



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 22ND, 2026 6:00 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Lt. Richard Huenke

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Alex Clark, Linda Evans, Nick LaRotonda, Steve Light, Christine Parker, Mike Sykes and Council President Richard DeRose

ABSENT: Mayor Marrone

ALSO PRESENT: City Solicitor John Amenhauser Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Administrator Jessica Snyder, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin and Lt. Huenke

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2026 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 02** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 251 – Rental Housing, adding Article VII – Lead-Based Paint Inspections.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #02-2026: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Clark

Council President DeRose – This has to do with Lead-Based paint inspections. We have a new Zoning Official and he is working on updating the City's Code Book.

Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes; DeRose–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 5th, 2026.

2026 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 01** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 3 – Administrative Code, Section 11 – Council Committees.

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #01-2026: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Light. Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes; DeRose–Yes

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #01-2026: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilman Clark
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

Motioned to close the public portion: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #01-2026: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes; DeRose–Yes

Ordinance #01-2026 has been heard and is finally approved.

2026 RESOLUTIONS

Council President DeRose – Do I hear a motion to add Resolution #41-2026 – A Resolution authorizing the final Change Order, No. 7 for the construction of the New Fire Department Facility, to the consent agenda? Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans.
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Council President DeRose – Do I hear a motion to add Resolution #42-2026 – A Resolution canceling unexpended balances of Bond Ordinances, to the consent agenda? Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark.
All in Favor, None Opposed.

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.

- 33** Confirming Meetings of the City Committees, Commissions and Boards for the year 2026.
- 34** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Charles A. Hammell Post 28 American Legion.

- 35 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon Blue Devils.
- 36 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the VFW Post 9462 Auxiliary.
- 37 Authorizing to cancel the property taxes for the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2026 on the property located at 28 Delray Lane.
- 38 Authorizing to cancel and refund property taxes for the 4th quarter of 2025 and to cancel the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2026 on the property located at 68 W. Delray Lane.
- 39 Appointing a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, namely Tina Lawler.
- 40 Authorizing and hereby granting GoNetspeed and its successors and assigns, to use poles erected by parties that have lawful right to maintain
- 41 Authorizing Change Order #7 – Final, for the construction of the New Fire Department Facility.
- 42 Canceling unexpended balances of Bond Ordinances.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

Council President DeRose – The resolution added tonight regarding the Fire House, was a resolution that Council should have been approved in 2021, but unfortunately City Council did not act, therefore we have to retroactively act on this so we can go back and access funds.

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes;
DeRose–Yes to everything but #34 and #36 – holds leadership roles in both.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$989,317.61

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Absent; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes;
DeRose–Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/4/2025

Re-Organization Meeting Minutes – 1/6/2026

Motioned to accept the Minutes: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; Sykes–Yes;
DeRose–Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Light – Public Works: No meeting this month. First meeting will be in February.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Flashing yellow light on New Jersey Avenue is up and should hopefully be running within a day or two. Quick update on where our budget was last year:

Total budget for 2025 - \$12,340,270.66 including Grants for \$220,501.18

Department Breakdown – Public Works operating expenses, just under \$200,000 – they were down about \$73,000. Vehicle Maintenance for all department was down about \$13,000.

Fire Department operating expenses was up, they used their entire budget of \$70,000.

Police Department operating expenses - \$109,896. Police Overtime was down by \$19,170.

Engineering operating expenses was down \$78,631. Legal also down \$20,627.

Health Insurance went up, total cost \$675,337.60. Court revenue up \$26,599.95.

Hotel Occupancy Fee up \$5,393.47. Cannabis Program has so far brought in \$60,238.09.

Also had Land Sales last year that brought in around \$300,000.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Hasn't met this year, first meeting will be February 5th. Will have the first meeting at 5:30 to discuss meeting time with all members due to Council meetings changing to 6pm. We'll be confirming a date for Creekfest, leaning towards a Saturday this year. And also, the start of the planning of the Senior Brunch in May.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Hasn't had an official meeting in January, first official meeting will be February 2nd.

Chief Laughlin – Storm coming in this weekend, please try to remove anything from the street that you can it really helps Public Works with the huge task of removing snow to make your navigation safer. Sunday will be bad, we're asking if you can, please stay home.

Councilwoman Parker – Can you address the new E-Bike law that has been put into place.

Chief Laughlin – Unfortunately I really can't, because it's so new. They're giving approximately a year to fully put it in place. The Governor signed this on his last day, so not sure if there was a lot of foresight or discussion on this, it pretty much covers everything. Right now, no one can ride one unless you have a license, insurance and registration. More will come out as we dive into it. I'm sure there will be a coalition of the Owner's and attorney's looking into this and we may or may not see some adjustments to the law. Most importantly, I think it's important that we did something.

Councilman Sykes – Parks & Recreation – First meeting will be on February 17th. Going to start with getting together the Concerts in the Park. Just a reminder, Public Works will get to the main roads first, so if your road hasn't been done right away, please understand.

Councilman LaRotonda – Excited to be chairing the newly formed Code Enforcement Committee, the first meeting will be on February 2nd. Looking forward on working with our Code Enforcement team on updating a lot of our code that are outdated and getting our Code Book up to par.

City Clerk: Monthly Reports – November and December

- Municipal Court: November - \$7,491.08, December - \$8,119.12
- Municipal Clerk's Office: November - \$713.00. December \$2,275.00
- Construction Office: November - \$10,276.00, December \$11,193.00
- Tax Office: November - \$4,469,309.87, December - \$1,239,178.93

Admin. J. Snyder – The City Hall main entrance construction is now complete, and the new ADA entrance is now accessible to the public. Property taxes due February 1st, with a 10-day grace period.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No Discussion

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 2-5-26