the problems they have and some possible solutions that will be looked into.

Eddie – the current plan is to keep the island but make it smaller and concrete

Frank – continued with Ord. #4 (the storm drains) and Res. # 58 and 59

Jim – Public Safety – the fire dept. received a grant for 6 radios and they are applying to the county for some equipment and new dry suits with no cost to the city. The Police Chief has an officer leaving and moving onto the County Prosecutor's office. Res. #61 tonight appoints Ryan O'Connell. #62 will be to advertise for a Class II officer.

Chris – suggested we move on Res. #61 now so they don't have to wait all meeting. Explained the starting salary would be under the current contract at \$46,239.

Res. #61 Appointing a Full Time Patrol Officer, Ryan O'Connell.

Motion was made to move Resolution #61 by Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

He will be sworn in tomorrow so he can start the academy, but the formal swearing in will be once he's completed that.

Officer O'Connell – thanked everyone

Jim – the emergency management department is being reconstructed and an ordinance will be brought forward on that, as well as the promotions. The new vehicle finally arrived from Australia and getting outfitted. Body cameras are expected soon. The 4-way stop sign was approved for at Haddon and Traymore Parkway Avenues where there is a fork in the road. It's a very wide street. The "No" right onto Woodcrest from Pitney Road was turned down by the committee to be removed. The EMS gave notice they are putting together a 5-year plan to replace their vehicles and will get back to us.

Chief DeRitis – he further explained the reconstruction of Emergency Management. He welcomed Ryan and congratulated Chief Jim Bennett who became Brigantine's chief of police today. He asked that the \$50 fee required for applying for a Class II officer in Res. #62 for approval tonight be removed.

Sandy – Parks & Playgrounds – the basketball tournaments are in full swing. The concerts are being organized now and the first one is June 26th. Changed the next meeting date from 3/15 to 3/16 at 7:00 p.m. They will be discussing speed humps at the ballfields and possible solutions.

Pat – Finance – his next meeting is not until 3/17.

Mike – Community Affairs – the senior center list will be posted soon and the historical society gave an update. He then announced the upcoming events in the area. On March 4th a Chair of Honor will be dedicated at Stockton. His next meeting is 4/7 @ 6:00 p.m. Ord. #1 is still tabled. Some minor changes were needed but now some more wording needs clearing up. They want to do it right and not keep changing it.

Chris – concerned that this is still not ready after changes that have been discussed and made

Mayor – still saw some changes that might be needed and then more discussion was held

The consensus was to table the Ordinance and hopefully it will be introduced at the next meeting.

Kim – Economic Development – the committee met tonight and they recommend to move on the sale of the old Girl Scout property. An auction would have to be set up and the minimum bid for the two lots should be offered with conditions. Eddie would have to start the subdivision process and then Jessica would take it to the Planning Board for approval. Kim contacted the assessor and he recommended \$70,000 a lot. The city would need the valuation from him before selling them.

The Absecon Gardens property sale was put on hold and they are going to continue to sell the units. Her next meeting is 4/7 @ 6:30 p.m. and anyone can attend.

Mayor – spoke to DEP regarding the final construction of Turner Ave. and just waiting for approval of the wetlands mediation plan. It appears there may be a need for a water testing, which would take over two months. He then spoke about the COAH Fair Share housing litigation and the city having the possibility of coming up with even more required units. He explained the idea of getting homes deed restricted to qualify towards our affordable housing requirements.

Jessica Thompson – the budget will be introduced tonight and it is a reduction of \$170,000 from last year and the tax rate deduction of \$.03. The County and School tax rates are not in yet. She listed the capital projects for 2016 and a user friendly copy will be on the website. She explained Ordinance 5 and 6 on the agenda tonight. The upgrades on the floating dock should be starting soon. The spring leaf collection will run from 4/4 to 4/22. There is a medicine disposal box in the lobby of City Hall for people to bring in unused medicine. The registrations for vacant homes has started and they should be kept up to code by the banks.

Eddie – gave an update on his attendance at the Planning Board to get authorization from them for RVW to begin the creek study. He explained the resolutions on tonight's meeting regarding change orders. He is looking into Camey Auto Works and the bond issue. He spoke to the DEP regarding ground water testing in the vicinity of New York Avenue that they did and explained what happened. He also spoke to the director of Planning with the County, but was told that the State has jurisdiction over the timing of the light at that intersection and the County has to look into it.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bill Hoch – 615 New York Ave. – his opinion is the “no right hand” turn on Pitney Road should be removed. He thinks nobody really wants it there and people turn anyway. He doesn't think it's caused any problems really. He's been in that area his whole life. It's nothing but an issue, except for getting tickets.

Leo Ransone - 25 Kessler Ave. – wanted to know how he could meet with council on a one on one and get to know everyone.

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2016 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

01 Creating Chapter 270 of the Code of Absecon establishing regulations for prohibition of commercial vehicles in residential zones. **TABLED**

05 An Ordinance of the City of Absecon, to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

Motion for introduction – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Ring

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

06 Establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

2016 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

04 An Ordinance amending Chapter 224 of the City Code to require the retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets on private property.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

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.

- 57** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon Blue Devils.
- 58** Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the 2015 Road Program Improvement Program for the City of Absecon.
- 59** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 (Final) for the Reconstruction of Pennsylvania Avenue.
- 60** Authorizing the Introduction of the 2016 Municipal Budget.
- 62** Authorizing the Chief of Police to advertise for the position of Special Law Enforcement Officer (Class II).

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

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$363,441.28

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes-abstain on A0032, J0033 and M0014; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/18/2016

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/18/2016 and 2/23/2016

Closed Session as to form and content only – 2/18/2016

Motion for approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes-abstain 2/23; Sheeran, abstain 2/18 budget; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes-abstain 2/23 budget; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3/17/16