



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 12, 2021

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council Pro Tem, Howell at 5:30 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Burroughs, Cain, Howell, Larotonda, Light,

ABSENT: Cavileer, Bennett

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton; Attorney, Fred Scerni; Jessica Thompson; Ed Dennis & Julianne Cannuscio (in for Carie)

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2021 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 13** Creating Chapter 152 of the Code of the City of Absecon to implement provisions of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement Assistance and Marketplace Modernization Act.

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

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

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

14 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 297- Smoking Restrictions in Recreation Areas.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

2021 RESOLUTIONS

116 Authorizing the release of zoning escrow fees

117 Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government Workers Union

Jessica – this is an agreement that will have two weeks of severance pay and payout of vacation, personal and comp time for the dispatchers based on the shared service agreement we have starting September 1st.

118 Authorizing the City to join the Atlantic County Library System

Jessica – Absecon reached out to the County to join the County Library system because our director is retiring. Faced with new guidelines for the position of library director, it was discussed that we can't afford to hire someone with the required credentials without a substantial increase to the budget and then an increase in taxes. It's a good time to do this, since the county is equipped to maintain a branch here with expanded hours and other additional services. They will take over beginning Oct. 1st.

Linda Weisbecker – president of the Library Board – Barbara Wilson will step down from her 45-year of service to the Absecon City Public Library, effective Oct. 1st. She then read a statement of her duties and service for those years. The board has voted to join with the county library system and they feel this is the best and most appropriate time to make this transition. She thanked Barbara for her time and selfless service and the city for its support throughout the years.

Betty – the city owes a great deal of gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to our library here in town

119 Authorizing the City to enter into a lease with Atlantic County

Jessica – this will be a 10-year lease, plus the remaining 3-months of this year with the County for the library building. It belongs to us, so we will continue to be responsible for exterior maintenance and the county will handle any improvements or costs inside the building and the operations. The lease amount is \$31,250 per year, based on \$5.00 per sq. foot of the 6,250 sq. feet of building. The operational costs of running the library will transition to the county budget instead of being part of the municipal budget. The difference in operational costs is approximately \$8,000 per year, net of the rental. The county tax will show an increase and the municipal tax will show a decrease. This will not be reflected in this year's tax bills, but it will in next year's.

PUBLIC PORTION (for agenda items)

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA - Resolutions read by title that have been moved to consent.
Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$4,029,920.08
Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Larotonda
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/15/2021
Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Larotonda
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes

REPORTS

Butch – Public Works – no report

Steve – Parks and Playgrounds – they met on July 20th and discussed the lacrosse team who are trying to get their schedule together and the fields they will use. No plan was finalized, but it was started at least. The concerts are going well and have one cancellation. He received a call from Public Works to check on the football field that is being used during the summer for different functions.

Nick – Economic Development – no report

Betty – Public Safety – they met on 8/4 and the ambulance squad reported that they are having a higher-than-normal rate of calls. The firehouse is running smoothly and they are preparing for their open house on Oct. 23rd. The parade will start at the school at noon. Plans are still in the making. The 9/11 event will begin at 2:00 p.m. There will be an open house at the legion afterwards. Speeding in town is still a nuisance and asked residents to slow down. They will meet on 9/13 at 6:00 p.m. She thanked the owners of the Hi Point who donated some steel picnic tables to us.

Sandy – Community Affairs – they met on August 5th and not much is going on. There are still yard signs for sale here at city hall. The book swap went well in July. The 9/11 committee will be having a coin drop on 8/21 between 9 and 2 and there will be coins you can purchase for \$10 and tee shirts as well. The last concert is 8/29 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a Halloween decorating contest again. Her next meeting is September 2nd.

Steve – added that someone should reach out to the legion to see if they want to participate in the last concert to sell snacks. There are supposed to be about 70 musicians in attendance.

Jessica – tax bills should be going out soon and there will be a grace period of 25 days after the mailing. The total tax rate is lower than last year as a whole, so people will see a slight decrease over last year. The recycling cart program is moving along and we expect to have them in late September. Residents will be getting a mailer regarding info on them. It's not increasing taxes, but there is a cost of \$20,000 a year with a grant that we received as well.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Construction - \$19,007.00
Municipal Court - \$6,317.76

Tax Collection - \$377,325.34
Clerk - \$60,354.20

Eddie – the road program is moving along. They are on Hobart Avenue with the road work and drainage work up by Bayview. They are hoping to be completed by Labor Day.

Mayor – the school will not be implementing the staggered start times this year. All staff and students will be required to wear masks inside. The dredging is going well. She received an email from AC Electric on storm preparedness and stated some of the tips. Officer Keith Epstein wanted to thank everyone for the support that you gave the police department for the first annual Christmas in July movie night.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Larotonda

All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 9.2.21