



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 16, 2021

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Don Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Steve Light, Donna Poley, Betty Howell

ABSENT: Caleb Cavileer, Nick Larotonda

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Kim Horton; City Attorney, Fred Scerni; Jessica Thompson,
Administrator/CFO; Carie Crone, City Clerk;

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2021 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 17** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 69 – Police Department, adding
Section 8 – Police Chaplin.

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

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

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

All were in favor. No public portion.

Motion to close public – Councilman Burroughs – second - Councilwoman Poley

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

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

18 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 118 – Alcoholic Beverage Control, Section 16 – Hours.

Motion to have this Ordinance rescinded – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilwoman Poley
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

Council President Howell – said we have decided to table this for more discussion and it's the last meeting of the year, so it gets rescinded and it would have to be brought up again next year.

2021 RESOLUTIONS

Motion to add Resolution 157-2021 – A Resolution in support of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Project on Route 9, to the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Poley
All were in favor.

- 153 Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property not needed for public use under N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-36.**

Jessica – we have one more vehicle that needs to be sold.

- 154 Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to design and coordinate bids for the 2022 Road Program.**

Jessica – this is the road program for next year, which will include grants from the DOT and several roads that had been half way by the gas company. Some sidewalk improvements on Ambassador Drive and the bulk of it is the infrastructure on NY Ave. It totals \$1,150,000.00, which is a little more than our typical \$800,000 road program and once the lots are auctioned off, we will recoup the additional funds plus more.

- 155 Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the 2021 Local Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58.**

Jessica – this is a small budget transfer into the water line in the amount of \$5,000.00.

- 156 Applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in conjunction with the Township of Galloway.**

Jessica – we joined our dispatch with Galloway and part of the agreement was to purchase the software that was compatible with their program within a year's time. We need to put it into next year's budget. This grant is offered by the state to encourage municipalities or organizations to share, so we are applying to get 75% of the cost. Galloway will also do a resolution for this.

- 157 In support of the NJ Department of Transportation Project on Route 9**

Jessica – she just heard from them yesterday and the state would like to do a major project from Somers Point all the way through to Rt. 30 in Absecon and this is in support of it.

PUBLIC PORTION (for agenda items)

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

Amy Gatto – Atlantic County Board of Commissioners – she is the shared services subcommittee lead for the board and she offered any help if we need it and they can show support for the grant as well.

Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road – asked if Ord. 18 can be expected to be resubmitted in January or is there a chance you might not move on it?

Betty – we want to still continue our talks on this and had questions answered before we move on

Chris – he feels the city should adopt the ordinance unless legal says we can't. This is a public safety issue and feels people who want to drink after 2:00 a.m. can go into A.C. to do so and if they are in A.C. already, they could stay in the city.

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

CONSENT AGENDA – the resolutions were read again.

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$366,578.57

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilwoman Poley

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/02/2021

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Parks & Playground – he will resume his meetings next year when the schedule comes out. Lighting along Pitney Road was installed and they want to do some improvements at Heritage Park at the concession stand area.

Councilwoman Poley – Public Safety – we met on 12/6 residents attended and brought up concerns for Pitney Road and Church St. She referred them to the police chief and he has reached out to them. The police dept. will deliver toys to children on Saturday and Santa in the Park was a success. They spoke to Jim Eberwine on the phone and he said COVID is up in Atlantic County and we lost nine people in November, so let's hope it gets better. EMS is business as usual and they are looking for new staff. They have 26 members now, 5 interns running with the crew and they continue handling the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino to help offset payroll costs. She made condolences to Tony Giardina, whose mother has passed away.

Councilwoman Cain – Community Affairs - they met on 12/2 and some announced events. The tree lighting downtown was a success. The senior center is now open and the senior dinner will be held on 3/13.

Councilman Burroughs – Public Works – their next meeting will be held in January. The ACUA is asking for our patience. We have been in constant contact and are continuing to talk to them and they are doing the best they can due to the shortage of people. Our public works is short as well, so leaf pickup is backed up and asked everyone to be patient. Wished all a Merry Christmas.

Steve – could we ask the State to correct the grade so it can minimize the flooding near along Rt. 9
Chief Laughlin – he and Lt. Adams have already spoken to them and gave them specific areas that need to be improved, especially the bridge and that whole area, so the road could be raised and not have flooding issues.

CARIE – MONTHLY REPORTS - NOVEMBER

City Clerk - \$1,742.00

Municipal Court - \$7,445.48

Construction Office - \$9,492.00

Tax Collection - \$1,921, 050.06

Mayor Kim Horton – she spoke about the PILOT program on behalf of Atlantic County and the 23 other cities that don't want to be harmed with the amended program. Today she received a press release from Atlantic City Electric that says customers must take action before December 30th or until the money is out. She wished everyone warm wishes for the holiday season and a very happy, healthy New Year.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilwoman Poley

All were in favor.

Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Rd. – he thanked everyone for what they do for the city and wished them all a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. He complimented the police chief for them helping the city out as crossing guards. Regarding ACUA and their problems, he understands the problem and can he assume we are getting a credit off our bill?

Betty – yes, they gave us a \$19,000 credit

Chris – people are leaving their yard waste out taking up parking spaces and leaving debris. Can we get the word out that they should pull them back? Maybe have code enforcements leave a note on them. Are we supposed to leave them out there? He gave kudos to the public works too because they move the stuff that is in the way of the leaves getting picked up. Is there an update on the NY Ave. sub-division?

Betty – the plan is not completed yet

Jessica – the one that was chosen was the project to run all the way through both sides

Discussion of the re-districting of Ward 1 was held. A public hearing should be held in January.

Mike Celestino (on Zoom) - asked if leave pick up will still end on 12/31 and maybe we should ask residents to put the yard waste away until the Jan. 22nd scheduled pickup.

Jessica – spoke to Rick Dovey today and they will get here as soon as they can. If people could get it out of the way, that would help. As far as our leaf pickup, we will continue if needed.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light - second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.


Steve – thanked Amy for coming tonight and appreciates the county working with us in our community. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays from all of us.

Betty – reminded the residents that we are here for them and doing the best job we can and wish you a happy holiday and a healthy new year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 1-20-22