



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 6, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AS A ZOOM MEETING.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro Tem, Betty Howell at 5:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavalier, Betty Howell, Steve Light

ABSENT: Phillips, Bennett

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

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2020 RESOLUTIONS

88 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 3rd quarter of 2020 on the listed property.

89 Authorizing Change Order No. 5 for the construction of the New Fire Department Facility.

Eddie – there were allowances put into the contract from the beginning. This change order takes the items that were charged from the allowances thus far. It makes them a part of the contract now, making them covered by warranty etc. We are up to \$105,000 of the \$125,000 put in the contract.

90 Authorizing the Tax Office to accept overpayments of tax and sewer requiring exact change for other cash city payments.

Jessica – since we want to have the least amount of handling of cash that we can during this time, we are going to accept payments in cash, but if they don't have exact change, we will put the extra on their account balance for future payments. Anybody who wants to pay cash for any type of payment with the City should try to have exact change.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

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

All were in favor. No comments.

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

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Betty read the Consent Agenda Resolutions again.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$2,530,597.20

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/16/2020

Closed Session as to 7/2/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs - second – Councilman Cavileer

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

REPORTS

Jessica – the tax bills were sent out and the grace period is August 28th. Payments made after that will have interest calculated back to August 1st. The tax office drive up window will be opened tomorrow for business. It will only be for tax and sewer payments. Any others will be put in the drop box out front. She will have a report on the numbers for the Redevelopment project at the next meeting, now that we have some more numbers to work with. We received the census response data and Absecon's response is 70%, which is one of the highest in Atlantic County. ACUA will be expanding dates of yard waste pickup due to the storm. They asked that people put it in the same manner that they always have done, maybe not all of it tied, but in distinct piles and orderly manner. Buckets and paper kraft bags can be used for the smaller items.

Mayor – she attended the first in person library board meeting on July 20th. They are servicing the needs of our residents, while keeping everyone safe. She sent the way finding sign letter to the County and is waiting for a response. Senator Booker's office is ready to help us out after the storm if we need anything. She thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, EMT's; Public Works and our Emergency Management Team for their steadfast efforts during the storm.

Eddie – The firehouse is still moving along and we are dealing with everyday scheduling items to try and keep everything on schedule. The big issue is the deliveries that we are waiting for a date to get them. The sidewalks on Pitney Road project started today and their schedule looks like they will have it pretty far along before school starts. We are under contract for the bulkhead project behind City Hall with Walter's Marine. They are just waiting for the materials to come in now. Bayview Drive is out to bid tomorrow and they will be opened on the 18th and awarded at the next meeting. Hopefully it will start smoothly in the fall. The gas company is all over the place in town. Yesterday alone, they had 15 crews here. He has had some concerns and complaints come in and they are

being logged in to make sure they get addressed. They just submitted a whole new load of permits for more work around town too. It is disruptive, but it's progress and will be worth it. On the redevelopment project, it had stopped because they ran into a utility project on Route 30 and they have to work with the DOT to continue their work.

Police Chief – he was proud of his department and who was working during the storm. All the departments were asked to do this they normally don't do and all did a great job. We had between 60-70 calls for service and the fire department worked all day. Lloyd and the public works crew did a fantastic job in trying to get debris out of the roadway and Jim and Tony, our emergency management team assisted us in any way they could. The most important people too were the dispatchers; they never stopped all day long. He is proud of our whole town. COVID is still real so he asked everyone to still wear their masks and keep social distancing.

Steve - thanked everyone as well for their work as well as the utility crews and tree trimmers for all their work they're doing. He was asked by some residents to look into sidewalks along NJ and Ambassador Avenue across from the Wawa. Another spot that needs looking into is Illinois Avenue from the bridge to the lift station with getting some patchwork and raising the road. He knows it's a county road and we have to ask them. Eddie told him that we are in the works with the County with road work in that area and he's ready to submit a grant for it. Lighting upgrades are being looked into at around City Hall. Some residents have complained to him regarding the gas company's patch work of the roads they are opening up. The concerts in the park are going well and they're well attended. We have a donor who is willing to donate materials for one additional stand-alone basketball net in memory of Bill Walsh near the existing one we put up last year.

Public Works - Burroughs – he has attended the firehouse meetings and Ed has covered it. Lloyd is doing a great job around town keeping it up.

Finance – Cavileer – we haven't had any meetings. The bills are continuing to be paid. He did take a look at the census numbers and our self-response rate will be up to September 30th and then they will solicit at people's doors. We are doing a nice job, but it's still 3 out of 10 that have not responded yet. It's very important for resources and legislation. Creek Fest has been postponed and we're looking into a new date for next year.

Community Affairs – Cain – attended the flower pot contest and the event was amazing.

Economic Development – Howell – she attended the contest as well and liked it. She praised our utility workers, the fire department, the ambulance squad, the police department, public works who were all out there during the storm. Our town has been functioning and not compromised throughout this whole pandemic and the storms. She thanked Jim Eberwine and Tony Giardina for their work and also spoke to them regarding the additional PPE equipment we will need soon. Told residents to beware of loose wires on downed trees before moving anything.

Sandy – questioned if a bank owned home is not being maintained and letting it go, can the City have Lloyd and his crew clean up and do work and then we put a lien on the property? With COVID it's tough and now the storm didn't help. The banks aren't going to clean them up. It might benefit the City for us to look into it. We would eventually get money back from having the liens.

Fred – there is a state statute that permits us to put a lien on the property and the city has an ordinance as well. Within that, there is a standard that would trigger the ability of the municipality to go in and begin undertaking maintenance on the property and then the bill is presented. It's done administratively and not through his office. If the bill is not paid, the lien is handled in the manner when the taxes are not paid on a property.

Steve – suggested we all take the Wards we are in and make a list if we see a property.

Jessica – we can get a list of properties, but then Leigh has to start his process first and then if that doesn't work we can go with the other way. The process can take some time as well.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor. No public comment.

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

Steve – mentioned mail in ballots and when doing so, postage is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 8/20/2020