



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 5TH, 2022 5:30 PM
MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK

FLAG SALUTE

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

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Thomas Marrone, Councilperson, Ward 1: Oath administered by Brigantine Mayor Vincent Sera. Standing with Tommy is his wife, Colleen, and children, Christopher, Jaxon, and Madelyn.

Richard DeRose, Councilperson, Ward 2: Oath administered by Senator Vincent Polistina. Standing with Richard is his wife, Bethany.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain (came in @6:00 PM), Richard DeRose, Betty Howell, Nick LaRotonda, Steve Light, Tommy Marrone

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

REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilman Light – Nominated Councilman Nick LaRotonda, Seconded: Councilwoman DeRose

Councilman Burroughs – Nominated Councilwoman Betty Howell, Seconded: Councilwoman Howell

C. Crone: Hearing no other nomination, declared nominations closed.

Roll Call for Councilman LaRotonda: Burroughs - No; Cain - Absent; DeRose - Yes; Howell - No; Light - Yes; Marrone - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes

Oath administered by Senator Vince Polistina. Standing with Nick is his wife Julia.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Councilman Marrone – Nominated Councilman Richard DeRose for Council President Pro
Seconded: Councilman Light

Council President LaRotonda: Hearing no other nomination, declared nominations closed.

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; DeRose - Yes; Howell - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes

Oath administered by Senator Vince Polistina. Standing with Richard is his wife Bethanie.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – FOR THE YEAR 2023

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.

- 01** Authorizing the annual schedule of Regular Meetings of Absecon City Council for the calendar year 2023.

Councilman Marrone – Motioned to change Meeting start time from 5:30PM to 6:30PM; Seconded: Councilman DeRose. ***MOVED OUT OF CONSENT AGENDA***

- 02** Awarding a contract for professional services of a City Attorney.
Blaney, Donohue & Weinberg, PC
- 03** Awarding a contract for professional services for a Labor Attorney.
Blaney, Donohue & Weinberg, PC
- 04** Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a Public Defender.
Frank Lentz, Esq.
- 05** Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services for a Municipal Prosecutor.
Carl Tripician, Esq.
- 06** Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a City Planner.
Edward Dennis, Remington & Vernick, Engineers

- 07 Awarding a non-competitive contract for professional services of a Bond Counsel.
Anthony Solimine, Esq. of Wilentz
- 08 Authorizing the Tax Assessor as the Agent in Adjustment appeals to reduce assessments.
- 09 Designating the Interest and Penalty rate on unpaid taxes.
- 10 Designating the official newspapers.
- 11 Adopting the Cash Management Plan of the City of Absecon.
- 12 Establishing the 2023 Temporary Budget for Current Fund and Sewer Utility Fund.
- 13 Appointing a Risk Management Consultant for the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund.
Robert Devanna, Glenn Insurance
- 14 Appointing a Councilperson to the Planning Board.
Council President LaRotona asked for Nominations. Councilman DeRose nominated Councilwoman Howell. Seconded: Councilman Marrone. No other nominations.
- 15 Re-Appointing Members to the Zoning Board.
Pat Malia, Mike Famularo, Chris Cottrell, and Mike Steve Baltera
- 16 Appointing a Mercantile License Clerk.
Carie A. Crone, RMC
- 17 Appointing a Lien Clerk for the City of Absecon.
Jessica A. Snyder, CTC
- 18 Appointing a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.
Mary Fetske, 3 years.
- 19 Authorizing the Tax Collector to participate in an Electronic Tax Sale.
- 20 Authorizing a fee for the creation, printing and mailing of Tax Sale Notices for Electronic Tax Sale.
- 21 Ensuring Time Capsule to be opened in the year 2052.

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Abstain; DeRose - Yes; Howell - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

2023 RESOLUTIONS OUT OF CONSENT

- 01 Authorizing the annual schedule of Regular Meetings of Absecon City Council for the calendar year 2023.

Motioned to move Resolution 01-2023: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
Roll Call: Burroughs – No; Cain – No; DeRose - Yes; Howell - No; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

Councilwoman Cain – Questioned why Auditor not on Agenda. Committee, Betty, Nick and Myself, went through RFP's and all agreed on the Professionals coming out of Committee. Why was just the Auditor pulled, especially one only one firm applied? Why is the only firm who got in on time and had done a great job being penalized?

Councilman LaRotonda – Stated in Committee meeting that he felt it was bizarre only one firm applied. New Council should have a say. Feels Auditors is one of the professionals that should be changing more often.

Councilwoman Cain – Other positions only had one applicant, but they're not getting pulled. And as part of the Committee, no one discussed with me, only saying discussed with new Council Members.

Councilman LaRotonda – Spoke with solicitor, was advised if a concern to pull. Planning on forming new Committee and will discuss again at the next Council Meeting.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor, Kimberly Horton

COMMENTS

Councilman Light – Welcomed new members of Council and congratulated Nick on his appointment to Council President. Asking Community – we as a team – are asking for you to participate, communicate and be included to make our community stronger.

Councilman Marrone – Honored to be on Council. Thanked his wife and children. Also thanked his Parents, brothers, In-Laws and Brigantine Crew, Brigantine Mayor Sera, Nick & Rich and campaign team. To the Residents, I am humbled, grateful and here to work for you. Looking forward to working with the Mayor, Council and everyone who works at City Hall.

Councilwoman Cain – Entering her 11th year on Council. A lot of good things have been done in the past years. Truly wants what's best for the City and the residents, not only as a Councilperson but as a life long resident. Hope we can all continue to do the good work I've seen in the last ten years.

Councilman DeRose – Seventeen years ago swore and oath for the Military, to help those who need it, and tonight took one for the City with the same dedication – to be a voice for the voiceless. Thanked Senator Vince Polistina. Thanked everyone who came out tonight, especially his Parents, In-Laws, Arianne Sellers, Tommy, and his wife Bethanie. Looks forward to working with Mayor Horton and colleges.

Councilwoman Howell – Apologized to Councilwoman Cain – everyone is doing their best and deserves their chance to talk. We need to all work together. And thanked everyone for their support. Welcome to the new members and congratulations to Nick.

Councilman Burroughs – Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Proud of accomplishments from last year. Looking forward to a productive year.

Councilman LaRotonda – Thankful for the nomination of Council President. Thanked Family, especially his wife. Thanked Tommy and Rich, Senator Polistina and all the past and present Elected Officials here tonight. Also, thanks to Police Chief, Fire Department and all Volunteer Organizations and City Employees.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth – Thanked Betty for past service as Council President. Agrees 6:30 is a better time for Council Meetings and thanked council for the change. Stated that Auditors being changed more frequently is common practice especially in the Public Sector.

Gina DeLorenzo – 818 New York Ave. – Congratulations and thank you to all. Wanted to know when the New York Avenue project will be discussed.

Councilman LaRotonda – Planning Board has already approved project. Council will have a committee to decide whether to move forward or not.

DeLorenzo – is there any chance to have the plan changed – like bigger lots, cul-de-sacs, ect?

Councilman LaRotonda – That would require it to go back to the Planning Board.

Kevin Sedlak – Commander of the American Legion – Congratulations to Rich and Tommy. Council has been a great support and has had a great working relationship for the Veterans. It's been great working with the current Council and hopes for it to continue.

Roger Dutch – 315 Pennsylvania Ave. – Congratulated new Council Members and Nick on becoming Council President. Questioned what exactly the Boat Ramp Permit is for, has gotten conflicting stories in the past that it was for ramp and others saying for parking.

City Clerk Crone – Explained the permit is for using the ramp. It is not a parking pass.

Roger Dutch – Stated tickets have been given on truck with trailers that were parked in the area.

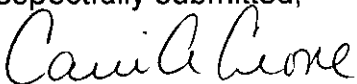
City Clerk Crone – stated that is a Police Department question, can be multiple reasons for a ticket to be issued.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 2/2/23