



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

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

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**NOVEMBER 4, 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, Caleb Cavileer, Nick Larotonda, Steve Light, Donna Poley, Betty Howell

**ABSENT:** Nick Larotonda

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

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**2021 RESOLUTIONS**

**141** Appointing a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II, namely Edward J. Adams.  
Motion to move – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain  
**ROLL CALL:** Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

**Chief Laughlin** – gave a brief bio on Ed and was sworn in by the mayor.

Councilman Cavileer and Councilwoman Poley announced the winners of the Halloween decorating contest. There were three divisions and three winners in each.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **2021 RESOLUTIONS**

- 142** Authorizing the transfer of appropriations in the 2021 Local Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58.

Jessica – we need to move funds for additional legal expenses and also moving funds from salary and wages to operating expenses for the change of our dispatch to Galloway

- 143** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 4th quarter of 2021 on the listed property.

### **PUBLIC PORTION (for agenda items)**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs  
All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close to the public – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer  
All were in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA** - Resolutions read by title that have been moved to consent.

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$3,058,111.74**

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 10/21/2021

Closed Session as to form and content only – 9/16/21

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

### **REPORTS**

**Jessica Thompson, Admin/CFO** – leaf pickup will begin next week and run through the end of the year. The sewer bills should be mailed during the week of Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and a newsletter will be in it.

**Eddie Dennis, City Engineer** – we received notice that we were awarded \$270,00 from the NJDOT for 2022 state aid and that will be for Cordova Drive, Seminole Avenue and Stone Circle. We have a working list for the 2022 road program. The dredging is winding down and after their survey, they indicated that our area did not need to be dredged and our survey did show that it did, so we shared and they came back and said with the amount of dredging that we want them to do, isn't enough to justify the cost that they would incur to do it. He wished they had said that from the beginning. He is going to see if there is any funding assistance for the city. The Shore Road project with the County's design is complete and he will meet with the county engineer to get their okay next week. The NY Ave. subdivision committee had a meeting and there were pros and cons about four different concepts and basically the recommendation is that we go with a through street, so NY Avenue would connect from 15<sup>th</sup> out to Highland. This is a better planning and engineering concept

and then we would leave it at that and go with a second cul de sac that would come down towards Chelsea Road. We would only gain two lots by doing that and with any revenue, it might be offset by infrastructure costs or long-term maintenance. The committee thought it would be a better project and more consistent with the neighborhood on NY Ave. We will need to go to the Planning Board and it will be like any other application with a full presentation and public portion.

**Mayor Horton** – during the meeting, public safety was an important factor and making sure emergency vehicles could move freely and that is why we wanted it to run straight through. We also discussed a three-way stop.

**Eddie** – the plan would be a three-way stop at NY and 15<sup>th</sup> St. because the path to Pitney Park is right there. It would help calm traffic down in that area.

**Steve** – he asked about the flooding on New Road and maybe looking into that area as well to raise. Maybe the grade could be changed on either side and feels we should start looking at it now. He asked if any residents in the area of the new subdivision reached out to him. Ed said not in any formal way.

**Mayor** – Halloween went on without a hitch thanks to Chief Laughlin and our incredible police officers. They made sure our children were safe as they moved around all the neighborhoods. She thanked Caleb and Donna for organizing the Halloween decorating contest.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave.** – asked council again to look at changing the meeting times for next year's meeting dates. He feels 5:30 is a little early. With the NY Ave. development, he is happy to see it as a through street as well as the three-way stop. There's another place on NY down the street that it could be done. He asked about the recovery funds (COVID funds) that the city received and if any discussion was held as to what they will be used for.

Caleb – they will be used for the NY Ave. project and some of the infrastructure.

Greg – asked if they would consider using Facebook to get things out to the public other than just fun events.

Betty – we will not use Facebook because it would be a back-and-forth kind of thing. We are trying to avoid that. The public is welcome to any city meetings.

Greg – again it comes back to the meeting times. You can turn off comments if you want and simply post announcement or links. There are many other public officials who share what is going on. People would love to know about the Shore Road project.

**Paul DeBlasio - 817 New York Ave.** – asked about the ad hoc committee and if it's an internal group. Many residents couldn't make it tonight and if there is a way to get a representative involved in the process, that would be appreciated.

Mayor – at this point. There will be time for your input or concerns at the Planning Board meeting. The information will be on our website as well. This is early on

Paul – this is one of the more private pristine areas and he's concerned this is going to ruin that and maybe the park too. What's the benefit of doing this for the city and the residents?

**Karen Egan – 900 New York Ave.** – next to us was a paper street and we thought if anything was done that would be used. Is that part of this project and what is the plan for this street? It

Eddie – NY Ave. would come to the end and connect to Highland and that would be the only new road.

**Brian Egan – 900 New York Ave.** – is there a moratorium on Highland Blvd still?

Eddie – yes. The hope is not to need an easement with this layout. We are not sure where the water and sewer will be coming from yet; the Highland side or the 15<sup>th</sup> side. The idea is not to need an easement behind a property.

**Jeff Ciccone – 901 New York Ave.** – he understands this is progress, but he would prefer the lots be sold individually and auctioned off, rather than a developer come in put cookie cutter homes up. Will NY Avenue still have that “S” curve in it?

Eddie – it has a little bit of a bend in it and it will help with the slowing down of traffic. The buffers from the new homes to the path will be no different from the homes that are already there.

**Steve Mastro – 806 New York Ave.** – asked that they keep in mind all the traffic that comes down Ambassador Ave. Half of it doesn't stop now and he's asked for a stop sign, but was told you don't slow traffic down with a stop sign, but now we can. He asked to keep Ambassador in mind because it's a busy intersection.

**Councilman Light** – part of the reason we decided to develop this, because there is a desire to come to our community and there is a lack of building lots. This was just in the mix of our master plan and a piece of a bigger picture. There is city lots that don't conform and we could probably see if the neighbors want them to make their homes bigger or have a larger lot. This is a great community and we have a lot to offer.

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

#### **CLOSED SESSION - #144 – Contract Negotiations**

Attorney Fred Scerni – this resolution is for a closed session for purposes of discussing certain contract matters impacting Frankowski Construction. At the conclusion of closed session, a report will be provided to the public.

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

**Fred Scerni** – we are back in open session and in executive session city council discussed certain contract negotiations with Frankowski construction and they have provided direction to our office and the engineer's office to take further steps to resolve certain matters. Additional information may be made available within the next thirty days.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12.2.21