



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

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

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 15, 2021**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Bennett at 5:30 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Burroughs, Cain, Cavileer, Howell, Larotonda, Light, Bennett

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Horton, Attorney, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

**STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW**

**NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED**

**2021 ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION**

**07** Bond Ordinance providing for various 2021 Capital acquisitions and improvements by and in the City of Absecon, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$2,245,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$2,132,750 Bonds or Notes to finance part of the cost

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

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

Jessica – listed the items that are included in this

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

## 2021 ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

### 08 Creating Chapter 313 – Shopping Carts in the Code of the City of Absecon

Motion for introduction – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

**Mayor** – explained that it's being a big problem in the city. They are just being left all over; in front of the motels, near Dunkin Donuts, by the shopping centers and code enforcement has reached out to businesses and Shop Rite and no one seems to care. She and several officers went out in trucks and picked up 12 or 13 carts and brought them back to Shop Rite and spoke to the store manager out to show him. It's a problem and something needs to be done and thinks this might be a good solution for this.

**Keith** – it's a nuisance and a safety hazard as well

**Chief Laughlin** – he doesn't remember the fines either, but it's not just the merchants, it's the perpetrators that are taking the carts off the properties. This will allow us to not only go after the merchants that aren't picking up the carts, but allow us to enforce the people that are taking the carts. There are fines affiliated with both. It's not just one merchant in town either. Hopefully this will help to tell the merchants where they can go to pick up their carts.

**Jessica** – the merchants are to have a plan to have a contact person and how they will handle it

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

**Keith** – asked for a motion to add Resolution #79- sale of property known as 711 Chelsea Road and Res. #80 – sale of land known as 690 Blenheim. Motion was made by Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

## 2021 RESOLUTIONS

**77** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 – Final for the Reconstruction of Bayview Drive – Phase 2

Jessica – this is for \$1,082 and will make the project complete.

**78** Authorizing the cancellation of taxes on properties exempt from taxes due to Disabled Veteran Status

Jessica – this is for an exempt property at 814 Chelsea Road

**79** Offering for sale the property known as Block 142, Lot 4.01, a/k/a 711 Chelsea Road for a minimum bid of \$70,000.00.

**80** Offering for sale the property known as Block 142, Lot 4.02, a/k/a 690 Blenheim Ave. for a minimum bid of \$70,000.00.

Keith – these two lots will be put up for sale at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

Jessica – and she will be putting advertisements in the paper as well.

### PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items Only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Larotonda

All were in favor.

**Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave.** – thinks the shopping cart ordinance is a great idea. Hopefully this can help the city to control the motels from people living there permanently. Regarding the sale of the two properties, his opinion is to maintain the small alley way that connects the parks; a lot of people use it and would hate to see it go away.

**Keith** – spoke with the engineer regarding this and there would be a lot of costs associated with that as far as doing another subdivision. There would also be a safety and maintenance issue.

**Jessica** – there could be a noise issue as well with people walking between the homes.

**Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road** – wanted to know if the lots were going up for sale for the same price, they were offered a couple of years ago.

**Keith** – yes for \$70,000 each

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs  
All were in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Keith** – read resolutions #77 through #80 again.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilwoman Howell

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$2,440,292.80**

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 4/1/2021

Motion to approve – Councilman Larotonda– second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

**Keith** – wished Butch Burroughs a happy birthday today and congratulated Sandy who was elected to the position of the president of the League of Municipalities for Atlantic County.

### **REPORTS**

**Nick – Economic Development** – has no report

**Betty – Public Safety** – thanked Roy for the wonderful article in the paper about the firehouses. He reported that the tower truck was out for about a week. The punch list got a little longer there. They sprinklers needed to get fixed. There is a problem there with people using it as a cut through, even with the No Enter signs. We need to add a “No Through Traffic” or “Authorized Vehicles Only” sign. Anyone caught doing it, will get ticketed with no problem. The ambulance squad is about equal with the number of calls as last year, which is about 500 as of now. Events are starting to pick up in AC, so they will be working over there soon. The Police Chief said we might be having some drone testing done from the FAA in our football fields. Hopefully National Night Out and Hooked on Fishing will both be held this year.

**Chief Laughlin** – we are getting bombarded with traffic complaints regarding speed, no turn on reds, etc. We have issued many tickets and he pleaded with the public to slow down. People need to abide by the traffic laws.

**Caleb – Finance** – met tonight and discussed a few things. The largest of the road program projects, which is on Hobart and Woodcrest should be done by the end of the summer. We still don't have guidance on how to use the Covid relief funds. He will keep everyone posted.

**Butch – Public Works** – no report, but he is still trying to get through to Comcast regarding the sound issue on Channel 97. The new employee starts on Monday.

**Sandy – Community Affairs** – no meeting, but she announced some upcoming events. Shred Day and city-wide cleanup will be 4/24 from 9 to 1 for Absecon residents only. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Tour de Lights is 4/30 at 7:30 p.m. The Memorial Day parade is happening and in the works for 9:00 a.m. The city-wide yard sale is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Her next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Steve – Parks and Playgrounds** – his next meeting is 4/20. The Hard Rock Casino and Tito's donated \$10,000 to the Field of Dreams. They plan on starting back this season with an abbreviated one and will be looking for volunteers. The Legion clam bake will be June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Keith** – spring sports are up and running and there is a lot of activity at the fields and the fields look great. Kudos to our public works department.

**Jessica** – the new website design is still in progress and the calendar and email alerts are off and people will have to sign up again for them when it's done. The tax sale was yesterday and 21 liens were sold and none were municipal liens. The amount of items on the tax sale was less than .5% of the town. The spring curb side leaf pickup started this week and will run until May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS for MARCH - Carrie**

**Tax Collection - \$390,309.13**

**Construction - \$9,873.00**

**Municipal Court - \$8,241.50**

**Mayor** – this is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and they are recognized for dedicating their lives to serving the public and their hard work and dedication. She thanked our dispatchers for their hard work. She received an email from AC Electric who are giving trees away to residential customers through the Arbor Day Foundations energy saving trees program. She gave everyone a copy of a letter she received back from the County regarding her letter and the Police Department's asking for better lighting on West California Avenue. It looks like something is going to get done, but they are waiting for the City of Pleasantville and the condo association to agree to the replacement plan.

**Keith** – thanked Kim and the police department for working on the lighting at California and thanked the County for working with us. He also thanked the dispatchers who always get forgotten about.

#### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilman Larotonda  
All were in favor.

**Tom Gates – 144 Crestview Ave.** – thanked the police department who have been writing more tickets on his street. The speeders seem to be getting worse. With that new development, there are many more cars using the street with no new road improvements. They can't sit there 24/7. The

average speed is over 40 mph. A double yellow line was installed and it seems to look like a highway and there is no sidewalk or curbing and you need to walk in the street. He feels we need more police officers for traffic control and safety.

**Keith** – he directed Betty to discuss this at her next Public Safety meeting and report back to council

**Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road** – thanked Steve for the Field of Dreams and helping to get extra money for them and there is always a need for volunteers. Thanked Butch for the audio investigation. He asked if we could bring on a couple more class 2 officers and use them for traffic control. He asked if council had any feedback yet on the marijuana issue.

**Keith** – said a committee was formed and they should meet in the next week or so

**Chris** – wondered how Galloway Township was able to come in with a balanced budget and was able to postpone final approval until they looked into how the covid relief funds could be used? Why couldn't we do the same thing?

**Tom Gates** – suggested curbing and sidewalks be installed on at least one side of Crestview Ave.

**Mike Celestino** (by zoom chat) asked if there is any information as to when the municipal courts might reopen so that ordinance violations that have occurred since Covid started can begin to be adjudicated again?

**Keith** – the State has not given us a date or an anticipated date. He wishes we could petition the state to pressure them a little more to open up. He has said it before and thinks it's a shame they aren't. She asked the Mayor to reach out to her contact at the State to try to find out.

**Mike** – there are regrettable quality of life issues on hold due to ordinance violators while courts are closed. Councilwoman Howell has been super helpful communicating my concerns to the construction office, but it sounds like their hands are tied if someone decides to ignore them at least until the courts are back in session.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light - second – Councilman Larotonda  
All were in favor.

**Steve** – likes that we have a good relationship with the County and that we are getting things done for our city.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain  
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5-6-21