



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2ND, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilman LaRotonda

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

13 Ordinance establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #13-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light.

Discussion – Council President DeRose – This comes up every once and awhile, whether your hiring a new employee, someone gets promoted or a position changes from part-time to full-time or vice versa, you have to update the general salary ordinance.

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; 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 October 16th, 2025.

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

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #14-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes.

Discussion – Council President DeRose – This was from 2024, there was an error from previous staff when submitting. This is just insuring it is appropriately recorded.

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; 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 October 16th, 2025.

2025 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 12** Amending the Code of the city of Absecon, Chapter 69, Article IV, §69-35, Payment of Off-Duty Assignments.

Motioned for the Second reading of Ordinance #12-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark. **Roll Call:** Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #12-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker. All in Favor, None Opposed.

Council President DeRose – This is bringing Absecon Officer's pay when they're doing assignments for a contractor up to what other Municipalities are getting paid.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #12-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

Ordinance #12-2025 has been heard and is finally approved.

Rich: May I hear a motion to add Resolution #176-2025 – Authorizing the sale of certain City-Owned Lands to the Consent Agenda? Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light
Roll Call: Clark–Yes; Evans–Yes; LaRotonda–Absent; Light–Yes; Parker–Yes; 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.

Council President DeRose – Removing Resolution #175 from Consent Agenda, will be discussed separately

- 169** Authorizing the increase of Resolution #129-2025 by \$7,000 for uniforms for various departments.
- 170** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2025 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$9,023.79 from the State of New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety.
- 171** Authorizing the Assignment of Liens.
- 172** Appointing a Construction Official (Part-Time) for the City of Absecon.
- 173** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2025 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$69,741.00 from the Atlantic County Improvement Authority.
- 174** Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for the City Hall ADA Accessible Ramp.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
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 Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark

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

RESOLUTION OUT OF CONSENT

Resolution #175-2025 – Authorizing the sale of certain city-owned land.

John Amenhauser – The reason we removed resolution #175 from the consent agenda is this is a separate resolution for the sale of a City Owned lot and we didn't have a minimum bid inserted, which Council needs to decide upon before we can make a motion. It's Block 29.01, Lot 2. Hadn't received before tonight and exact assessed value for the lot. But looking on-line, my understanding is the current assessed value is \$242,500, so you can start the bid at that number or above, it's at your discretion.

Councilman Clark – Public works discussed this and we decided to start the bid at \$250,000.

Council President DeRose – Does anyone else have a different of opinion on the \$250,000?
All Council Agreed.

John Amenhauser – Then we'll insert the \$250,000 as the minimum bid and you can now act on the Resolution.

Rich: May I hear a motion to move Resolution #175-2025 – Authorizing the sale of certain City-Owned Land? Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,374,451.85

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 9/4/2025

Regular Meeting Minutes – 9/18/2025

Motioned to accept the Minutes: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Sykes – Parks and Playgrounds: Haven't met since the last meeting. Meet again on the third Thursday of this month.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Have not met since our last meeting. Meet on Monday @6pm. This Saturday the Police Department will be putting on a movie at the Field of Dreams. Chief Talley from the Fire Department asked me to mention October 15th, they will be having an open house for fire prevention, 6-8pm.

Chief Laughlin: Please come out to support the movie. There's a lot of concern about an ongoing investigation that the Police Department is conducting in regards to a canine. Please be patient and allow us to do our job. If anyone has any information please contact the Police Department. In due time we will have our investigation finished.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Met tonight, did a recap of Creekfest, it was a beautiful day and fun time had by all. We discussed pros and cons for next year. Planning will start now for next year. Art in the Park in Heritage Park, Oct. 11th. Shredding on Nov. 22nd.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Finance will meet October 16th at 5pm. We're dealing with budget season and starting to work with different department to finalize budgets for next year. We're also looking at stopping some of the spending going forward for certain budgets and implementing getting special approval for things going forward to try and keep us in line and start minimizing and planning for the future to make sure we're in a better situation next year.

Councilman Light – Public Works – We meet next Monday at 5pm here at City Hall. Want to thank Public Works for how they keep our parks and how they keep our City. We have a very small group, but they are very effective and save the City a lot of money by not outsourcing anything more than they have to. Resident concern on Davis Ave. about a tree in common area, we'll get an assessment and figure out what to do moving forward.

Mayor Marrone – No Report.

Ed Dennis – Mayor reached out to the County Administrator about our issue on Shore Road and was able to get a meeting next week to review final plans. Hoping to come out of that meeting with something set in stone for a bid schedule. City Hall ADA compliance will also include some renovations to the lobby. Flashing crosswalk sign going on New Jersey Ave., just waiting on County road opening permit. Two bid openings on Tuesday, the 2025 Road Program and Delaware Ave.

Jessica Snyder – Tuesday we had the retirement of our long time Construction Official, wishing him the best in the new chapter of his life. We're also welcoming our new Construction Official, Mr. Pat Malia. Reminder that 4th Quarter sewer bills were due October 1st, but we have a ten-day grace period before penalties are applied. Curbside leaf collection will begin on November 3rd.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Ron Ragone – 800 Shelburne Ave. – Here today to assist the Council in solving the speeding problem through the Estate neighborhood on Highland Blvd. and Morton Ave. Everyone knows that the speed limit isn't followed from New Jersey Avenue to the four-way stop and back from Tenth to New Jersey Ave. I gave Council the results of a census from last fall from 15 residents indicating their preference of stop signs or speed bumps. Asking for two stop signs on Highland Blvd. and two on Morton – this will put an end to the problem forever. Council has stated can't place stop signs just to reduce speeding, spoke with another town's City Engineer, and he said this is correct but gave examples of other reasons you can use to have stop signs placed. Recommend a stop sign on Chelsea and Highland and one at Chelsea and Morton. Chelsea Road is the only street with access to Highland and Morton from Mill Road. Another stop sign should be put on Shelburne. Speed bumps, I was told by Council that Highland was too wide, if you place the speed bumps in between the inner line bike lanes, that would negate that argument. One stop sign will not fix the problem, two will fix it forever. Police presence is just that, people slow down only when they're present. How much does it cost for one stop sign and what is the down side of putting in two stop signs at both streets – which would enhance public safety and put an end to this forever.

Councilman Clark – We spoke a few times on this, last being in August, we had no Public Works meeting in August to address it, and September's meeting landed on Labor Day. In the meantime, the City Engineer, myself and some other Councilmembers have spoke and addressed some thing on this issue and have put in for a grant.

Ed Dennis – We've applied for an \$800,000 grant, which includes installing sidewalk along Highland Blvd. and also for Morton Ave. where the sidewalk is missing. That was submitted in June and hoping to hear back by the end of the year. Also, in the process of evaluating possible multi-way stops at various locations.

Councilman Clark – We have three locations we discussed at the Public Works meeting and one was on Highland. We all agree we cannot put in a stop sign just for speeding, so we did look into

other reason why we could do it. A raised crosswalk is, 5 feet up, 10 feet across and then 5 feet down, with the length of Highland, based on the Engineers experience, they thought it would be best to try a stop sign. We want to do a stop sign first and if the grant gets approved look into other precautions.

Ron Ragone – Still want to know what the downside is to having two stop signs, is it the cost?

Ed Dennis – It's Federal Guidance on warrants for multi-way stops or stop sign placement. Every application is case by case and needs to be evaluated.

Richard Young – 902 Highland Blvd. First would like to commend the Public Works Department, they do a bang-up job and we all appreciate it. Speeding on Highland Blvd. why there's objections to putting in speed humps in addition to the stop signs?

Councilman Clark – The width of the street is the first issue, we also have put in a grant for that street so waiting to see what the game plan will be with that grant.

Ed Dennis – As we were looking into possibly doing raised crosswalks, we realized there were other public safety concerns. This project as a comprehensive plan, would be a good grant application to potentially do a lot more. Didn't want to start with a piecemeal approach before we see if we get the grant.

Richard Young – Measured the speed humps on John Gorman Way and they're 25ft. across. Measured Highland and it's 22ft across. Can't understand how with becomes an argument.

Mayor Marrone – John Gorman way is a private street, rules are different on a public streets. I agree with you, and agree with Mr. Ragone on the stop signs, I wish we could put in speed bumps and stop signs along with sidewalks on Highland Blvd. it's just not as fast as we'd like, kills me to have to say it's taking too long.

Richard Young – Electric Bikes are also an issue. Somebody is going to get seriously hurt – not only are they speeding, they're on the wrong side of the road.

Councilman President DeRose – It's an epidemic in every town.

Mayor Marrone – Tuesday I got an Ordinance that Linwood passed. Going to discuss it in Public Works and Public Safety meetings.

Councilman Clark – Met with Lt. Huenke and they're going to do a class at the school.

Chief Laughlin – Article came out today that Union County has banned all electric bikes, due to the serious and fatal accidents. The State is also working on updating the laws.

Oscar Mollineaux – 1100 Chelsea – Know from experience that speed humps do work. Suggested cameras and then summons in the mail.

Council President DeRose – Red light cameras got banned in New Jersey.

Ed Dennis – I've been the City Engineer for over 20 years and we have had many requests for speed humps around town – this is the first Governing Body moving forward with speed humps, we have a grant and we're doing about ten around the City.

John Carroll – 1100 New York Ave. – I'm a block away from the stop sign on Highland, they were great when they were installed, but now they're flying down there. If you're talking about just putting stop signs on Highland Blvd. that's going to push them to use Morton Ave. even more. Have to discuss them for Morton Ave. too.

Council President DeRose – Speeding is the number one issue I receive emails about. It is not falling on deaf ears, we recognize speeding is the number one issue we get contacted about. We're looking at it in a strategic standpoint. We hear everyone and we want exactly what you want.

Andy Previti – 839 Plaza Place – My house sits on Highland Blvd. I'm here to support the other residents who spoke. As an Engineer my prospective is a little different. As a resident I see passing on the double line at 50-60MPH. Police presence in the last year and a half has been a blessing, but you can't have someone there all the time. Stop sign is a relatively simple one, don't need State approval anymore. Issue with site lines the intersecting street at Highland are not at a 90-degree angles. Makes it difficult to judge speed and distance – with this combination, I think its enough warrants to establish stop signs.

Councilman Light – Might not be popular, but once we get all our Officers in place – I can't make that decision – we put a zero tolerance in place, no matter who you are your getting a ticket.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 10/14/25