



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

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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT:

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

2021 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 04** An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

Motion for introduction – Councilman Cavileer - second – Councilman Burroughs

Jessica – explained we do this every year to establish the cap bank for the appropriations side of the budget. It keeps us in a position to go over the 3.5% set by the State if needed.

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

- 05** An Ordinance establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

Jessica – one change is the addition of a position, a part time seasonal public works employee. We are not filling it at this point, but we will in a couple of months. Another change is one of the salary ranges.

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

2021 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 03** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon Chapter 69, Article IV, Employment of Off-Duty Assignments.

Motion for second reading and adoption – Councilman Larotonda - second – Councilman Burroughs
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

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

All were in favor

Keith reminded everyone this is to help the police with scheduling extra duty jobs.

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

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

2021 RESOLUTIONS

- 42** Re-appointing and appointing members to the Zoning Board.

- 44** Authorizing to advertise for Vacant City Positions.

Jessica - this is to advertise for an opening of a full-time position on Public Works

- 45** Authorizing Change Order No. 1-Final, for the City Hall Retaining Wall Replacement.

Jessica – this is a minor change for an electric box at the proposed gazebo location, additional railing replacement and additional vibration monitoring. This would conclude that project.

- 46** Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Atlantic County and the City of Absecon for the Reconstruction and elevation of a section of Shore Road (CR 585) that is subject to repetitive flooding.

Keith – this is huge. It's been a problem forever. We will only be responsible for the soft costs.

Kim - Eddie investigated and worked out this proposal with the County and it was approved.

Steve – the County has been a great partner and we have a good relationship with them

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items Only)

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

All were in favor.

Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road – complimented and thanked them for revising Res. 42; asked if additional screening was going to be considered still for the railings around the new portion of the park; raising Shore Road is a great thing and asked the approximate costs for the City, which is going to be around \$125,000. He asked what position needed the salary range to be bumped up. He was told the police chief due to the contract that was entered into last year.

Steve – wanted Chris to know that he asked Public Works to see how deep the water was and it was done and maybe a life ring could be hung up on the outside of the building somewhere just in case someone couldn't swim if they fall in.

Mike Reilly – 444 4th Street – thanked council for his appointment

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

CONSENT AGENDA - Resolutions were read again.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$2,063,548.28

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

REPORTS

Steve – Parks & Playgrounds – met on Tuesday and they selected the bands for the concerts in the park, which start June 27. They discussed the Blue Devils field; use of the fields, the fertilizing schedule. There are some minor repairs at the fields that should be looked into. There are some lights out in the bike path. It's very appreciated by residents having the path cleared when it snows. The Memorial Day parade was discussed but it's too early to make any decisions yet.

Kim – tried contacting her State contact for an answer regarding parades

Sandy – Community Affairs – announced some events that were done for Valentine's Day. The Love Lock Heart at the walkway at the back of City Hall will be removed at the end of the month. Absecon cleanup day and Shred Day will be April 24.

Betty - thanked Caleb for the Valentine's Day project

Don - Public Works – they met and Eddie Dennis covered a new state rule about future drainage MS4 permits and there were a lot of details. He handed out a map of possible sellable properties for sale that are city owned. Keith is going to ask Ed to do a presentation to us on the possible land.

Caleb – Finance – at the meeting they heard from the Police Chief for the budget needs for the police and fire departments and Eddie went through his list of capital projects. They were given data regarding the consolidation of the courts and they got a better understanding of it. He mentioned that the library's website has been down since 12/5.

Keith – our court runs well and we make a profit, so he doesn't think it's beneficial to change.

Kim – has had discussions with the Police Chief and he doesn't think it would either

Keith – would like a resolution done and sent to the State to ask that our court be opened back up. Our revenues tanked because of it.

Betty – Public Safety – had a meeting on Feb. 1st and the ambulance has about 30 members on the roster and they are looking to add 5 or 6 soon. 2020 had an increase in runs of about 350 from the year before and their volume is increasing. Their revenue is down about 27%. In December we had a police officer that was rear ended and has some injuries and the car was totaled. Gave an update on the Mill Road and Route 30 intersection. The painting should be done soon and the timing of the lights has been changed already. Officers that wanted the vaccine have received it. The fire department had about 18 vaccinated. A new member is coming on. They stressed that people do not drive through water. If there are road blocks, please don't go through it. Engine 84 was out of service for about 3 weeks and is now back working. Truck 87 had a battery burn up and

it's supposed to be getting fixed. Tower 8 was losing some hydraulic fluid as well. We need to look into the new vehicles for them. There are some repairs at the new firehouse that still need to be done.

Nick – Economic Development – the first meeting was February 3 and he got up to speed and he has some possible developments to discuss at the next meeting.

Keith – mentioned the two parcels of land that did not sell last time and due to the lack of housing available now, we should put them up for auction again.

Steve – thought finding out about the school sending district first would help in making a decision.

Sandy – heard on the news that it's a seller's market now

Keith – apologized for not making the budget meeting last week. He asked if everyone could make next Thursday's meeting and the council photo could be taken as well.

Jessica – everything has been discussed already

Kim – thanked our first responders for keeping our community safe. Thanked the new library members and we had our first meeting last week. Thanked Jessica for preparing a report on our court expenses and revenues, so she can use it as a resource at the next Mayor's meeting. Also thanked Ed Dennis for coming up with a solution to the flooding on Shore Road.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave. – thanked and congratulated everyone for getting the issue of flooding on Shore Road resolved. Regarding the two lots that might go up for sale, there is an alley between the properties and hopes the city decides to keep it that way. He handed out some information regarding the transit village and went over some of the points.

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

CLERK'S REPORT

Municipal Court - \$4,216.80

Tax Collection - \$1,685,574.48

Construction Office - \$7,504.00

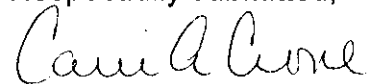
Municipal Clerk - \$2,275.15

Betty – announced that next Tuesday, at the school board meeting, they will be discussing the possibility of the change in our sending district. Park in the back of the school and go in the rear door.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-4-2021