



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Phone (609) 641-0663x101
Fax (609) 645-5098

CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 4th, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Alex Clark, Linda Evans, Nick LaRotonda, Steve Light, Mike Sykes and Council President Richard DeRose

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Marrone, City Solicitor John Amenhauser Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Police Chief Laughlin and Administrator Jessica Snyder.

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

PRESENTATION – Chief Laughlin – Swearing in on new Officers.

Chief Laughlin – Spoke on the challenges and conditions of being a Police Officer in the current times and the qualifications to be a good Officer. These recruits were hired back in January. The academy ended in July and they have spent the last ten months in training. Thank the whole Department for the help of training all six at one time.

Stanley Marcyk – Life long resident of Absecon. Graduate of Holy Spirit High School. Member of the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department. Earned the Physical Fitness Award at the Academy.

Brayden Melendez – Galloway resident who attended Absecon schools and graduated from Holy Spirit High School. During academy training, he delivered an exceptional firearms performance and earned an impressive score of 99.44 of 100. Since his release from the field training at the beginning of November he has made nearly 20 arrests.

Scott McConnell – Resident of Galloway Township, graduate of Cedar Creek High School. Earned the top performance in the mile and a half run at the academy, a testament to his discipline and physical preparedness.

Barry Walker – Resident of Egg Harbor City. Graduate of Cedar Creek High School. Earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. His calm demeanor, strong character and steady motivation quickly earned him the respect of his peers.

Nicholas Brown – Egg Harbor Township resident. Graduate of Egg Harbor Township High School. Business degree and business management and marketing. At the University he distinguished himself as a member of the football program, he demonstrated teamwork, discipline and dedication, qualities that now serve him well in his law enforcement career.

Joseph Reitzer – Live long resident of Absecon and graduate of Holy Spirit High School. Dedicated member of the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department. During early weeks of field training he encountered a number of high stress and complex incidents.

Mayor Marrone – Four years ago, Council President DeRose and I ran on improving public safety. We had fewer Officers then we did in the early 90's. This is one of moments that make all this worth it. I've gotten to know all six of you, and you are great guys. Congrats and stay safe.

Council President DeRose – Looked up before I came, and exactly 1,061 days ago, myself, then Councilman Marrone and Councilman LaRotonda sat down with the Chief and asked, "what do you need"? And the Chief's response was, "I need more Officers". And here we are tonight, swearing in six new Officers. Congratulations and we wish you all the best.

Councilman Light – Extremely proud, know you and know your families all individually. Know how hard you have worked and we are truly blessed.

Councilman Clark – Spent a lot of time with the Chief, Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee figuring out how to get this done. Couldn't have worked out any better, a lot of these guys I've coached and really proud.

Councilwoman Evans – Congratulations, as a mother and wife of Police Officers, I know the hard training you went through. You have a great future ahead of you, be safe.

Councilwoman Parker – This is emotional for me, I can picture you guys in Blue Devils and ASAC uniforms, have been to some of your graduations and are friends with my sons. Really proud of you all and be safe.

Councilman Sykes – Congratulations Absecon is grateful to have you and very proud of you. It's not a job that everyone can do, it's a tough job and I commend you for doing it. Best of luck and stay safe.

Councilman LaRotonda – Not just a great day to bring on six new Officers, this is much needed for our community. We have such a tight knit community and our Police Department is so involved. Great to have some born and raised Absecon residents and surrounding communities. Wish you luck and stay safe.

REGULAR MEETING

J. Amenhauser – Wasn't until this morning the Atlantic County and myself finally agreed to the terms and revisions, so were unable to advertise this on the agenda tow days ago when the agenda went out. So, seeking to add it tonight as an emergency add.

Motion to add Resolution #209-2025 – A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amended Agreement with Atlantic County and the City of Absecon for the reconstruction and elevation of a section of Shore Road that is subject to repetitive flooding to the consent agenda”?

Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light. All in Favor, None Opposed.

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes;
Parker – Yes; Sykes – Absent; DeRose – Yes

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.

- 204** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2025 on the property located at Block 192, Lot 13.
- 205** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2025 on the property located at Block 21, Lot 20.
- 206** Authorizing to cancel and refund property taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2025 and to cancel the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2026 on the property located at 110 Pennsylvania Ave (Blk. 79, Lot 23).
- 207** Authorizing the City of Absecon through the Absecon Police Department, to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to enable the Absecon Police Department to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment.
- 208** Authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Trinity Code Inspections, LLC.
- 209** Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amended Agreement with Atlantic County and the City of Absecon for the reconstruction and elevation of a section of Shore Road that is subject to repetitive flooding.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Absent;
DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,632,778.54

Motioned to accept: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Abstain; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Absent; DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 11/20/2025

Motioned to accept the Minutes: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Abstain; DeRose – Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Sykes – Parks and Playgrounds – Didn't meet last month. Meeting this month on 12/16. Working with the Engineer to see about getting some grants to do the fields and lights.

Councilman LaRotonda – Economic Development: Please get out and support our local businesses. Working with the Engineer to get some outlets installed on the light poles downtown and then get some holiday decorations up to spread some cheer.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Met Monday, Fire Department's Santa in the Park is tomorrow night. Thank you to the Fire Department and Santa for coming to our Tree Lighting last night, it was a great success. Also thank you to the EMS and Police Department for the roles they played. Chief Talley reported on testing being done for pumps and hoses and about getting their radios programmed. Santa will be around the City of 12/12 & 12/13. Working with them also to put out a winter advisory for fire safety. Police Department reported with working with the Field of Dreams for a toy and food give away. The also have their toy drive that they will be distributing this Saturday. Chief wanted to commend our Police Officers on the job that they've done on pedestrian accidents lately and also our six recruits on all the great work they've been doing. Also discussed putting together a K-9 committee.

Chief Laughlin – Thanked Council, truly a highlight of my career to swear in these new Officers. City should be proud. Please come out and support all the seasonal events going on. As I always say, if you see something say something.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs – Met tonight, had a little holiday party to thank my committee. Great turn out for the Tree Lighting, tree looks great, kudos to Lloyd for picking out a beautiful tree. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the tree. Thank you to the Police Department and Fire Department. Thank you to the school choir for coming out to sing. Happy Holidays.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Finance will meet on 12/18 @5:30. We're ahead of the game on the budget process, have all the departments budget request back a month early and will be working on them and coming up with a game plan for 2026.

Councilman Light – Public Works – Met on the 1st. We discussed S. Shore Road, Road Package, Streetscape Lighting and talked a little bit about California Avenue and Ohio Avenue improvements. Resident attended from Davis Ave. regarding a question about a tree on his/City property, so working on getting that resolved. And another requesting signage for electric bikes on the bike path. This has been a great year, what we have together is special & what we're accomplishing for the City is all positive. A lot of good things going on and I'm proud to be part of it.

Mayor Marrone – Even though everything this year was very tough and took a lot of hard work, no one here gave up. We got a lot more accomplished than we thought we would and we did it while being very fiscally responsible. Council did a great job, thank you. Thank you to the Chief and Jessica for stepping in in the absence of an Administrator, while we tried to figure out the right way to go with the Administrator – we welcome Jessica towards the end of the year. Eddie Dennis, thank you, I have been living with the Shore Road issues for three years, the last six months have been tough and I appreciate you and your staff for everything.

E. Dennis – Shore Road Project will have major improvements to public infrastructure and also ties in with the theme of public safety. Excited for the new projects planned for next year, we have to get through the winter, but have some contracts already ready to go as soon as the weather breaks. The biggest one being Shore Road, tonight was the final administrative step, next step is for the County to advertise for bids.

Councilman Clark – Are the stop signs up?

E. Dennis – Yes, stop signs and stop bars are in, so fully functioning.

J. Snyder – Thanked visitors of City Hall for their patience with the construction to the front doors. Congratulations and welcome to our new Officers. Homeless Task Force collection just ended.

Mayor Marrone – The collection was wildly successful. We collected close to 3,000 socks, about 500 can goods and even above and beyond, we received baby food and gift cards.

Council President DeRose – Last meeting of the year, so wanted to do a few thank yous. First and foremost, to the Police and Fire Departments it was a busy year for public safety. Merrilee thank you for coming and taping the Council Meetings. Carie and Jessica thank you for your patience and flexibility with my schedule. And the professionals, Ed and John, we are extremely lucky to have you both, you are both fierce advocates for the City. Mayor and Council, thank you, the collaboration, hard work, debates and disagreements, brought the best product to the City. Thank the residents who come regularly in person to the council meetings.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No Discussion

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 1-22-26