



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 1ST, 2022 5:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Butch Burroughs, Caleb Cavileer, Nick LaRotonda, Donna Poley, Steve Light, and Council President Betty Howell

ABSENT: Councilwoman Sandy Cain

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

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2022 ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

21 Amending Ordinance 01-2022, establishing salary ranges – adding a job title.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley

Jessica Thompson: Establishes new job position titled "Human Resources Officer/Finance Assistant." The position is necessary to handle increasing responsibilities, ensure compliance and support for the City's new personnel manual, and support functions in Finance Dept. This new position will replace the current position of "Finance Specialist." The Finance Committee has been discussing this for many months and now the new manual is in effect, the position must move forward.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asked whether new position is replacing a current position or being added in addition.

J. Thompson: Replacing a current position.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asked if current employee of position has been given a Rice Notice.

J. Thompson: Indicated that employee had not been Rice Noticed, but they have been notified in a discussion. There was no need for a Rice Notice, as this ordinance pertains to a job position and not a specific person.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asked if the current employee was being offered severance or if they were leaving voluntarily.

Bill Blaney: Warned that the specifics regarding a particular employee cannot be discussed without providing a Rice Notice.

Councilman LaRotonda: Contended that the current employee should have been given a Rice Notice for this Council Meeting and urged the Council to table this Ordinance until they may look into the personnel matter more thoroughly.

J. Thompson: Emphasized that the employee in question is aware of the new position and that in their several conversations about the matter, the employee has indicated their willingness to remain at their current position until the new position is filled and properly trained, at which time the current employee would be laid-off.

Council President Howell: Asked if the current employee is eligible to apply for the new full-time position.

J. Thompson: They are eligible, however, when that option was offered, the employee expressed that they are not interested.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asked Blaney whether he believes the current employee should have been given a Rice Notice.

B. Blaney: Clarified that a Rice Notice was only required if Council wanted to discuss the individual particulars of the specific person at the Meeting. However, a discussion solely about the job position itself, would not require a Rice Notice.

J. Thompson: Mentioned previously speaking to Council about the situation of the new position, so puzzled as to why the matter of a Rice Notice is just being addressed now.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asserted his opinion that the current employee should have been given a Rice Notice so that they have the option to be included in the discussion.

Council President Howell: Asked J. Thompson to explain why the position was changing from part-time to full-time.

J. Thompson: There are new needs and therefore the responsibilities of the position have expanded significantly, especially in regard to Human Resource support. Part-time hours are not conducive to the efficient completion of the tasks and duties that are required under this position. Extended hours are critical to ensure compliance with policies and procedures.

Council President Howell: Asked for the official job title.

J. Thompson: Human Resource Officer/Finance Assistant.

Councilman LaRotonda: Clarified that the salary range for the new position is \$50,000-60,000, plus pension and benefits.

J. Thompson: Insisted that the City simply does not have the staff now to complete all the work that is required. Warned that a lower salary range would not entice a more qualified and experienced person to apply for the position.

Councilman LaRotonda: Questioned the need for urgency in filling this new position.

J. Thompson: Claimed the matter urgent, as there are important duties and tasks that are currently not being completed properly.

Council President Howell: Asked how the salary range was determined.

J. Thompson: Researched similar positions in the area and decided this salary range was lower, but still comparable.

Council President Howell: Concerned about the salary range because there are current City employees who earn much lower salaries. Believes that the current employees who show dedication to the City should be shown appreciation financially.

J. Thompson: Agreed that the City's administrative personnel are far underpaid in comparison to other local municipalities. There is a plan to bring up salaries next year to where they should be. Salaries are usually discussed at the first Finance Meeting of the year in January. The plan was to get this position into place and then focus on the salaries of current positions.

Councilman LaRotonda: Urged Council to wait on this matter until next year when the other salary ranges are being determined so they may properly prepare for budgeting.

J. Thompson: Explained that filling the position would take about four months, so urged getting this matter taken care of ASAP.

Mayor Horton: Mentioned how the person hired for the position in question would be able to assist in budget preparation.

Councilman LaRotonda: Motioned to table the Ordinance until next meeting to allow for further discussion.

Council President Howell: Asked for a second motion. **NO SECOND**

Council President: Asked for any more discussion.

Councilman Light: Concerned that tabling the Ordinance could possibly affect the current employees' role during the transition process. Emphasized their importance in training the new employee.

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – No; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on December 15th, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 135** Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund Escrow Accounts of completed projects with a balance above twenty-five dollars.
- 136** Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to cancel Escrow Accounts of completed projects with a balance of twenty-five dollars or less.
- 137** Certifying the Qualified Participants in the Length of Services Award Program (LOSAP) for the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department for the calendar year 2021.

J. Thompson: Regards detailed reports provided by the Fire Chief which have been confirmed and verified.

- 138** Releasing a Performance Guaranty and accepting a Maintenance Letter of Credit for Building 5 improvements on property known as Visions at the Shore, (AKA, AB Visions at Absecon, LLC) Block 9.02, Lot 3.02.

E. Dennis: Resolutions #138-140 are all routine items which pertain to MiPlace (formerly Visions of Absecon). There are three resolutions because there are two buildings that include Affordable Housing, and they require separate bonds. They have completed their site improvements in accordance with Planning Board approvals and everything has been inspected. This Resolution releases their Performance Bond for the project and to accept a two-year Maintenance Guarantee.

- 139 Releasing a Performance Guaranty and accepting a Maintenance Letter of Credit for Building 8 improvements on property known as Visions at the Shore, (AKA, AB Visions at Absecon, LLC) Block 9.02, Lot 3.02.
- 140 Releasing a Performance Guaranty and accepting a Maintenance Letter of Credit for Phase 2 improvements on property known as Visions at the Shore, (AKA, AB Visions at Absecon, LLC) Block 9.02, Lot 3.02.
- 141 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Cancel Grant Receivables and Appropriations not needed.

J. Thompson: Each year at this time, the remaining balances from grants are canceled to clean up for the upcoming year.

- 142 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2022 on the listed property.

J. Thompson: Regards correcting an administrative error.

- 143 Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2022 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$2,100.00 from the State of New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety.

J. Thompson: Regards grant recently received for the Drive Sober Holiday Campaign for \$2,100.00

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road: Regarded Ordinance #21. Noted that salary range updates are routine. Asked Councilman Light if he was assuming that the current employee is leaving voluntarily, and if the current employees' departure is the reason the position is being replaced. Wonders if the current employee is only leaving because the position is being expanded to full-time. Hesitant to elaborate without a Rice Notice provided.

Councilman LaRotonda: Indicated a Rice Notice can be given for next Council Meeting.

C. Seher: Acknowledged that hiring a new person would be a 2-month to 4-month process. Expects that the new Council/Finance Committee will be those who address this matter. As a former City Councilman, questioned the newly added responsibilities of the position and challenged the need for the exact specifications stated in the Ordinance. Reflected on the current responsibilities of the City Administrator/CFO, and referred to a contract between the City and Administrator/CFO, from about one to two years ago, which provided the Administrator/CFO a significant raise as compensation for taking on more tasks and duties. Deliberated about the responsibilities and compensation for the Administrator/CFO, in conjunction with the responsibilities and compensation of the current part-time assistant finance specialist position, as well as the newly introduced full-time assistant finance/HR position. Keeping in mind salary, asked about the specific job description training requirements of this new position. Expressed apprehension about finding someone who has an adequate skillset in both finance and HR.

Tina Lawler – 21 Hobart Avenue: Acknowledged that her part-time position/salary with the City is not the focus of debate tonight, and that she is fine and happy with her personal situation. However, on behalf of the current holder of the part-time Finance Specialist position, shared with Council that the unnamed employee affected by the new position, feels as though they are being pushed out.

Council President Howell: Warned T. Lawler that she may not talk specifically about the employee.

T. Lawler: Asked how she may get her point across.

B. Blaney: Informed her that she may speak, but she can't ask the Council about specifics they cannot discuss.

Councilman LaRotonda: Pointed out that this situation demonstrates exactly why he urged the Ordinance be tabled until further consideration.

T. Lawler: Asked what she was allowed to discuss.

Council President Howell: You can't talk about another employee unless they are here and have been given a Rice Notice.

T. Lawler: Requested the employee under consideration be given a Rice Notice for the next Council Meeting.

B. Blaney: Indicated that the Council would discuss that possibility. Advised you can speak about positions just not individuals. Explained to those who are unaware, that in order for a public body in New Jersey to discuss an employee's employment, they are legally required to provide that employee proper notification ("Rice Notice") of their right to have the discussion held in either a public or closed meeting. The City has not provided any employee a Rice Notice for the meeting, so they are unable to discuss particulars.

T. Lawler: Reiterated her hope that the employee under consideration will be provided a Rice Notice for the next Council Meeting so that this matter may be better discussed.

Thomas Marrone – 1104 Spring Lane: Requesting clarity regarding the new responsibilities and needs previously mentioned in regard to the proposed position. Asked if the active part-time employee in the current finance position is unable, in the hours they work, to fulfil the new needs the position.

J. Thompson: Confirmed.

T. Marrone: Asked specifically what new needs are necessitating a change from a part-time to full-time position.

J. Thompson: Indicated that the person currently in the part-time position is unable or unwilling to do many tasks required in the position.

T. Marrone: Repeated his question, asking specifically about the new needs of the position, previously referred to earlier in the meeting.

J. Thompson: Expressed that it would be difficult to fully and properly address the question due to limitations on what the City may presently discuss.

Councilman LaRotonda: Reiterated his opinion that a Rice Notice should have been provided to the part-time employee before introducing the Ordinance.

J. Thompson: Reminded Councilman LaRotonda that he had opportunity to ensure that the employee in question was provided a Rice Notice prior to the meeting.

T. Marrone: Emphasized that he was asking about the job position specifically, not the employee currently filling the part-time position.

J. Thompson: Stated that the new position would concern employee training, employee and insurance liaisons, interpersonal skills, confidentiality, multiple tasks, being a team player, orientation, wellness coordinator, communication/media, and others. Noted that the job description is not completed yet.

Councilman LaRotonda: Questioned the financial responsibilities of the position the position. Asked whether they would be helping prepare the budget and other tasks, to assist the CFO.

J. Thompson: Confirmed that the position would be responsible for assisting the CFO.

Council President Howell: Asked if the job would be responsible for payroll.

J. Thompson: Indicated the possibility.

T. Lawler: Reminded the Council that earlier this year the City finally hired a full-time Deputy Clerk whose job duties included helping the Administrator/CFO and Mayor.

C. Seher: Questioned which municipalities the salary range of the new position is comparable to.

J. Thompson: Described researching similar positions in the same area.

C. Seher: Assumed that City employees had particularly high salaries. Doubted that other local municipalities, such as Galloway or Egg Harbor Township, offered salaries as high as Absecon.

J. Thompson: Asserted that the City of Absecon, does not pay higher salaries than Galloway and Egg Harbor Township, and elaborated that, in fact, those municipalities pay far higher than the City of Absecon.

C. Seher: Speculated that the new job requirements seemed minimal.

J. Thompson: Denied that speculation, and described the complexities of the position's focus, including policy, regulation, interpersonal matters, and other responsibilities that the City is currently unable to fulfill.

C. Seher: Asked whether the City has a full-time payroll clerk.

J. Thompson: No.

C. Seher: Questioned who is responsible for payroll.

J. Thompson: Affirmed that payroll would fall under the new position being introduced.

C. Seher: Asked who currently is responsible for payroll.

J. Thompson: Stated that the part-time Finance Specialist was currently responsible for payroll.

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

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 Howell read Resolutions #135-143 by title.

Motioned to move the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 730,339.52

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 11/3/2022

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Abstain; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds: Last few meetings were on October 18th and November 15th. Addressed several agenda items of the October 18th meeting. Continuing to look for more field help, as their number of volunteers has diminished. Considering relying more on Public Works to get work completed. Recreation Director, Pete Higbee, is aware of the issue. Expressed interested in developing pickleball courts. Mentioned possibly cleaning up the Senior Park at Traymore Parkway and Morton Ave. There was a report about funding for a hood at the Blue Devil's Field range. At the November 15th meeting some new faces joined the Committee in discussion. Several individuals are avid (dog) walkers and requested watering stations for humans and pets at the City's parks and fields. A young family also requested the City install a swing set at Franklin Blvd. Playground. Noted that it was nice and refreshing to see these young families come in to discuss things with the Committee. There will be no meeting this December. Expressed appreciation for his time involved in Parks & Playground affairs.

Councilwoman Poley – Community Affairs Committee: Met earlier that night before the Council Meeting. Recounted the recent Community Affairs events. On November 19th Community Affairs partnered with Rowan Medicine and the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office to provide Grab N' Go Breakfasts at Holy Spirit High School to local veterans. Tim Reed from the Sheriff's Dept. donated 100 free turkeys and an amazing number of socks and gloves. Rowan Medicine also provided COVID booster shots and glucose blood pressure tests to attendees. Holy Spirit High School, and the principal in particular, hosted the event graciously. The City's Holiday Tree Lighting will be December 6th at Mayor Elco Plaza starting at 6PM and an appearance of Santa Claus at 6:30PM. Several businesses on New Jersey Avenue are offering specials to commemorate the event. Encouraged one and all to come out and support local businesses. Spoke about Public Safety on behalf of Councilwoman Cain. The City has installed more dog waste trash cans around the community. Commended Public Works fantastic job in keeping the city clean. Expressed interest in getting the watering stations previously mentioned installed as well. Announced that Jim Eberwine, Absecon Emergency Management Coordinator, will be teaching an Absecon-related weather info-session in Council Chambers on December 20th at 3:30PM. If anyone is interested in learning about the weather (ex: tides, flooding, influence of the moon, etc.), strongly encouraged to come. Jim Eberwine has indicated enthusiastic willingness to continue weather-relate info sessions in the future. Remember to look at the City website and Community Affairs Facebook page for event information. There will be no meeting this December.

Councilman Cavileer – Finance Committee: No report. Next meeting will be December 15th at 4:30PM.

Councilman Burroughs – Public Works Committee: Last meeting was on October 19th. Discussed a matter regarding a property on Lazy Lane, of which Ed Dennis made a determination. There had been previous complaints about the roof of a City gazebo and Public Works has already repaired the issues. Next meeting will be on December 20th.

Councilman LaRotonda – Economic Development Committee: Last meeting was on November 2nd. There were several matters discussed. Announced the Shop Absecon Program. Local businesses in Absecon are offering special incentives to residents in order to encourage local holiday shopping. The official advertisement will be posted on the City's website and Community Affairs Facebook page. Noted that local businesses are still getting back to him about their participation in the Shop Absecon Program so urged the public to periodically look for the updated advertisement. Strongly encouraged residents to support local businesses in the city. Next meeting will be December 7th at 4:30PM. Anticipates discussing potential pilot programs and other ideas to

get more business on New Jersey Ave. Tomorrow, December 2nd, the Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept. will be hosting their annual Santa in the Park at 6:30PM. Encourages all to attend the magical night.

Councilman Burroughs: Commended Jim Eberwine and praised his vast and interesting knowledge. Recalled listening to him speak at a previous info session where everyone marveled at his teachings and engaged in educational discussion.

Councilman LaRotonda: Affirmed that Jim Eberwine is an asset to the City of Absecon.

Chief JR Laughlin – Police Dept.: Addressed a few matters. Announced that the toy box is located in the City Hall lobby, so if anyone had extra money and wanted to spread some love and cheer, they are asked to donate a toy to the toy box for Toys for Tots. Several events are happening with our officers: Shop with a Cop, Toys for Tots, and then another project within the local municipality. Cautioned everyone to lock their cars, houses, sheds, belongings, etc. Urged anyone who sees suspicious activity to please get in touch with the Police. Encouraged everyone with Ring cameras to please contact Detective Neal Galleta in the Detective Bureau. Registering your camera does not give the police access to your camera, it just informs the police who possibly could have footage in case there is a crime in your neighborhood. This allows the Police to contact those with Ring cameras to discuss any information that might help solve the crime. This system has helped the police solve many cases quickly. Cautioned everyone to be aware of their surroundings. Warned against perpetrators in the area who prey on unassuming persons. Cautioned those walking to and from their cars and those carrying purses/valuables, especially while shopping. Reminded the public to contact the police if they observe anything suspicious. Plans on having an agency come in soon to give a presentation to the public about Public Safety, similar to the presentation given a year ago to the public about Senior Fraud Prevention.

J. Thompson – City Administrator/CFO: Announced that the ACUA will be having a food drive from December 12th to the 16th, urging residents to place non-perishable items next to your recycling container so they make pick them up. J. Thompson and Mayor Horton met with the ACUA earlier this week and are expecting increases for next year. Trash collection tipping rate will be increasing 11% and the waste water rates are increasing 8%. ACUA notified us that residential recycling has increased 6% since the new recycling bins were distributed.

Councilman LaRotonda: Asked if ACUA mentioned their staffing.

J. Thompson: Confirmed that the topic was discussed. Stated that she addressed her dissatisfaction with raising rates and inadequate service. ACUA claimed staffing issues were a factor in their service issues. They have given their employees substantial raises in recent years in order to retain their employees, however continue to have staffing struggles. Acknowledged that this information is important to know, as it has an impact on the cost to our residents. Discussed the possibility of saving money by having residents bring yard waste to the ACUA facility themselves, however due to the many possible issues that may be resultant, the ACUA is not allowing that option. Assured residents that the issues they have communicated are being addressed and solutions are being considered.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: Provided several updates. Noted that a lot of design work is performed in the winter. At upcoming Public Works meetings, discussion will concern the 2023 Road Program and what roads to include in the project. There is a running list of potential roads, as well as a Road Prioritization Manual that was prepared several years ago, which will serve as references for the 2023 road picks. Shared that the City has received an informal notification that the City's grant application for Calderon Ave will be approved by the state, so the City is expecting state funding for the DOT for that road. That project will provide some drainage relief on New Jersey Ave. This development may be a factor in what roads are picked for the 2023 Road Program. The City also

received a state-aid grant for streetscape work on New Jersey Ave. They had been holding off on the project in order to ensure coordination with the redevelopment site on New Jersey Ave. between Route 9 and Michigan Ave. These projects will be part of the design work performed this winter.

Council President Howell: Asked if there was an expiration date for the streetscape project.

E. Dennis: Informed Council that the project has a 2-year expiration date, and that they had just received the grant this year. Shared that the Shore Road Project has been sent to the County Engineer's Office for final review and they have been in discussion regarding feedback. Once finalized, it will go out to bid. This project is to elevate Shore Rd. by Ohio Ave. Announced that the hearing for the New York Ave. Subdivision has been rescheduled, due to an accidental omission in some notices required to be sent. Those notices will be sent and the hearing has been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 13th at 7PM.

Mayor Horton: Informed Council that she contacted the Governor's Office that week to again ask for his interference, on the city's behalf, in our current high school situation. Sent the Governor's Office Superintendent Dooley's posted letter, as well as other information she believed would help the city's case. Revealed that her liaison in the Governor's Office has assured her that the information she provided will get the appropriate persons in the Dept. of Education and the Governor. Addressed the plight of food insecurity and commended Councilwoman Poley on her success in the recent Grab N' Go event. Also commended Rowan Medical and the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office. Also praised Deb Reilly and Council President Howell for their contribution to the Grab N' Go event. Spoke in honor of former 9/11 Committee Chairman, Jim Smith. Jim Smith used methodology and many resources to help create the City's amazing 9/11 Memorial, including an actual piece of the Twin Towers. Ed Vincent, Butch Stewart, and Jim all played key roles in bringing our monument to fruition. On behalf of Council, extends her condolences to Jim's surviving loved ones for their loss.

Carie Crone – City Clerk: Monthly Report – October 2022:

- Municipal Court: \$5,299.14
- Tax Office: \$4,059,033.71
- Construction Office: \$15,689
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$1,212

Councilman Cavileer left the meeting at 6PM

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Chris Seher – 707 Chelsea Road: Questioned Councilman Light about rumors he heard suggesting that the City football field was shut down at the end of the season due to fire code violations. Asked whether the violations have been resolved.

Councilman Light: the situation pertained to cooking food and an issue with the hood.

J. Thompson: Informed that the permit was picked up today to work on the hood.

C. Seher: Admitted regret in regard to his previous protests while in office to artificial turf. Admires the artificial turf he has seen while at his family member's sporting events. In regard to ACUA, asked if he was correct in thinking the City is given two separate bills (collection and disposal).

J. Thompson: the City actually receives more bills from ACUA: trash collection, tipping, yard waste, waste water and fuel.

C. Seher: Clarified that he meant in terms of recycling.

J. Thompson: In regard to recycling, wasn't sure off the top of her head if the bill included disposal.
C. Seher: Challenged the 8% recycling increase being implemented for recycling.
J. Thompson: Corrected him in that the 8% increase is for waste water. Clarified that there was an increase in the number of recycling that our residents have been putting out to be picked up.
C. Seher: Asked about the increase for solid waste.
J. Thompson: Reiterated that the solid waste will be 11%.
C. Seher: Asked if that the terms are year-to-year or by contract.
J. Thompson: The prices are not based on a contract; the company sets their own rates.
C. Seher: Asked when ACUA last increased their prices.
J. Thompson: They increased their prices last year also. In the past, their prices remained flat, however that has changed in recent years.
C. Seher: Commented about percentage increases in relation to the cost of work.
J. Thompson: Clarified that the percentage increase this year is higher than percentage increases in previous years.

C. Seher: Pertaining to employee salaries and workloads, commented on the comparability of local municipalities to Absecon. Criticized a comparison between Absecon and Galloway/Egg Harbor Township. Noted that historically Absecon has been compared to Northfield, Linwood, and Somers Point. Asked if they have a full-time Deputy Clerk, HR officer, or Finance Specialist.
J. Thompson: Indicated she believed all the positions in question were full time and included additional positions. Elaborated that those positions in other municipalities offered more support.
C. Seher: Clarified whether she is referring to the communities he just mentioned.
J. Thompson: Confirmed.
C. Seher: Asked if all the municipalities in question had HR officers.
J. Thompson: Could not confirm the specific job titles.

Councilman LaRotonda: As an employee of Northfield and Linwood, attested that the Administrator is responsible for HR.
J. Thompson: Pointed out that the Administrator there also has support staff.
Councilman LaRotonda: Mentioned they also have a part-time CFO.
J. Thompson: Doubted that information was correct.

C. Seher: Asked Council, if the Planning Board still meets on the 13th and moves ahead with plans, does this Council still plan on moving forward in the development plans.
Councilman LaRotonda: Let's wait and see the approval.
Council President Howell: Noted this project has been in a work in progress for 15 years.
C. Seher: Commented how timing is everything, and emphasized the importance of changing situational factors in decision making (ex: interest rates).
Mayor Horton: Recalled the interest rates in decades past.
Councilman LaRotonda: Recognized that the current interest rates, and the present economic climate as a whole, are not ideal. Expressed willingness to wait until the economic situation improves.
Mayor Horton: Insisted that people are willing to spend that money.
Council President Howell: Expressed her opinion that there's no harm in bidding now.
C. Seher: Warned Council that he will continue fighting plans, to make the area a through street
Council President Howell: Denied that it was a through street.

Michael Reilly – 444 4th Street: Asked for improvements to City trails.
Council President Howell: Assured him that Council will consider it.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave.: Thanked Councilman Light for addressing the problem with volunteerism in local sports. In regard to the watering stations, informed Council that there are grants available through the Clean Communities Program for which the City gets grant funding for to put in bottle filling stations. Thanked Mayor Horton for contacting the Governor's Office about the high school situation. Thanked Councilwoman Poley for dog waste posts and the stop sign recently installed. Asked about public safety pertaining to unsafe conditions related to the motels on Route 9.

C. Seher: Thanked Mayor for contacting the Governor's Office about the high school situation and Councilwoman Poley and Councilman LaRotonda for efforts in supporting local business.

Alex Perri – 620 Yarmouth Avenue: Concerned with the new Planning Board Meeting date, specifically its proximity to the holiday. Urged Council to postpone the meeting until after the new year so more people may attend.

Council President Howell: Informed him it was too late, as the letters have already been sent.

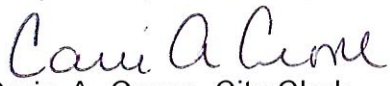
Motioned to close to the public: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs
All in Favor, None Opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Light: Shared that he spoke at Absecon's National Junior Honor Society induction event. Congratulated the honored students and recognized their parents.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12/15/22