



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7TH, 2024
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor Horton

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sandy Cain, Alex Clark, Tommy Marrone and Christine Parker, and Council President Pro-Tem Richard DeRose,

ABSENT: Council President Nick LaRotonda

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Kim Horton, City Engineer Ed Dennis, City Solicitor Bill Blaney Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Deputy Clerk Mary Fetske, Police Captain Jeff Mazer, and CFO/Administrator Jessica Thompson

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 18** . Amending and supplementing Chapter 224 – Zoning, of the Code of the City of Absecon and repealing all Ordinances heretofore adopted, the provisions of which are inconsistent herewith.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #18-2024: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman Clark

B. Blaney: Explained that this ordinance pertains to the Sober Living matter. This Ordinance was originally introduced in a prior meeting and then sent to the Planning Board. The Planning Board had a good suggestion regarding providing notification timeframes, so the Ordinance was amended and is now being re-introduced.

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on December 5th, 2024.

2024 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #19-2024: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

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

- 19** Authorizing the entering into of a Lease Agreement between the City of Absecon and American Legion Post 28.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #19-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No discussion.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #19-2024: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman Clark
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Abstain; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #19-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 137** Appointing a Municipal Housing Liaison for the City of Absecon's Affordable Housing Program, namely Jessica Snyder.
- 138** Canceling outstanding checks in the Current and Sewer Fund accounts.
- 139** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the resurfacing of Pitney Park Tennis Courts.
- 140** Appointing a Full Time Patrol Officer, namely Matthew Munn.
- 141** Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel the 2024 final 4th quarter taxes and the 2025 Preliminary 1st and 2nd quarter taxes on the property located at 110 Lisbon Avenue.
- 142** Authorizing Change Order No. 3-Final for the 2023 Road Program.
- 143** Authorizing a contact person for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, namely Kayla Lovallo.

- 144 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for the 2024 Road Program.
- 145 Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to provide Construction Services for the 2024 Road Program.
- 146 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund or cancel escrow accounts of completed projects.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No discussion.

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST –\$ 2,467,220.83

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Parker; Seconded: Councilman Light

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 9/19/24

Regular Meeting Minutes – 10/18/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark

Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes (9/19), Abstain
(10/18); Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent

REPORTS

Councilwoman Parker – Community Affairs: Discussed the Halloween House Decorating Contest (suggested by someone on Facebook). There were 3 contest winners and prizes were donated by Councilmen DeRose and Clark. A good time was had by all who participated. Discussed the potential of having a Christmas House Decorating Contest, expecting to post more information within upcoming weeks. Announced that the Veteran's Day Ceremony will take place on Monday at 11:11AM at Veteran's Park. The Committee will be collecting turkey donations for several churches in the city. Changed the date of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony to Tuesday, December 3rd at 6PM. The Fire Dept. will have their Santa in the Park event on Friday December 6th (Rain date – December 7th). Absecon vet will be having pet pictures with Santa on December 14th at 10AM. Donations will go to their organization which helps provide emergency vet services for people who can't afford it. Absecon Vet will be providing information on a free upcoming Parvo Clinic, as there is currently a parvovirus outbreak. Once more details are shared, the Committee will inform the public.

Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development: Have not met since last Council Meeting. On November 21st at 5:30PM, there will be a combined meeting for, both, Economic Development and Finance. The next Economic Development Committee Meeting will be on December 4th at 6PM.

Councilman Marrone – Public Works: Met on the previous Monday. Next meeting will be December 2nd at 5PM. The Committee has been in contact with a company that helps map municipal streets. The City's current atlas of roads and their conditions/needs/etc., needs to be updated.

E. Dennis: The company is Vialytics and is a road management system. Explained the process performed for the last road inventory/assessment (15 years ago) and then explained how the process is now performed by Vialytics. The company drives to record every road of the City and uses AI technology in its software to analyze the imagery of the street and pavement, ultimately creating a live map of the entire city with color-coded conditions of all asphalt throughout town. Rather than generating a book report, Vialytics will produce a live interactive map that can be accessed to view the conditions of the road/needed treatments. This option will allow for easier updating in the future. There are other features of Vialytics that Public Works may make use of moving forward.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Has not met since last meeting. Next meeting will be with Economic Development on November 21st at 5:30PM. Public is welcome.

Councilman Light – Parks and Playgrounds: Have not met. Next meeting will be November 19th at 7PM. Expressed appreciation for Coach John Gorman and wished him and his family well.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose – Public Safety: Met earlier this week. On behalf of the Fire Dept. shared that there is a ban on all open fires. Asked the public to share the information with their neighbors and to call the police if they see any such violations. Urged the public to do their part in preventing forest fires. Announced that Santa in the Park will be on Friday, December 6th (rain date – December 7th). Next meeting will be December 2nd at 6PM.

Captain Mazer – Police Dept.: Provided an update on the Police's hiring efforts. Looking forward to welcoming Matthew Munn to the Police Dept. Shared that Matthew comes to Absecon from the Brigantine PD (Class II). The Absecon PD has selected their candidates for the January Police Academy, so they are currently going through the hiring process. Announced that several upcoming community events include Shop with a Cop and Toys for Tots.

City Clerk: Monthly Report – September 2024

- Municipal Court: \$11,218.62
- Tax Office: \$360,593.70
- Construction Office: \$10,993
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$2,054.80

J. Thompson – CFO/Administrator: On behalf of Fire Chief Roy Talley, shared that December 14-15 they will be driving the fire truck throughout the community. Leaf collection has begun and will continue to move throughout all the zones of the city. The collection will continue until the end of December. Leaf collection is for loose leaves only (no branches/debris). Praised Public Works for their hard work. Shared that the 2024 Budget Expenditures are on track. There will be few budget transfers in December. The 2025 Budget Request will be sent to Dept. Heads in the coming week. The RFP notices for City professionals will be posted on the website next week. The 2025 sewer billing will be mailed out later this month along with the City newsletter. See the City's website for more information.

Mayor Kim Horton: Shared a letter from Dennis Levinson, that is being placed on the Commissioners Agenda November 12th Meeting. The letter explains that the Commissioner's November 12th Agenda includes a resolution which authorizes Dennis Levinson to enter a MOU with the ACUA to appropriate funding for the construction of a permanent and final cap of acreage at the

EHT landfill. Claimed that the project will stabilize the tip rates, reduce the leeching treatment, and reduce any fugitive emissions. Capping is one of the methods used to address landfill odors. The capping project is planned to be completed before October 2025. County approval for the project is required before December 31st. Encouraged Commissioner approval. Received another letter from Atlantic City Electric's External Affairs Manager notifying the public that they will be conducting tree maintenance around powerlines throughout. Thanked the Absecon residents who have supported her these last 13 years (7 as Councilwoman, 6 as Mayor). Appreciates their recognition of her dedicated and tireless work done for this community. Emphasized her lifelong ties to Absecon. Wished the incoming elected officials' good luck.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Asked whether Council was being asked by Dennis Levinson to vote on something.

Mayor Horton: No, the Commissioners will be voting on the matter. Shared so that Council is aware.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: Provided project updates. The Crestview Avenue Sidewalk Project continues to progress with minimal issues. The Tennis Court Project has almost wrapped up, as they are finishing up addressing several punch list items. The Streetscape Project lighting is expected to be installed by December 2nd. There is a section of pavement that needs to be completed on New Jersey Ave. (County road) for the Calderon Avenue Project. The 2024 Road Program was awarded earlier this Council Meeting. Announced that Wawa acquired final signoff by the Planning Board Engineer. The next step is to post a bond and then get building permits. Believes work has begun on Jersey Cow and they expect to be open by Memorial Day 2025. Shore Rd., they have just a few residents sign offs needed to access their property for the project.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Asked when there will be shovels in the ground at Wawa.

E. Dennis: They're a few steps away from building permits, so very soon.

Councilman Light: Asked for a status update for Veteran's Way with NJTransit.

E. Dennis: That was awarded as part of the 2024 Road Program. It was included as a bid option, but was ultimately awarded because NJTransit gave the City a favorable response.

Councilman Light: Thanked E. Dennis for reaching out to the County. Suggested that all of Council reach out to Dennis Levinson to acknowledge his letter with a positive response.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12-5-24