



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President Keith Bennett at 5:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavileer, Betty Howell, Keith Bennett

ABSENT: Steve Light, Frank Phillips

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone & Eddie Dennis (by zoom)

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTIONS TO AGENDA

Motion to add Res. #113-2020 – Authorizing the submission of an application for grant funding and the execution of a grant contract with the new Jersey Department of Transportation for the Faunce Landing Road Shared use Path made by Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

2020 RESOLUTIONS

- 111** Authorizing Change Order No. 6 for the construction of the new Fire Department Facility.

Eddie – explained this is to add into the contract the complete repaving of the American Legion parking lot. The contract had only included the back of their parking lot where we reconfigured the project and we didn't include the whole parking lot in the job for the bid because we were concerned of the budget. We kept an eye and decided we would come out with a better product and we were able to find a budget for it, so we are moving forward with it. Even though it was a change order to the contract, we actually got a second price to do this work from our road contractor and the price was about \$15,000 lower, so we saved a little.

112 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2020 on the listed property.

113 Authorizing the submission of an application for grant funding and the execution of a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Faunce Landing Road Shared Use Path.

Eddie – if you all recall, we had Jim Rutala give a presentation about a bicycle and pedestrian assessment of the City's infrastructure. The study has been going on since then and they have been developing various recommendations to improve this. We got the results and one recommendation was for a shared use walkway from Shore Road down E. Faunce Landing Road to the new parking area that was built. You can't do anything over the bridge, because it's narrow. It's not fully designed but we wanted to get the application in by the deadline of November 24th.

Keith – is there a plan in place or just authorizing the application?

Eddie – no there is no plan yet. We went through the study that was done and we saw this recommendation and we didn't want to miss the deadline of applying for it and have to wait another whole year

Kim – the committee who worked on the study presented it to us and we thought it would work nicely with all the information they gathered.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor. No public comment

Motion to close public – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Howell

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith – read the resolutions again.

Motion to move the consent agenda – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$2,260,997.74

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Regular Meeting Minutes – 11/5/2020

Corrected Regular Minutes – 10/15/2020

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain - second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Bennett, abstain

REPORTS

Jessica – announced that the sewer bills are starting to go out along with a second newsletter.

Keith asked if rates went up and she said that they haven't in 10 years. The ACUA has announced that they are experiencing some route delays for yard waste pickup and asked for our patience and understanding. They are assuring us that they will always fulfill their duties and pick them up.

Thanksgiving trash pickup will be on Friday and Friday will be on Saturday. They are having their food drive between 12/7 and 12/18. Non-perishables can be put out on recycling days. The RFP notices have been posted on our website. We scheduled another shredding event for 4/24/21 and the leaf collection will run through the end of the year.

Eddie – the Heritage Park project contractor only has the paving left to do and they are waiting for the electric company to come in and do their lighting work, but we don't have a timeline yet. Hopefully it's only a couple of weeks out and it will be completed. The firehouse garage overhead doors are in transit and scheduled to be delivered to NJ tomorrow and potentially to the firehouse by Saturday. The door manufacturer took full responsibility for the delays and we are working through that. The dredging field work has been completed and it's in the process of preparing all the data and making a base plan. Once that's done, we can do some estimating of the costs and come up with a plan.

MONTHLY REPORTS for OCTOBER - Carie

Tax Collection - \$2,076,552.76

City Clerk - \$4,375.00

Municipal Court - \$3,792.67

Betty – Economic Development – the project on New Road near the car wash has been approved for construction of a new building with the same businesses in it. It will be a nice new project.

Keith – mentioned the gas station on the WHP next to Dunkin Donuts that has been opened again by a different tenant and he received service like in the olden days. They cleaned the windshield, offered him a bottle of water and a newspaper as well.

Betty - Public Safety – it was a quiet meeting, because no one could make it.

Chief – reminded everyone this is the time of giving. The COVID numbers have spiked and we all should try to be patient with one another, wear a mask and we will get through it. Asked residents to slow down while driving; we don't want any tragedies happening. Wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Keith – reminded everyone to also lock their cars and front doors. Unfortunately, people do take as well during this time of the year. Caleb asked about Shop with a Cop and J.R. said the County did not want to cancel it, but they will have to make it a smaller event. There is a drop box in the lobby. No shave November is going on and might extend it through December and the proceeds in December will go to the Special Olympics.

Sandy – Community Affairs – 11/21 from 10-2 the cultural arts alliance will be having a painting event at the CBD store on the WHP. The fire department is going to have Santa in the Park, but it will be different. It will be held on 12/4 with a rain date of 12/5 from 6:30 to 7:30. Santa will be staying on the fire truck; there will be a tree lighting service, but this year no train ride, pony ride or refreshments available. A bon fire will have stockings for the kids and a mailbox for letters to Santa. Food donations will be taken for the local food bank. The Field of Dreams has a holiday light display and invited people to view it after 5:00 any evening. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Next mtg 12/2.

Kim – The HSHS fall fest was pushed back to this coming Sunday from 12-5.

Caleb – Finance – met tonight and we were brought up on the budget status for the year. We are 86% expended so far for the year. We are looking into next year's budget and have reached out to department heads for requests. He congratulated everyone involved with the Absecon Blue Devils and congratulated them on reaching their championships. Thankfully everyone was able to keep safe and able to complete the season.

Keith – players from kindergarten age all the way up through 8th grade have all made the championship game level and all games will be played this coming weekend in Linwood. It's the first time in many years that this has happened.

Don – Public Works – everything was covered by Eddie tonight. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Keith – he was unable to attend the last meeting, so he congratulated the election winners and also to all the candidates tonight

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilman Cavileer
All were in favor.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Avenue – congratulated Kim, Betty and Butch and the most important thing is our town. We all talked and communicated with the residents and knowing what they want and what is going on. He did ask about the meetings times maybe being pushed back by 30 minutes if not more. He knows the meetings are put on our website, but inquired using You Tube or Facebook, since some older folks can't use zoom. The Planning Board sent some suggestions for changing our sign ordinance as well as parking and uses in our downtown area. He hopes that it gets amended this year.

Keith – the sign ordinance is in the hands of our attorney's office, specifically Mike Coskey and he is tweaking it a little and be bringing it back.

Greg – he spoke to the Mayor of Egg Harbor City and they declined to go for the Transit Village Status and recommends the City speak to her and get her thoughts. Regarding asset management and the issue with a new fire truck being requested, the State and Federal government are pushing back on grant money if they don't have an asset management plan in place for infrastructure, etc. It just makes you look at things before you even purchase them.

Kim – mentioned when the new firehouse was being researched, a study was done and it looked at everything they would need and to keep it up to standards.

Eddie – he just received an email saying we received a DOT grant for \$265,000 for Woodcrest and Hobart Avenue. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mike Celestino – 607 Woodland Ave. - asked if the City is continuing to have zoom meetings after the pandemic is over or is it too soon to know? He appreciates the opportunity to listen to them and keep informed.

Keith – we had a short discussion on it and it's something we can look into maintaining. We need to look into it more.

Jessica – it's taken us a little bit of time to get used to it, but it has been a good opportunity to listen to the meetings live and we can now put the meetings on our website afterwards and they are available for two weeks until the next meeting. She feels we could keep that up. There is a cost for zoom and we are using it for training and other virtual meetings with all departments.

Keith – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to keep safe and healthy

Motion to close public – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Cavileer
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12-3-2020