



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18TH, 2024
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor Horton

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sandy Cain, Alex Clark, Richard DeRose, Christine Parker, and Council President Nick LaRotonda

ABSENT: Councilman Tommy Marrone

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

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 136** Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for the reconstruction of Woodcrest Avenue and Chelsea Road NJDOT Program.

Ed Dennis: Looking forward to beginning work on this project ASAP. While this project is part of the 2024 Road Program, this portion of roadwork is funded by a DOT grant. In the past, they have bundled this type of work in with the rest of the Road Program, however, due to onerous State regulations, they decided to bid this separately.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No discussion.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Clark

All in Favor, None Opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light

Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Absent; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST –\$ 537,923.65

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Absent; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 10/3/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light

Roll Call: Cain – Abstain; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Absent; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Abstain

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds: Unable to attend last meeting. Asked Councilwoman Parker to provide report.

Councilwoman Parker: No new business to report. Discussed the new tennis courts and new netting which continue to be installed at the baseball fields.

Councilman Light: Next meeting will be November 12th at 7PM. The public is welcome.

Council President LaRotonda: Praised the new tennis courts.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Have not met since last Council meeting. Next meeting will be on November 21st.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety: Last meeting was on October 7th and attended by he and Chief Laughlin.

Chief Laughlin – Police Dept.: Shared that the City is in the interview portion of the hiring process. Asked the public to come out for Trunk or Treat and Haunted Hallways. In light of the upcoming Halloween festivities, asked residents to avoid using their cars to go around trick or treating. Cautioned the public of the extra foot traffic. Reminded the public that the days are shortening and so it is important for residents to adjust their outside lighting to avoid potential burglaries. Prompted the public, “see something, say something.”

Councilman DeRose: Acknowledged the special circumstances of this particular Council Meeting, but urged all others to take place after 6PM.

Chief Laughlin: Reminded the public that Day Light Savings is approaching and so it is the ideal time for residents to check/replace their smoke detectors.

Council President LaRotonda: Commented that it is Fire Prevention Month.

Councilwoman Parker: Asked what the timeframe will be for Trick or Treating.

Chief Laughlin: 6PM-8PM and they will be closing off some of Morton Ave.

Councilman DeRose: The Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept. Fire Prevention open House will be on October 23rd at 6:30PM.

Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Next meeting will be November 6th at 6PM.

Councilwoman Parker – Parks & Playgrounds: Have not met since last Council Meeting. It was brought to her attention that there was interest in bringing back the Halloween House Decorating

Contest. Anyone interested in participating in the contest can reach out to Councilwoman Parker and the judges will go out from 10/27 to 10/29 to view the houses.

J. Thompson – CFO/Administrator: Completed and submitted the Best Practices Survey (required every year.) Received a score of 42, and so there will be no State Aid withheld.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: Suggested that this year has been successful in terms of infrastructure. Another project was awarded today. The rest of the Road Program will be advertised tomorrow. The bid opening will be on Halloween. This year they've worked on the Streetscape, Calderon Avenue, Crestview Avenue, and the tennis courts. At one of the upcoming Public Works meetings, they will begin discussing the 2025 Road Program (engineering already programmed into budget.)

Councilman Light: Asked whether the City has received a quote from the electric company for lighting at the Blue Devils Field.

E. Dennis: Does not believe so, but will follow-up again.

Councilman Light: Asked for a status update regarding a rear handicap area. Believes they were going to pursue a grant.

E. Dennis: He and J. Thompson determined how much funding is available through the ACIA (CBDG-funded project.) Initially wanted to upsize the project, however that funding was not available, so returned to the original plans for the ramp out back. Previously discussed getting process started (i.e. design and bid.) The project will be moving forward.

Councilman Light: People residing near the Mill Road and Wyoming Avenue retention pond have asked whether the sidewalk can be re-edged. Acknowledged that the matter would be one for the DOT, but asked whether a contact could be reached so that there can be more maintenance provided.

E. Dennis: Confirmed that the matter is a maintenance item. Asked Chief Laughlin if he had a contact with DOT maintenance.

Chief Laughlin: Assured him that Lt. Adams will reach out to him with the requested info.

Councilman Light: Asked if E. Dennis could contact the appropriate people regarding Veteran's Way to thank them for the work recently conducted. Also asked for a status update on their recent conversation.

E. Dennis: Had a discussion regarding the repaving of Veteran's Way. NJ Transit was favorable to the City's position. Currently seeking clarification but remains positive.

Council President LaRotonda: Received a letter from the County Executive regarding the inquiry about Pitney Road and suggestions to improve safety and speeding measures. The County advised that they will fulfill the request for bollards for the south-side turn on Wyoming Ave., line-painting, and other measures. The City will work with the County to get the tasks completed. Asked E. Dennis for any updates about the raised sidewalk grant.

E. Dennis: No update yet. Expect to hear something soon.

Councilman DeRose: Asked whether E. Dennis has any idea when there will shovels in the ground at the new Wawa location.

E. Dennis: Does not personally have an update, however is aware that Wawa has been to the Planning Board. They indicated that they hope to be open by Spring 2025. Wawa has been to the Planning Board so now they will move onto obtaining Construction Permits so that they can begin construction.

Mayor Kim Horton: Shared that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so last week she and Councilwoman Cain attended a Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon where they listened to the stories of survivors. Emphasized the importance of early detection. Thanked Council President LaRotonda for postponing the Council Meeting so that she and other Councilmembers could attend the Parkinson's Charity Event.

Councilwoman Cain: A spokesperson from the Michael J. Fox Foundation indicated that the money raised can immediately (within days or weeks) go into research.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

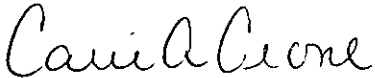
No discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 11-7-24