



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19TH, 2024
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor-Elect Marrone

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Alex Clark, Richard DeRose, Tommy Marrone, Christine Parker, and Council President Nick LaRotonda

ABSENT: Councilwoman Sandy Cain and Mayor Kim Horton

ALSO PRESENT: City Engineer Ed Dennis, City Solicitor Bill Blaney Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Police Chief JR Laughlin, Lt. Richard Huenke, and CFO/Administrator Jessica Thompson

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 155** Authorizing the release of escrow funds posted by Purdy, Inc. for property known as 110 Miami Avenue, Block 209, Lot 1.
- 156** Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2024 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$2,379.41 from the State Body Armor Fund.
- 157** Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2024 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$275,028.00 from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- 158** Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2024 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$578,000.00 from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- 159** Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers, to administer the Engineering Services for the Estates Drainage Study.

- 160** Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers, to administer the Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Delaware Avenue FY 2025 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program.
- 161** Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers, to administer the Engineering Services for the City Hall ADA Accessible Ramp.
- 162** Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers, to administer the Engineering Services for the Municipal Infrastructure Assessment.
- 163** Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers, to administer the Engineering Services for the Sewer Infrastructure Mapping Updates.
- 164** Authorizing the transfer of appropriations in the 2024 Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman DeRose; 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 Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 1,689,106.93

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman DeRose

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/5/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

REPORTS

Councilwoman Parker – Community Affairs: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Will not meet again until February 2025. Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Will not meet again until February 2025.

Councilman Clark: Had the privilege of going on a ride-along with Sergeant Krause through the City. Gained first-hand insight into what the City's Police Officers are experiencing. Urge fellow Councilmembers to do the same. Noted that Public Safety has been a Council priority. They strive

to keep officers and the community safe. Expressed pride in the City's Officers. Emphasized how much the Officers care for the community. Commented on the risk inherent in their job. Remarked how there is work needed to be done by Council to assist the Police in the execution of their service.

Chief Laughlin – Police Dept.: Expressed appreciation that Councilman Clark took the time to come out for a ride-along. Stated that the recent Santa in the Park event was a success. Thanked the Fire Department. Just recently completed the County Toys for Tots toy collection and soon they will conduct their own city Toys for Kids and Shop with a Cop events. Shared that there has been a recent uptick in crime and thanked residents who have quickly reached out to their department. This has enabled the Police to foil and solve some of the crime occurring. Encouraged the public to "see something, say something." In light of the holiday season, urged everyone to "travel lightly." Specified the importance of being cautious and aware of your surroundings. On behalf of the entire Absecon PD, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council President Nick LaRotonda: Echoed Chief Laughlin's recognition to the Fire Department for hosting Santa in the Park. Also thanked them for escorting Santa around the City.

Councilman Marrone – Public Works: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Was honored to be the Chair of the Public Works Committee this year. Praised the Public Works employees. Enjoyed working with Lloyd Jones and his team. Emphasized that the motivation behind so much of what the Governing Body and the City do, is the love and care for this community. Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Starting next month the City will be preparing for budget season. The next Committee meeting will be in February 2025.

Councilman Light – Parks and Playgrounds: Thanked all City employees for their hard work and dedication. Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council President Nick LaRotonda: Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Announced that the City had plaques prepared for Mayor Horton and Councilwoman Cain. Thanked them for their many years of service for Absecon.

J. Thompson – CFO/Administrator: Announced that she will be retiring from her positions (Administrator/CFO/QPA/Planning Bd. Rep.) at the end of the month. Wished everyone a happy holiday and Happy New Year. Wished Absecon the best moving forward.

Council President LaRotonda: Thanked J. Thompson for her years of service.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: Provided updates regarding City projects. All active construction projects are complete for the year. There have been several impactful projects conducted this year (e.g. Crestview Ave. Project and streetscape on New Jersey Ave.) Several projects are coming up in the spring: 2024 Road Program (under contract) and Meadowview Ave. Project. Recently reviewed Engineering items originally budgeted to determine whether funding is available, which it is. Recently received a grant for 2025 State Aid for reconstruction of Delaware Ave. from Huron Ave. to New Road (part of 2025 Road Program). Several Engineering studies will be conducted, including the Estates drainage (already made incremental improvements, but more improvements still needed), Infrastructure Assessment which encompasses drainage, sanitary sewer, coastal facilities, and street lighting (tool to complement road inventory and new software). These studies are geared toward Capital Planning and will provide important information which will help the City apply for grants. The City will be updating their maps (sanitary sewer and drainage). There are still funds remaining from the CDBG Block Grant Program for an accessibility ramp behind City Hall, so engineering will begin on that endeavor, with the possibility of future project expansion. Wished everyone a happy holiday and Happy New Year.

Councilman Light: Urged Council to consider the creation of an ADA-compliant accessibility ramp at City Hall. Commented that there are many pedestrian crosswalks around the city which are all faded. Emphasized pedestrian safety. Asked whether Atlantic Electric can be contacted about light outages on South Shore Rd. near the train bridge.

Councilman DeRose: Spoke with leadership at Atlantic City Electric who assured him that light outages should be rectified within 30 days from when they are correctly reported. Emphasized the importance of properly reporting the outage.

E. Dennis: In regard to Councilman Light's comments about the faded pavement, the technology used to scan roadways is image recognition technology. The technology will identify signs that are faded, leaning, missing and compile the information into an inventory.

Council President LaRotonda: In regard to striping, has been in contact with the County about improvements to Pitney Rd. They plan to restripe faded sections. They have also removed several street signs that created a cluttered view which impeded safety. Some signs, however, are favored by residents, so is currently working to have them re-installed.

City Clerk: Monthly Report – November 2024

- Municipal Court: \$6,088.89
- Tax Office: \$4,276,416.24
- Construction Office: \$7,142
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$812

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 1-16-25