



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Phone (609) 641-0663x101
Fax (609) 645-5098

CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16th, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Parker

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Marrone, City Solicitor John Amenhauser Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Engineer Ed Dennis, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin and Administrator Jessica Snyder.

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

REGULAR MEETING

2025 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 15** Amending Chapter 330 to designate a multi-way stop intersection at certain intersections.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #15-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda.

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; 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 November 6th, 2025.

- 16 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 35 – Fire Department, Article II, §35-12 – Definitions.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #16-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes.

Discussion – Council President DeRose – This is just changed the percentage that constitutes a full-time Volunteer Fire Fighter in the City of Absecon. Changing the percentage to be more in line with the National average.

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Abstain; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; 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 November 6th, 2025.

2025 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 13 An Ordinance establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motioned for the Second reading of Ordinance #13-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark. **Roll Call:** Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #13-2025: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Light. All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #13-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Sykes
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Absent; Sykes–Yes; DeRose–Yes

Ordinance #13-2025 has been heard and is finally approved.

- 14 Bond Ordinance providing for the 2024 Road Improvement Program, appropriating \$1,000,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$950,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to finance part of the cost thereof.

Motioned for the Second reading of Ordinance #14-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda. **Roll Call:** Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #14-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes. All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #14-2025: Councilman Light;
Seconded: Councilman Clark
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Yes; Light–Yes; Parker–Absent; Sykes–Yes;
DeRose–Yes

Ordinance #14-2025 has been heard and is finally approved.

RESOLUTIONS OUT OF CONSENT

John Amenhauser – Open Public Meetings Act typically requires you to publish a copy of the Agenda to the extent that it is known 48-hours in advance of the meeting. That was done, but the two Resolutions we're looking to act on out of consent, weren't included in the 48-hour notice and the reason for that was that there was some internal discussion going on as to whether or not we could act on them tonight. Didn't receive consensus on that till earlier today, so given the fact that we did have that prior to the meeting and the urgency and importance to the City of Absecon, we can act on them tonight, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, as long as 75% of 3 quarters of the membership present is in agreement on acting on them.

Roll Call to add Resolutions #187-2025 and #188-2025 to the Agenda: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

187 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for the 2025 Road Program.

Motion to move Resolution #187-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda.
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

188 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for the 2025 New Jersey DOT Reconstruction of Delaware Avenue Project.

Motion to move Resolution #188-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda.
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

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.

- 177 Authorizing the Tax Collector to prorate and cancel property taxes for the 3rd and 4th Quarter of 2025 and cancel the preliminary for 2026 on the properties listed.
- 178 Authorizing the Tax Collector to prorate, cancel and refund the property taxes for 77 days of the 3rd Quarter of 2025 and cancel the 4th Quarter of 2025 and the preliminary of 2026.
- 179 Authorizing to cancel the property taxes for the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2026 on the property located at 1109 New York Avenue, (Block 45, Lot 7).
- 180 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the property located at 637 Weiler Lane (Block 96, Lot 26).
- 181 Authorizing the increase of Resolution #161-2025 by \$1,660.22 to purchase one (1) 2025 Ford F550 Cab & Chassis Crew Cab.
- 182 Appointing a Zoning Official (Part-Time) for the City of Absecon. **PULLED**
- 183 Authorizing to enter into a contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers for Planning and Design Services for Absecon Estates Drainage Improvements.
- 184 Authorizing to enter into a contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers for Planning and Design Services for Hobart Avenue Drainage Improvements.
- 185 Authorizing the payout of accumulated time for an employee who retired from the City of Absecon during 2025.
- 186 An Amended resolution of the City Council of the City of Absecon authorizing the sale of certain City-Owned Lands.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,147,503.16

Motioned to accept: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Absent; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 10/2/2025

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman LaRotonda – Economic Development: Red Oak Dispensary will be having they're grand opening on November 1st, at noon. Wendy's is making progress at the redevelopment site and should be opening in the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Sykes – Parks and Playgrounds: Haven't met since the last meeting, will be meeting on Tuesday @7pm. Trunk or Treat tomorrow.

Captain Mazer – Also Haunted Hallways tomorrow night in conjunction with the Trunk or Treat.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Has not met since last meeting. Currently having a Halloween Decorating Contest, will have a group of volunteers going around to judge and then awarding prizes. Next meeting is 1st Thursday of November.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Met earlier tonight, looked at some planning for 2026 we're trying to get ahead, so we're starting in October. Budget request to departments went out and are due back November 7th, then will meet with the departments in person in December. Currently on a spending freeze, all purchases need to be approved by the City Administrator, which is something new we implemented this year to help keep things in line.

Councilman Light – Public Works – We meet on the 6th, I was unable to attend but was updated by the members. Thanked Public Works for the outstanding job that they always do. Discussed stop signs, speed humps and looking at doing a City-Wide survey on street lights. Received questions and concern regarding the paving on Ohio Avenue in regards to utilities replacement and repairs. I have reached out to the engineering staff and waiting for an answer. Lighting on Route 30 has been out, coming from Atlantic City, boarding into Absecon. Next meeting the 3rd of November at 5pm.

Council President DeRose – Wanted to commend, Carie, John, Ed and Jessica on a lot of moving parts and we were able to accomplish a lot on behalf of the City of Absecon on a very condensed time frame. Thank you again to the four of you and Kristen, was a major team effort and I appreciate everyone dropping what they were doing so that we could get this done.

Mayor Marrone – Quite a weekend worth of flooding and rain. We need to be more cognizant of road closures. Being out there a seeing the numerous people driving through the floods. Your doing forever damage to your vehicle, and a miracle if you make it through. Want to commend our Police Department for being out there with barricades, and making sure no one was driving through out flooded streets. Homeless Task Force, doing a sock and can good drive in the month of November. Bins will be located at City Hall.

City Clerk: Monthly Report – August

- Municipal Court: \$10,459.04
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$2,265.00
- Construction Office: \$10,719.00
- Tax Office: \$503,090.49

Jessica Snyder – Curbside leaf collection will begin on November 3rd. Prior to that date, please use proper waste receptacles, we have Recycling Coordinator, Stan Kolbe going around to reach out to residents about that also. Shredding event on November 22nd, 9-12. We're looking for community clean-up volunteers, if anyone is interested in volunteering they can reach out to Stan Kolbe or myself. Street light outages can be reported directly at AtlanticCityElectric.com or if you need assistance we'd be happy to help.

Ed Dennis – Introduced an Ordinance tonight after a good discussion at the last Council Meeting, approving stop signs. Read off where the stop signs were getting installed. Talked to Lloyd about the signage and the road striping also talked to our Road Program Contractor and they may be able to get it done even quicker. Road Program and Delaware Avenue were awarded. Resolutions on consent agenda, worded to enter contract with our firm, what it really is, is Grant Applications, which is the IBank funding. The City qualifies for up to 2 million in grant fund for planning and design. There're two projects on this agenda and a third will be on the next. These are big projects that have just been on our list, but too big for us to attack, so this gives us an opportunity to at least get the engineering done. At a future meeting you will see that there's another pot of money that'll pay for construction. And the City qualifies for an additional 2 million per year at least the next two years for drainage and sanitary sewer projects. Meeting last week with the County Engineers Office, County Administrator and the Mayor regarding Shore Road. Prior to that meeting we submitted a final plan and specification package, the County Engineer had only one comment on one item, and he's going to get us his final recommendation on that item by the end of this week. He just sent it to me on my drive here, so I haven't looked at it yet. Once we take a look at that item and incorporate it into the plans then the plans will be done. Next, there will be an update to the Interlocal Agreement and we have a verbal schedule of receiving bids in November and then since a County contract, would be awarded at one of their County Commissioners Meetings. We're finally at the point of bidding the project. The project is, on Shore Road in the area of Ohio Avenue, to raise Shore Road a foot to two feet, in various areas. There will be a ton of drainage work, due to the change in elevation. What residents can expect over the winter is pipe work and, in the spring, will see the raising of the road.

Council President DeRose – What we're talking about right now, we have been told for twenty years, that it can't be done. It can be done and will be done. Kudos to every single one of you, professionals, the Governing Body, Ed's team, the County and State and everyone who refused to take no and that's just the way it is, as an answer. This wasn't just an Absecon thing, it was an everybody come together and work toward the right goal. Extremely proud and honored of this Governing Body and the County for doing something everyone was told it was impossible.

Mayor Marrone – In the meeting, the County Administrator his goal was for the commissioners meeting for the awarding of the bid to be the 2nd or 16th or December, which puts us on a great timeline.

Councilman Light – Would like to make a recommendation that the base of the bridge at Route 9 be expanded out so it would be more passable then it flooding at the base. Might be a request that may take some time, years even and know its out of our control, but maybe it can be put on a list.
Ed Dennis – Will follow up with the DOT.

Councilman Clark – Flashing yellow on New Jersey Ave.

Ed Dennis – I don't have an answer, tried to get an update before coming here, but have none. Think we're still waiting on the County road opening permit.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No Discussion

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 11-6-25