



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 21, 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, Betty Howell
ABSENT: Donna Poley

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2021 RESOLUTIONS

133 Accepting the 2020 Municipal Audit.
Jessica Thompson – there are no findings on the report

134 Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2021 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$4,000.00 from the Federal Body Armor Fund.
Jessica Thompson – this is a grant we usually get each year and it goes along with the state body armor fund. It helps us to buy it for the police department

135 Accepting Volunteer Firefighters into the Absecon City Fire Department, namely Carl Walls, Douglas Morrell and Daniel Parker.

136 Authorizing the need to advertise for a Part-time Electrical Sub Code Official for the City of Absecon.
Jessica Thompson – this is to fill a vacancy

- 137** Authorizing the acceptance of the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program State Fiscal Year 2021.

Jessica Thompson – we applied in June for this grant and it's for \$61,140 and we just need to do this resolution in order to receive the funds from the state. The total cost of the full purchase was \$99,100, so we received about two-thirds of the money covered by the grant.

- 138** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 1st Quarter of 2021 on the listed property.

PUBLIC PORTION (for agenda items)

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

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

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

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,358,275.82

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 10/7/2021

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

REPORTS

Parks and Playgrounds – Councilman Light – they met on Tuesday and the lacrosse coach attended so they could prepare for the upcoming season. He was told they could use the concession stand and work in conjunction with football. They are looking into having a smaller squad to be able to use the auxiliary or practice field. Councilman Larotonda has looked into some of the items with the city regarding the poles from our last meeting and one of the scoreboards is having a malfunction on the baseball fields. He was told by a resident that a sprinkler is broken at Turner Cove. They discussed a plan for the concert in the parks next year. His next meeting is 11/16 at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Howell – asked what field they will be using

Steve – they will practice at the school where they do now and games will be played on the main Blue Devil field on the offseason when football is not using it and the practice field too.

Community Affairs – Councilwoman Cain – announced upcoming events in town. This Saturday is the new firehouse truck dedication with a parade. Nov. 20th the Absecon Education Foundation along with our Absecon Community Affairs will have a scarecrow stroll along Heritage Park. You must create your own scarecrow. Dec. 3rd will be Santa in the Park from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Her next meeting is November 4th at 4:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Sandy in for Donna Poley – the ambulance calls are up, but it's more chronic calls than COVID calls. They did lose some staff and they are looking to hire at \$17.50 an hour. The police department is switching from the DARE program to the LEAD program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) and they will get a lot of free resources through it. It will begin this year with the 5th and 6th grades, since it wasn't held last year for the 5th graders. Steve – forgot to mention letters that were sent in by some young residents about us considering having a skate park and a frisbee golf.

Finance – Councilman Cavileer - they met today and reported that 81% of the budget has been expended so far and the budget had \$100,000 in it for the body armor, but it will be offset now with the \$61,000 grant. The audit was accepted earlier this evening. The Best Practices Inventory Survey was completed, which is yearly and we got 22 ½ points out of 25. He thanked everyone in the clerk's office for helping sell the "Thank You Blue" signs, which are all gone.

Public Works – Councilman Burroughs - An agreement with Mr. Falivene for sidewalks was agreed on and they discussed the list of proposed roads for next year. Turner Cove project was discussed as well. The next meeting will be moved to 11/3 instead of 11/16.

Economic Development – Councilman Larotonda – there was no meeting this month, but he welcomed the new gym that is going into the old Island Gym location. Firestone should be opening up next week. A new phone repair business opened up at the corners of Station, New Road & New Jersey Avenues.

Jessica Thompson, Admin/CFO – curb side leaf pick up will begin 11/8 and run until the end of December. It is for loose leaves only and no debris or branches should be put out. The lighting on Pitney Road is scheduled for installation on 11/22.

MONTHLY REPORTS for SEPTEMBER- Carie

Municipal Clerk \$3,004.20
Tax Collection - \$3,712,223.17
Municipal Court - \$6,949.87
Construction - \$13,671.00

Mayor Horton – the senior center will reopen on December 2nd from 9:30 to 1:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays with programs beginning at 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. She mentioned the letter from the young resident who feels that a skate park would complete our ballpark area. She attended the Art in the Park, which was a classy event. We are looking forward to the firehouse housing event this coming weekend. She reminded everyone of the election on Nov. 2nd and to vote. She wished everyone a safe and fun Halloween.

Chief Laughlin – he thanked the state legislatures to have the grant available for the body cameras and Lt. Adams and Jessica who got it in early. He spoke on the parade for the firetrucks and the road closures. He reminded everyone it's getting dark earlier and to watch your speed and surroundings. Morton Avenue will be shut down again on Halloween night, so park at the tennis courts or ballfields. Speeding is still an issue and they will continue to do their best to attend to the complaints. Steve mentioned thefts of vehicles that are being attempted by people very late in the evenings. The chief said the best deterrent is to have outdoor lighting and everyone should be looking out for each other. We have had a few vehicle burglaries, so he reminded everyone to lock their cars and even sheds and homes and to call if you see anything suspicious. He spoke about the camera registration program for people who have them. He explained that the flooding is happening more often and S. Shore Road is not the only place it occurs, so they do their best at getting to each location to put cones out.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave. – wanted to know why the switch was made from the DARE to LEAD programs. The chief said there is no real difference, but DARE has become more expensive, since the LEAD program provides us everything and we will have more resources. Greg asked if the Creek Fest will happen next year and Betty said they are working on it for the fall of 2022. He asked if there was any follow up on the county wide court system. The mayor feels they are estimating the numbers and we had exact numbers. He was curious why the meetings can't go on YouTube. Betty said they don't feel it's necessary to go on there. Greg said they would be up there forever and not be taken down when the next meeting goes up. The minutes say certain things, but not everything.

Councilman Larotonda – feels we could do it

Councilman Light – is in favor of it as long as it there is no negative aspect to it

Mayor Horton - they are on the website and if there are questions, they can contact the clerk's office and a lot of us here don't even go to YouTube.

Greg – they are removed after two weeks and they should be archived since it's available.

Thanked everyone for the paving work that was done on Pitney Road; it looks beautiful.

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

All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION - #139 – Litigation

Attorney Fred Scerni – stated the reason is to discuss litigation issues and action may be taken at the end of closed session.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilwoman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Fred Scerni – we are out of closed session and council discussed a matter of litigation bearing Docket No. ATL-L- 1287-21. A resolution will be voted on authorizing the settlement of that litigation.

REGULAR MEETING

2021 RESOLUTIONS

- 140** Authorizing the execution of a settlement agreement and release related to Docket No. ATL-L-1287-21.


Motion to move Resolution 140-2021–made by Councilman Light – second–Councilman Burroughs
Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Howell, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 11-4-21