



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 21ST, 2023 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Betty Howell, Steve Light, Tommy Marrone, and Council Pro-Tem Richard DeRose

ABSENT: Council President Nick LaRotonda

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

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

PRESENTATION — Mayor — William Hoch Retirement from Public Works

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2023 RESOLUTION

153 Appointing a Full-Time Patrol Officer, namely Christopher Cotter.

Motioned to move Resolution #153-2023: Councilwoman Howell; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Absent; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

OATH OF OFFICE - Cotter & Barbagallo

Chief Laughlin: Thanked the Mayor, Council, and Administrator for helping the PD in the hiring process. Clarified that, in regard to taxes, the City has not expanded their Police force, but instead, replaced two Officers that recently left. Wished everyone happy holidays and happy new year. Thanked the public for getting to know their Absecon Police Officers. Shared that it's a pleasure serving them.

2023 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned to change the reference in Ordinance #18-2023, from "Section 224-11 1" to "Sec.224110.0" (typographical error): Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman Light

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #18-2023: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

- 18 Amending and supplementing Chapter 224, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Absecon and repealing all Ordinances heretofore adopted, the provision of which are inconsistent therewith.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #18-2023: Councilwoman Howell; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs All in Favor, None Opposed

Greg Seher — 625 Yarmouth Avenue: Asked for the Ordinance to be explained.

Bill Blaney: The Ordinance pertains to Sober Living Homes. Residents have expressed a concern about a lack of regulation by the State. The City looked at other municipalities to see how they have addressed the concern. Egg Harbor City and Linwood, for example have enacted a similar ordinance to the one in question. The Ordinance upholds limitations relating to distance between Sober Living Homes and schools, as well as requires their notice to the City so that they are aware of their presence.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #18-2023: Councilwoman Howell; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

Ordinance #18-2023 has been heard and is finally approved.

2023 RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

- 154 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to cancel Current Fund Budget Appropriations.

- 155 Authorizing the submission of an award extension request for LA-2022 SST Absecon City CBD Streetscape Improvements — Phase 4 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Ed Dennis: This resolution is related to the Streetscape Project on New Jersey Ave. between Michigan Ave. and Route 9. They couldn't proceed until Construction for the new White Horse Liquors was completed. The City's design is finished and the plans and specs have been submitted to the DOT for review. This resolution is required because the City must award a construction contract by February. There are currently many moving parts (i.e. it's a County road, the City is

awaiting County review, and Atlantic City Electric must provide a quote for the electric), so the City is seeking an award extension, so the planned improvements are not threatened.

- 156 Accepting bids received to enter into a Lease of Real Property and use of existing Communications Tower and related communications equipment.

PUBLIC PORTION - (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs
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.

Motioned to move the Consent Agenda: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 569,809.54

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Cain; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes — 12/7/2023

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Burroughs — Yes; Cain — Yes; DeRose — Yes; Howell — Yes; Light — Yes; Marrone — Yes; LaRotonda — Absent

REPORTS

Councilman Light — Parks & Playgrounds: Have not met this month and will not meet again until February '24. On behalf of the Committee, wished the public happy holidays and happy new year, and also thanked Bill Hoch for all his years of service.

Councilman Marrone — Economic Development: Have not met this month and will not meet again until February '24. Thanked Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell for their service. Wished them both the best moving forward.

Councilwoman Cain — Finance: Met earlier that night. As of that day, 94% of the budget had been spent, which is on target.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose — Public Safety: Have not met this month. Wished everyone a safe holiday season and looks forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Enjoyed working with Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell this past year. Thanked them both for their service.

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Councilwoman Howell — Community Affairs: Have not met this month, but reviewed recent events. The Fire Dept.'s Santa in the Park and the City's Holiday Tree Lighting were both very successful. Tomorrow the Police Dept. will be accompanying Santa in handing out presents to children in need within the community. Wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

Councilman Burroughs — Public Works: Have not met this month. Wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

J. Thompson — City Administrator/CFO: Echoed previous sentiments that it has been a pleasure working with Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell. Commended their jobs well done. Thanked Bill Hoch for his work with the City. Reminded everyone that leaf pickup will end with the end of the year. Wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

Ed Dennis — City Engineer: Provided an update about Illinois Ave. The County has paved the area, which is an interim step. When the City's raises the road, they will just pave on top of it.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Commended Councilmembers Burroughs and Marrone for being persistent in making sure that paving got completed.

City Clerk: Monthly Report — November 2023

- Municipal Court: \$8,337
, Tax Office: 3,979
- Construction Office: \$4,486.45
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$2,025

Mayor Horton - Presentations: Recognized Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell's last Council Meeting as City Councilmembers.

- Councilman Burroughs has worked hard these last few years and has made many accomplishments. Described Butch as professional, hardworking, and an advocate for his residents. Absecon residents have noted his attention to detail and willingness to gather information/consult with professionals in order to find solutions to local issues. Thanked him for his years of service to the local community.
- Councilwoman Howell has served for years on Absecon Council, as both Councilmember and Council President. Declared that volunteerism is in Betty's DNA, and expects that Betty will continue her involvement in City matters and events. She has served 15 years in the City's Planning Board and 12 years on Community Affairs. Thanked Betty for all her service. Wished the public happy holidays and a happy new year.

Councilwoman Howell: Honored to leave alongside Councilman Burroughs and Bill Hoch. Assured all that she is not running for office. Thanked everyone for their support. Expressed that she is ready to take a new path.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Shared, again, the pleasure he had from working with Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Deb Reilly — 444 4th Street: Has known both Councilman Burroughs and Councilwoman Howell for almost 60 years, and thanked them for their service. Presented both Councilmembers gifts from she and her husband, Mike Reilly.

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Greg Seher — 625 Yarmouth Avenue: Congratulated and thanked Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell. Expressed appreciation for Councilwoman Howell's service as Council President. Thanked Chief Laughlin and his Police Dept. for their excellent job helping Absecon residents. Referred back to the Ordinance that the City passed in regard to local hotels and transit residents. Shared that he has observed panhandlers and school children being dropped off near local motels and hotels. Asked what exactly the outcome has been from passing that specific Ordinance.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Shared that Council is limited in what information may be announced. Invited Chief Laughlin up to speak.

Chief Laughlin: Clarified that simply being homeless is not illegal. Only if someone is impeding traffic and causing a dangerous risk, then it may be enforced. Has been in communication with different Social Agencies within the County and State. Shared that when someone calls the Police, they go out and try to get these people help, sometimes successful, but unfortunately, they are sometimes unsuccessful. For example, if someone is from a different county, we provide them meals, but required to send them back to their original county.

Council President Pro-Tem DeRose: Informed G. Seher that when someone is evicted, it is a court matter and Council is not involved.

Chief Laughlin: If someone is loitering or trespassing outside a business and is creating a nuisance, the Police may enforce their removal from the specific property.

Councilman Light: On behalf of John Rifici, commended the Police and Fire Dept. for their immediate help at his business's recent fire. Wanted to publicly recognize their fast service.

Chief Laughlin: Prides themselves for serving the residents and businesses of this city.

Councilman Marrone: Shared that the City's Code Enforcement has shared a standard form with all motels and hotels which identifies who is staying there. If a motel/hotel or person was not complying with the City's Ordinance, Code Enforcement would become aware.

Brenden Santangelo: Recognized Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell's service. Expressed his honor in getting to know them. Wished them the best moving forward.

Donna Poley — 703 Elberon Avenue: As someone who has been on Community Affairs for 12 years and someone who is familiar with Council, commended the service and sacrifice of all of those on Council, but especially tonight, Councilmembers Burroughs and Howell. Expressed her appreciation for all that the City does. Wished everyone happy holidays.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilwoman Howell; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 1-18-24