



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 17, 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, Steve Light, Keith Bennett

ABSENT: Frank Phillips

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone & Eddie Dennis

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

PRESENTATION by Jim Eberwine

Jim – explained the weather machine that is near the UHaul site. It was installed by the US Geological Survey. It has been updated over the past weeks and it's a full station now instead of just giving the tides. It will be very valuable during storms for us. This information can also be used for residents to include on any insurance claims. He talked about our claim for the storm that we had months ago. He also gave a COVID update.

Keith – questioned who would be getting the vaccine first

Steve – this updated machine should help us in dealing with the county to get the road raised.

Eddie – gave a quick update on the firehouse and the volunteers did the outside siding. They should be getting a TCO for the administrative side of the building by next week. Movers are scheduled for Monday to put things from the old one to the new one. The target date is the first week of January to finish moving everything in and getting it up and running.

Steve – how is the developer dealing with this schedule?

Eddie – he is aware of it and he has attended our weekly meetings and he is taking proactive steps for the demolition of the old firehouse. They have been able to get inside it to prepare for that too. We are trying to eliminate any down time for them for demolition. Of course, they would have liked it

done sooner, but this year as not normal and he understands that. He saw that everyone was doing their best to get it done as quickly as possible to get this project wrapped up.
The road project on Bayview Drive is essentially complete, except for some clean up and restoration. The bulkhead project at City hall is pretty much completed and they should finish by next week.

Keith – asked Eddie and Jessica to give some information on the Route 30 project and Mill Road. There has been a lot of talk around town and on Facebook on this State run project.

Eddie – he knows the police department has been in touch with the contacts for this project. To summarize, it was presented to us back in April 2018. The scope of the project was not supposed to change since it was presented to us back then. There has been some confusion on how they proceeded with construction and left some old signage up, making it confusing with the new striping that was done. The signage is gone now and the contractor said the paving was done first before the winter started, making it confusing. There is a crew coming in tomorrow to do the traffic markings, which will be the arrows in the turn lanes and then next week the new signs will be installed. It should become clearer out there by then. The project should be done by February.

Kim – asked about the timing of the lights, but Eddie thinks that will take more time to be done

Steve – questioned how the new turn lanes were going to work. Eddie thinks it's going to work like the setup at Shore Road and White Horse Pike. There will be one left hand turn lane and one straight thru or turning right lane.

Jessica – remembers when the State gave a courtesy presentation that they offered a couple of options and we went with the most basic one.

2020 RESOLUTIONS

- 121** Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the 2020 Local Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58.

Jessica – explained this will transfer some monies from different accounts that are needed for others. The city had some unexpected costs with COVID this year.

- 122** Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to cancel Grant Receivables and Appropriations not needed.

Jessica – these programs need no further work on and we are closing them out

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Avenue – he had asked at the last meeting if there was going to be any pilons for safety at the Rt. 30 and Mill Road project. Since then, he sees there is actually more space for them now, since the work that has been completed.

Eddie – he did reach out to the County, but he has had no response yet.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs
All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith – read the resolutions again.

Motion to move the consent agenda – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,834,048.25

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/03/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs - second – Councilwoman Cain

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

REPORTS

Public Safety – no meeting this month

Steve – Parks and Playground – he and Pete Higbee reported how successful the concerts were this year, it was something positive we could give to the community. On a sad note, he announced that long time employee Bill Steiner has passed away. He will be a big loss to the City. He wished all the residents a happy holiday, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Betty – Economic Development – no meeting

Sandy – Community Affairs – no meeting. She did announce that the VFW will hold a ceremony placing a wreath on a veteran's grave at the Presbyterian Church. Santa will be going around on the fire truck this Friday and Saturday nights. She is hoping 2021 will be a better year and more community events will be able to be held. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and stay safe.

Caleb – Finance Committee – met this afternoon and we are had preliminary talks on the budget process and have reached out to the department heads. January and February the meetings will start. Some things to think of are: pension rates are going up about \$120,000 for the city; our road program; and finding a down payment for a fire truck. The CARES money we should get reimbursed for is about \$136,000.

Don – Public Works – there was no meeting. Lloyd and his crew are still doing leaf pick up. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jessica – announced that Friday trash pick up be done on Saturdays due to the holidays. The tax collection rate is at 98.3 %, which is very good for the future budget. Acknowledged Bill Steiner's passing. We were fortunate to have him work for the city for so long. We will all miss him. She wished everyone a healthy and safe holiday.

MONTHLY REPORTS for November – Carie

Tax Collection - \$3,787,640.14

Construction - \$7,209.00

Municipal Clerk - \$9,226.00

Municipal Court - \$3,573.22

Mayor – she acknowledged Bill's passing as well. He has been with the City since 1979 and would have been 61 next week. Former Councilmen Glenn Hayden and Bill Wilson's fathers also passed away. Their family is in our prayers. Some of the volunteer firemen laid the sod down at the new firehouse and Joe's Farm Market donated many of the shrubs out there. It really looks beautiful. She wished everyone a wonderful, safe holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs
All were in favor.

Dale Conover – 43 E. Lee Avenue – on our website the login for the zoom meetings is cut off and you can't see it. He feels channel 97 would be the way to go for a lot of people who can't do the computer or have smart phones.

Keith said the website will be redone soon and it can be moved to the front page

Betty – she would like to see us go back to that as well

Dale – part of his job as Deputy Chief for the fire department is to help facilitate all the purchases and get bills paid, which get brought up to City Hall. He's starting his third year now and this past Thursday, his key fob was denied access. He was let in and just thought his key went bad, but found out that his key was turned off and he is no longer considered an employee of the City, so he needs to call or knock when he wants to come in. It's not an everyday thing and he doesn't come in often, maybe once a week or every other week. He has been coming in for years.

Jessica – said we are updating the system and key fobs and making sure the correct people who are employees have access. Some have had access and they shouldn't have. She said he is not considered an employee.

Dale – he feels as part of his job with the fire department, he should be given a key

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs
All were in favor.

Keith – wished everyone a very safe, happy holiday season. Merry Christmas and any holiday that you choose to celebrate, he hopes it's a joyous one and he hopes 2021 is much better than 2020.

Steve – he wishes he was here and he truly means it, but he thanked Frank for his service and on behalf of all of us. Thanked him for the time he put and the time it takes to get in this position.

Keith – it hasn't been announced yet, but Councilman Phillips has submitted a letter of resignation effective 12/31. Council will have 30 days to replace him from among 3 names submitted by the County Republican Committee.

Fred – explained the process and that by the end of January a person needs to be appointed

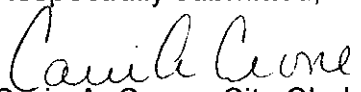
Steve – thanked two individuals of our community who reroofed the sheds behind the Legion that were in dire need, as well as someone else who wrapped the front doors with a black material to make it appear to look like wood. The Wenz tree farm donated a wreath for above the doors.

Mike McTiernan was one gentleman from Doylestown, Pennsylvania who stayed at a local motel for the weekend and a cousin of his from Galloway helped him with the roofs. He wanted to give back to the community. Home Depot donated some of the roof materials and the Legion purchased some of the supplies, but the community keeps going and going on this building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 1-21-21