



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL

MAY 20, 2021

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

PRESENTATION – Jim Eberwine – the emergency operations plan for the City has been finalized and signed off by the NJ State Police. A copy of it is in the police department in case anyone wants to inspect it. He is going to send everyone files for each department. It will be due again in 4 years. We had a meeting today with the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management and they hired a contractor to help develop this five-year mitigation plan. FEMA makes money available to anyone who is on board with this plan. We can ask citizens if they see any concerns that need to be addressed by submitting information to us. We will have a series of meetings between now and November and will present any concerns to the County and also to FEMA. Flooding is the main problem we have. Tony and he are almost finishing up the paperwork for the damage from August 4, 2020. It's a lengthy process. It's going to be an active year and we could get from 13-20 tropical storms this year and are looking at 6-10 to become hurricanes and of those, 3-5 will be category 3 or higher. 39 mph is typical for that type of storm. We've had winds here 70-100 mph. The public will be able to go on our website to give input. Covid updates: Absecon had 43 deaths and around 653 cases. Things are going down though. All of our emergency personnel are doing a great job and our citizens are in good hands. Betty told me we also have N95 masks available to us.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Larotonda (he is out inspecting the new fire truck)

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

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

2021 RESOLUTIONS OUT OF CONSENT

Fred – on April 15th, Council passed two resolutions: #79 and #80 of 2021. These each offered and established that the city was prepared to sell certain property. 79 offered the property that is in Res. 91 and #80 offered the property in Res. 92. We have the two resolutions to consider passing if in fact

appropriate bids are received this evening. Each property will be offered for sale through a bidding process. At this time, the City of Absecon offers for sale Block 142, Lot 4.01, 711 Chelsea Road. The minimum bid is \$70,000 and he would advise that it is the understanding of our office that appropriate advertisements had been posted to each of these properties. We will now accept bids and stand and state your name and address and the amount of their bid. He then asked if there were any bids and there were none.

- 91** Land offer Resolution to sell property known as Block 142, Lot 4.01, 711 Chelsea Road, in the City of Absecon, County of Atlantic at a Public Auction.

Fred – council is also offering for sale Block 142, Lot 4.02, 690 Blenheim Avenue. The minimum bid is \$70,000. The same procedure will be in effect. **There were no bids for this lot.**

- 92** Land offer Resolution to sell property known as Block 142, Lot 4.02, 690 Blenheim Avenue, in the City of Absecon, County of Atlantic at a Public Auction.

Fred – council is also offering for sale Block 142, Lot 4.02, 690 Blenheim Avenue. The minimum bid is \$70,000. The same procedure will be in effect. **There were no bids for this lot.**

2021 RESOLUTIONS

- 93** Resolution of support from Local Governing Body authorizing the FY 2021 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) application funded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Jessica – this is a new grant that hadn't been issued before from the State and our engineer put together an application that we are going to apply for. There is \$2.5 million available in the whole State of New Jersey for recreation projects. We have been looking at some open space funding to obtain the gas station on the corner of Turner Ave. and WHP. This application would have various parts to it: one is to demolish the gas station; close off the driveway to the park and create a separate entrance on Rt. 30; construct a rest room using the sewer service from the gas station; create a pad site and kiosk for a vendor to rent kayaks for other boats; install a playground in a neighborhood that does not have one; and expand the crushed shell parking lot. We feel this is a unique opportunity as opposed to some general recreation requests that they might get. It can coincide with the open space funding that we are applying for through the County to be able to expand that park area.

Keith – regarding the money we are applying for to the County for open space; that will not cover the costs of demolition, but only the costs of the land, so we need to apply for this grant.

- 94** Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the 2021 Road Program.

Jessica – there was one bidder; Asphalt Paving Systems. They have done most of our road programs and read off the streets to get repaired. The list will be put on the website as well.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items Only)

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

All were in favor.

Joy Erik – 700 Blenheim Ave. – lives next to the lot for sale on Blenheim Avenue. She would like to keep it the way it is and maybe see if we can get money to preserve it. It's a walkway to the park that many people use. This land is whole important to the neighborhood.

Keith – said that they didn't sell tonight, so he doesn't see anything happening in the near future

Motion to close public portion – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith – read the resolutions again

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,607,216.42

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilman Burroughs
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 5-6-2021

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs - second – Councilman Cavileer
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; yes; Light, yes; Bennett, wanted to clarify his statement and the context of his comment he made; yes

REPORTS

Public Works – Butch – it was basically review at our last meeting. We discussed the Pitney Road light situation at the school which is being updated now; the road program and Turner Cove discussion.

Parks & Playground – Steve – he met on the 18th and they discussed the improvements on the batting cages, which is locked until it's finished; field management and maintenance; fertilizing schedule for the fields and some of the areas on the football field are bare; the rototilling schedule for the baseball fields; some lights are out at some of the Little League fields, but they are difficult to get to, so it needs to be coordinated; the concerts in the park and the possibility of getting a handicapped port a potty, instead of the regular one. A Father's Day baseball tournament will be held at the wagon wheel and the Blue Devils might have a corn hole tournament. Field of Dreams started last weekend and he announced George Austin passed away, Pete Higbee's father-in-law.

Keith – he's been on the baseball fields and he can hear people behind him talking about how great our fields are. He was in Brigantine not too long ago umpiring and he heard two people talking behind him and how cruddy the field was they were playing on at that moment and how they were in Absecon the other night and how great theirs was. It makes you feel good. He thanked Public Works for doing a great job.

Steve – yes, our facilities are stellar. When we host tournaments, people just brag about it. There is a lot of attention to detail and a lot of passion goes into our fields and it shows.

Community Affairs – Sandy – no meeting since the last council meeting. Shredding Day occurred and the Tour de Lights. The Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 31st at 9:00 a.m. The "Thank You Blue" signs are around town and we have sold many. We will be getting more and they are for sale at City Hall and will also be sold at the end of the parade. Anyone on the Community Affairs committee also have them to sell. All proceeds will go to the Police Department for their toy drive. They are planning a movie night in July. Her next meeting will be 6/3 @ 4:30 p.m.

Finance - Caleb – we met tonight and spoke about the grant application; we heard a little about the Covid relief money that is coming and Jessica will attend a webinar tomorrow and hopefully will get more direction on the expenditures of it; we will be hearing from the ACUA soon and a proposal about purchasing some recycling cans.

Public Safety – Betty – we heard from Jim Eberwine on the Emergency Management; the fire department that the graphics on the new truck has been completed and 4 members left on May 18th to be trained on it and it should arrive early June and they did a presentation for the PALS program at the school. The new police officer has a few more days of training. Next meeting is 6/7 @ 6:00 p.m.

Jessica – the new website is up now and you will need to sign up again for notifications. New pages will be made as we go along.

Mayor – on May 11th she attended a retirement dinner for Professor Tom Grites. He was on the school board for 36 years and it was great seeing old board members and other employees. She attended the library board meeting and things seem to be running smoothly. She thanked Sherry Liepe, the 8th grade social studies teacher at the Attales School and her 7th and 8th grade national honor students for planting flowers in pots that have been freshly painted by our Police Chief for our Veteran's Park in preparation for our Memorial Day parade. She also thanked Joe's Farm Market for providing the flowers. Those students also assisted our Community Affairs members at our recent Tour de Lights. This is public utilities week and there are programs for financial assistance for people who need help with paying their bills.

MONTHLY REPORTS - Carie

Tax Collection - \$4,110,885.37

Construction Office - \$23,591.00

Municipal Court - \$7,499.56

Municipal Clerk - \$14,152.00

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs. All were in favor.

Joy Erik – asked if a solution for keeping those lots could be to really go after money for green space preservation. She knows the City wants to sell them the two lots, but we like the peace and quiet if they aren't built. It would be great to keep it open for access to the park.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave. – commended and thanked Council for pursuing the idea at the Turner Ave. park. He thinks it's a great opportunity; it's been an eyesore for a long time. Hopefully it works out. He saw the new website and it looks nice. He has asked if the meetings could be stored on YouTube; there is no charge and they would stay on there. Asked if the zoning ordinances for the downtown area for parking and for some additional uses have been considered yet?

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

CLOSED SESSION – Res. #95-2021

The purpose of closed session is to discuss potential shared services.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer. All were in favor.

Fred – it's now 6:46 p.m. and in executive session, Council discussed the potential for certain shared services. No decisions were made, but the concept will continue to be explored and when decisions are made, additional information would then be available.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 6 3 21