



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

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18TH, 2024 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sandy Cain, Alex Clark, Richard DeRose, Nick LaRotonda, Steve Light, Tommy Marrone, and Christine Parker

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Kim Horton, City Administrator/CFO Jessica Thompson, City Engineer Ed Dennis, City Solicitor Bill Blaney Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, and Police Chief J.R. Laughlin

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2023 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 01** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 224 – Land Use and Development, Article XXXV – Stormwater Control.

Ed Dennis: Explained Ordinances #01-02, which are both mandated by the State, which sets stormwater management at the Municipal level. Absecon has a MS4 Stormwater Permit, which certifies that they City will comply with all State stormwater regulations. The DEP has been in the process of updating over the past several years, which required Absecon to pass a similar Ordinance within that timeframe. Ordinance #1 is an amendment to that outdated Ordinance. Developers, with site plans/subdivision projects, are required to submit Stormwater Management Report that details how drainage will be handled at the site. The Report now requires the inclusion of rainfall data. Ordinance #2 pertains to State mandated storage regulations for salt on private properties. Regulation requires all outdoor salt storages to be on top of an impervious foundation so that the salt does not leech into the ground. The regulation also requires the storage to be kept a certain distance from bodies of water to prevent possible run-off. Outdoor storages only allowed from October to April.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on February 1st, 2024.

- 02** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, creating Chapter 259 – Privately-owned Salt Storage.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on February 1st, 2024.

- 03** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 3 – Administrative Code, Article 1 – Mayor and Council, Section 3-1- Council Committees.

Council President LaRotonda: Shared that moving forward, the City's Public Works Committee will regard matters relating to Public Works, Sewer, and Code Enforcement.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman Light
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on February 1st, 2024.

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under item, Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be discussed separately.

- 29** Appointing a Public Works Laborer/Operator, namely Thomas Andrews.
- 30** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon VFW Post 9462 Auxiliary.
- 31** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Charles A. Hammell Post 28 American Legion.
- 32** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon Green Team.
- 33** Authorizing the submission of the City of Absecon's Tonnage Grant Application for the year 2023 to the New Jersey Department of Environmental.
- 34** Authorizing the Tax Collector to prorate and cancel 4th quarter taxes of 2023 and cancel the 2024 preliminary on the property located at 1009 Caralena Court.

- 35 Authorizing the Tax Collector to prorate and refund 3rd quarter taxes of 2023 and cancel and refund 4th quarter and the 2024 preliminary on the property located at 1 Claridge Court.
- 36 Extending the Grant Agreement term with the State of New Jersey Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP).
- 37 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a second amended Interlocal Agreement with Atlantic County regarding flashing signal equipment at various locations.
- 38 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement/Hold Harmless Agreement with Atlantic County concerning Streetscape Improvements within the County Right of Way of New Jersey Ave.
- 39 Authorizing the Mayor and other City Official to execute the 2024 Safety Contract with the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 40 Authorizing the transfer of appropriation reserves in the 2023 local municipal budget per N.J.S.A. 40A; 4-59.
- 41 Reconstituting the Green Team Advisory Committee for the City of Absecon.
- 42 Recognizing the members of the Absecon Green Team, a task force for Sustainable Absecon.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
All in Favor, None Opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 1,691,413.78

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/21/2023

Re-Organization Minutes – 1/4/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Abstain (12/21), Yes (1/4); DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes;
Parker – Abstain (12/21), Yes (1/4); LaRotonda – Abstain (12/21), Yes (1/4)

REPORTS

Council President LaRotonda: Reminded the public that there have been no Council Committee Meetings yet this year.

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds: First meeting of the year will be February 20th at 7PM. Stated that they receive many inquiries about the Concerts in the Park. Spoke with Pete Higbee who informed him that there are 25 people on the list for this year so far.

Councilman Clark – Finance: The City will have a Budget Meeting next Thursday, while the first Finance Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, February 15th at 5:30PM.

Councilman Marrone – Public Works: Meetings will be on the first Monday of every month at 5PM, so the Committee's first meeting will be on Monday, February 5th. Encourages all to attend.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety: First meeting will be on Monday, February 5th at 6PM.

Chief Laughlin: Reviewed a few Public Safety matters. Shared that many residents have been calling the Police Dept. in regard to water flooding into their homes (resultant from the recent rain and snow.) Advised that people suffering this should check the perimeter of their home to make sure the grades are set correctly and that the gutters are not clogged. Did not want to instill panic, but cautioned people about stepping into any water in the basement due to the risk of possible live electrical currents being present. Suggested that it would be best, in that case, for a professional to be called to mediate the problems there. Informed the public that it is illegal to drive a car that is covered in snow, and stated that the vehicle must be cleaned off completely. Emphasized the danger that the debris may inflict on other drivers and pedestrians.

Councilman DeRose: Congratulated the Absecon Green Team on completing their first year re-established. Expressed excitement for what they will accomplish in the upcoming year.

Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development: Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of every month, so the Committee's first meeting will be on February 7th at 6PM.

Councilwoman Parker – Community Affairs: Meetings will be on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30PM, so the Committee's first meeting will be on February 1st. Hopes to see, both, familiar and new faces in attendance.

City Clerk: Monthly Report – December 2023

- Municipal Court: \$6,247.11
- Tax Office: \$709,066.81
- Construction Office: \$10,933
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$4,251

J. Thompson – Admin/CFO: Explained that her focus is currently on the upcoming Budget Meetings scheduled in the near future.

Mayor Kim Horton: Volunteered at the Senior Center last Thursday, during which time missionary Lisa Whitaker described her international experience and provided interesting food for people to eat. Attended the City's MLK Day Community Cleanup (sponsored by the Community Affairs Committee) with other volunteers, including several 8th Grade Honor Students, Councilmembers DeRose, Cain, Parker, Marrone, and others. Received an email from ACUA President Matthew DeNafo thanking

the City and the volunteers for their efforts. This past Tuesday she and Councilman Marrone visited the 5th grade students of Absecon's Attales School to speak with them about local government, and their personal roles and committees.

Council President LaRotonda: Commended the volunteers who attended the Community Cleanup, as well as the members of Absecon's Green Team. Looking forward to working with them in the new year. Thanked residents for attending the Town Hall Meeting with the ACUA on January 11th, which regarded the landfill odor. Stated his belief that the productive meeting was a step in the right direction and re-affirmed open lines of communication and general transparency with the ACUA. The City continues to work with them to find a resolution.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: Provided several updates about various projects. Plans have been updated for the Shore Road Project to incorporate the temporary paving done on the project, as an exchange for what was originally planned to be the road's base asphalt in the road raising. Will provide the City updates from the County as they arrive. The 2023 Road Program, work on Highland Blvd. has been paused due to a conflict with a gas line in the area. They are currently working with the Gas Company and Contractor to get the problem solved so that can finish the drainage work. The 2024 Road Program, looking forward to working with Councilman Marrone and the rest of the Public Works Committee for their considerations. Reminded the public that the year's beginning Engineering Budget includes funds so that the City may begin the process for that year's Road Program as soon as possible to ensure adherence to schedule. There was an item the Agenda for the Streetscape Project that approved a license agreement with Atlantic County. The NJDOT State Aid Grant was approved to bid, however the City continues to wait on 3 more approvals (1. County approval to work on their road; 2. Licensing Agreement that Council approved earlier in the meeting [Administrative Process]; 3. Plan approval from the Electric Company responsible for installing the Project's street lights)) that are necessary in order to get the project out to bid. The Streetscape work will be located at the Redevelopment Site on New Jersey Ave. between New Rd. and Michigan Ave. Once these tasks are complete, the City will be ready to go out to bid and start their work.

Councilman DeRose: Asked whether the City had ever applied for the Local Recreation Grant through the DCA.

E. Dennis: Confirmed. Shared that a new round of grants was just announced.

Councilman DeRose: Told E. Dennis that he would like to talk with E. Dennis about pursuing one to resurface the City's tennis courts.

E. Dennis: Expressed that the idea has already been mentioned. Added that the Program allows up to \$100,000 with a pretty high success rate, so the possibility is promising.

Councilman Light: On behalf of the Fire Dept., asked if light poles in the Streetscape could possibly have receptacle placed at the top or an application of wreaths.

E. Dennis: Believes newer light poles allow them, but will check to confirm.

Council President LaRotonda: Asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the streetlights downtown.

E. Dennis: Atlantic City Electric, as the own them.

Council President LaRotonda: When decorating the lights for the holiday season, noticed that the lights are extremely loose.

E. Dennis: Stated that Absecon goes through Atlantic City Electric's Municipal Lease Lighting Program. Shared that if Absecon installed the lights themselves, then the City would be required to maintain them. Under the City's current Program, Atlantic City Electric is still responsible for the lights' maintenance, and therefore are the ones who are responsible for tightening them up. Each pole is numbered so they can be easily reported to the company.

Councilwoman Cain: Asked for an update regarding the New York Avenue Project.

E. Dennis: Has no update to provide.

B. Blaney: Indicated there was a legal matter which requires in-person attendance, once that happens, the City will be squared away to move on.

Councilwoman Cain: Several people have asked when the sale of the lots are expected to take place.

Council President LaRotonda: Once the legal matter is resolved, a Committee will begin moving forward with the Project.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Alex Perri – 620 Yarmouth Avenue: On behalf of the Green Team, expressed appreciation for Council's support and recognition. Expressed his own appreciation to the Team's members. Collectively, the group has spent about 150 hours of time working on Green Team activities. Thanked Council President LaRotonda, Councilman Light, and B. Blaney for taking the time to work with them. Green Team plans to have a Coin Drop on February 10th, to raise money for the Community Garden. Upcoming Adopt-a-Road Cleanup Days (1/20 – Shore Road at 10AM; 2/9; 3/9; 4/13.) Green Team Meetings have been rescheduled to the second Monday of every month, next meeting will be on February 12th. Working to have ANJEC Representatives join their meeting to discuss Environmental Commissions. Welcomed Councilmembers Clark and Parker to Council and expressed appreciation for their support.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light
All in Favor, None Opposed.

CLOSED SESSION - #43 – Contract Negotiations

B. Blaney: In accordance with the Open Records Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, the City Council went into Closed Session. Closed Session is to discuss contract negotiations, no action will be taken after.

Motioned to enter Closed Session: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
All in Favor, None Opposed.

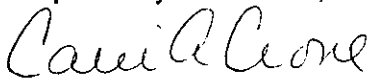
(Closed Session)

Motioned to adjourn Closed Session and re-enter the meeting: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
All in Favor, None Opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 2-1-24