



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

JULY 21, 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 – Councilman Ring

INVOCATION – Pastor Christopher Miller, Absecon UMC

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING - Chris

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Teri Giercyk

Frank - reported that Assemblyman Brown was in lobby from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening with his mobile unit. He wanted to thank us for allowing him to do that and he left his number in case anyone wants to contact him.

REGULAR MEETING

Chris – asked if Council would allow him to change the order of the meeting since a Verizon representative was here tonight to speak to us.

2016 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

13 An Ordinance regulating the statutory authority of Verizon New Jersey, Inc., its successors and assigns to use the various public streets, roads, avenues, highways and other public ways in the City of Absecon, Atlantic County, New Jersey for its local and through lines and other communications facilities and prescribing the conditions thereof.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, 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.

Mark - director of external affairs for Verizon – municipal consent is what he handles and it is a 50 year contract. His role is to meet with the municipalities and come to an agreement.

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

All were in favor

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

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

REPORTS

Frank - Public Works – crews are still out trimming trees. 2016 road program has begun today and asked residents to be patient while work is being done. Res. #127 is allowing our engineers to do a study on Jenkins Pond and the drainage issues. Along with that is Res. #128 dealing with improvements on Tremont Avenue to be done now.

Jim - Public Safety – no meeting since the last council meeting. Frank started a discussion on the ordinance dealing with promotions on the police department and if the attorneys are reviewing it. Pat questioned who wrote that police ordinance as a final document and was that document passed to the city or labor attorney for review and approval. Tim said the ordinance was given to him for review and he told the chief he thought it was okay. He did not draft it, but was told that the company doing our accreditation helped to craft it. Pat would like a comfort level where an attorney reviews the ordinances and gives their okay. A labor attorney might be needed in this case.

Sandy – Parks and Playgrounds – the light posts at the wagon wheel are installed and working; the retainer wall was repaired by Lloyd and some cosmetics items are left to do. Lights at the soccer fields should hopefully be installed by soccer season. New business discussed: apparently fields that get lined by volunteers are being used by others and when they come back later to use the fields, they are in a used condition. So they talked about how maybe they could be locked. New sod should be put down in the fall as part of our phase 2 of baseball field improvements. Kick ball league is going strong. Concerts are going well and we are halfway through. Res. #129, a change order in the Pitney Park baseball improvements phase 2 contract for an increase of \$5,080, since the inlet costs have gone up. Her next meeting is 8/16.

Pat – Finance – met tonight and they signed a voucher for roughly \$24,000 to pay off the ambulance squad vehicles. The note was sold today for our bond ordinance at the interest rate of 1.8%. The construction office has taken in a lot more money this year due to the two developments being built in town. There's a resolution to hire part-time help for that office on tonight's agenda too and along with that, that office has two vehicles: a 2000 and a 2003 and 3 people need a car. Jessica would like to buy a car for that office and give the new one to Mike and the other two part-timers would get the other two. We can use the bond money this year to do this as well. We no longer have a personnel committee and he feels there should be one. Chris asked that we do that for 2017 since it is July already.

Mike – Community Affairs – Res. #124 is a raffle permit for HSHS. He asked all the residents to go to Dairy Queen next Thursday and congratulate Bob Wenz who won the Citizen of the Year and the second is to buy a blizzard. A dollar will be donated to the Children’s Miracle

Network for every one sold. The Art Alliance is having their classes again this summer from 8/8 to 8/12 and you must be signed up by 8/1. His next meeting is 8/4 at 6 p.m. August 2nd is National Night Out at Pitney Field from 6-9 p.m.

Chris – thanked our police department for all that they do for our town and they are appreciated.

Kim - Economic Development – her next meeting is 8/4 at 6:30 p.m. She then read a message from the Mayor since he couldn’t make tonight’s meeting. It was an update on the preparedness of Absecon in case of possible evacuation needed due to a hurricane.

Jessica – Read over Res. #126, 123 and 130. The tax bills were mailed out this week and will be due by August 16th and notices and other messages are also included with those bills. We are able to donate 4 computers to the Family Promise of Atlantic County. NJDOT is in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss the resurfacing of Route 30. She hopes to have the date soon and will let everyone know.

Monthly Reports – Teri

Clerk - \$13,233.86

Court - \$12,565.81

Construction - \$52,005.00

Tax Collection - \$354,304.33

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Lou Polisano – 198 N. Shore Road – spoke about Jenkins Pond and the flooding issues down in that area that the residents have. Three things effect the flooding issue: heavy rain, the pond and high tides. It runs down Berkley Avenue for sure, but doesn’t know about Tremont. The state and county did come in and ran a scope that found a tree that was blocking a pipe and replaced the pipe. The size of the pipe did not increase in diameter so there is still flooding occurring. He doesn’t want a bad accident to happen to make something happen.

Carl Robinson – 414 Pitney Road – asked why the agenda was not posted on the website this week. Reported the Tremont Avenue drain was fixed and it seems to be working. He said there could be probably a lot of other drains in town that do the same thing and should be looked into. He received the grant application for the Redevelopment Plan and he had questions about several things: the eminent domain issue and if it would be an instrument used if it became needed; wanted to know what is considered as a marina’s maximum potential and discussed what is down at the creek now. He struggles with the concept of redevelopment down there.

Councilman Ring – he bought his house 17 years ago and he knew it was a dock area and what to expect to see down there. Some people don’t like that, but he doesn’t want to see the atmosphere changed either.

Ed Goldman – 51 Natalie Terrace – he knows the marina at the end of the street has been trying to sell for years and he’s been hearing rumors for years about that area. He finds redevelopment of that area troubling.

Carl Robinson-414 Pitney Road – wanted to know if the grant work is active yet and if money is being spent.

Chris - the study is still done and explained they ran into some problems. They're spending the grant money doing the review work.

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

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.

- 123** Authorizing the release of a maintenance guaranty posted by Beazer Homes.
- 124** Granting a Raffle License for Holy Spirit High School, Inc.
- 125** Hiring a Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer.
- 126** Authorizing to advertise for substitute part time school crossing guards.
- 127** Authorizing Remington, Vernick & Walberg Engineers to prepare a drainage study for Jenkin's Pond.
- 128** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the 2016 Road Program for the City of Absecon.
- 129** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the contract for the Pitney Park Baseball Field Improvements – Phase II.
- 130** Authorizing the release of a portion of escrow fees posted by Absecon Pleasant, LLC.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,437,889.13

Motion to approve – Councilman Sheeran - second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; abstain on A0005; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; abstain B0131; Vizthum, no; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/7/16

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Sheeran

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 8/4/16