



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 1st, 2024 6:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Loretta Knisel – long time City Employee who passed away. And would like to pay tribute to the three Servicemen that were killed overseas.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

PRESENTATION – ANJEC – Sustainable New Jersey

Alex Perry – I've come to Council several times to talk about having an Environmental Commission. I feel that this is important and with qualify us for points for Sustainable New Jersey. Introduced Cheryl Reardon from ANJEC.

Cheryl – explained that they now have about 90% of their training on line through Zoom and our also available on YouTube. ANJEC is a Statewide Non-profit that has been operating for fifty-five years. Difference between an Environmental Commission and a Green Team is and Environmental Commission is appointed by Ordinance. Mayor makes the appointments. 5-7 members (up to the Mayor). Commission is totally advisory, they are there to support the Council and the Planning Board and a link for the community. All training is included with the ANJEC Membership (\$425.00 a year) Grant opportunities also available. Another benefit of ANJEC is a full-time resource center. We can also help with an open space plan.

Council President LaRotonda – thanked Cheryl for her time.

Dan Bachalis – head of the Hammonton Environmental Commission. Benefits of having an Environmental Commission – increased opportunity to bring in grants and other funding. Increase community engagement. Tangible impacts (ex. green spaces, parks, streetscapes and air quality). Provided information on projects/events their commission has done.

Councilman DeRose – do you advice Planning Board, Council or both. **Dan** – Both.

Steve Feedler – Chair of Galloway Twp. Env. Commission. Have a \$3,00.00 budget. Advise Planning Board and Council – no power, just advise. Another set of eyes for Planning Board and Council. Review site-plans. Evasive plants very high on the radar for the Commission. Gave examples of thing their Commission has done. Hope Absecon considers having a Commission.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #04-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

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

- 04** An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

J. Thompson – we do this every, regardless if there is any change to the Budget. Must be done prior to budget introduction. Essentially, we've used it to build up the Cap Bank in case we have a budget year where we need to exceed the 2% appropriation Cap that is enacted by State Law.

Motion to move Ordinance #04-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose. Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on February 15th, 2024.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #05-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

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

- 05** Amending and supplementing Chapter 250 "Parks, Playgrounds and Recreations Areas" of the Absecon Code to provide for the establishment of a Community Garden and repealing all Ordinances heretofore adopted, the provisions of which are inconsistent therewith.

Council President LaRotonda– have been working with the Green Team to establish a Community Garden. Went through Park and Playgrounds Committee and got approval for a section of the soccer fields, over by Public Works Building. Got approval from the Rec. Director and members of ASAC. The Green Team will be physically running the garden and vetting the people who apply for a space in the Garden.

Motion to move Ordinance #05-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose. Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on February 15th, 2024.

2024 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #01-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

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

- 01** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 224 – Land Use and Development, Article XXXV – Stormwater Control.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #01-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose. All in Favor, None Opposed.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth – Can someone please explain this Ordinance?

E. Dennis – State has been updating the Stormwater Management regulations at a Municipal level. This Ordinance along with Ordinance #2, which will be read next, is to bring the City up to compliance with the State model Ordinance. Ordinance #1 basically modifies the way Engineers complete drainage calculations for land development.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #01-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light

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

Ordinance #01-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #02-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light

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

- 02** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 259 – Privately-Owned Salt Storage.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #02-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
All in Favor, None Opposed.

(No Discussion)

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #02-2024: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light

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

Ordinance #02-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #03-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

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

- 03** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 3 – Administrative Code, Article I – Mayor and Council, Section 3-1 – Council Committees.

N. LaRotonda – This is to amend our Council Committees, specifically Public Works adding Code Enforcement.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #03-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone
All in Favor, None Opposed.

(No Discussion)

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #03-2024: Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

Ordinance #03-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

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.

- 44** Certifying the Governing Body is in compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".
- 45** Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits to Local Marinas.
- 46** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon PTO.
- 47** Authorizing a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License issued to Trav-Georgio, LLC. t/a Villa Rifici's Italian Bar & Grill.

- 48 Authorizing the submission of a grant application and the execution of a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the resurfacing of the Tennis Courts at the Pitney Park Recreation Complex.
- 49 Accepting a Performance Guaranty posted by ENV Growers, LLC for improvements on 125 Pleasant Ave. (Block 260, Lot 1.01.) – ***PULLED FROM AGENDA.***

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion.

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Light
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,524,963.76

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Cain
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 1/18/24

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

REPORTS

Councilwoman Parker – Community Affairs Committee: Met tonight. Thanked Mayor for help with the Meeting Agenda. Have a few returning members, but have lost a few also in the new year, so looking for new members. Earth Day Celebration on 4/20, it will be a clean-up and shredding event from 9-12. Also started discussion on planning the Senior Brunch in May.

Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development: have not had a meeting yet. First meeting next Wednesday, February 7th @6pm.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety: Have not met yet in 2024. First meeting will be Monday @6pm.

Chief Laughlin – See something say something, help us help you. Still having car robberies. Vehicle thefts at an alarming high rate. Majority still Kia and Hyundais – if you have these vehicles you should reach out to the manufacturer to check on upgrade for computer system. Still have some steering locks here available also.

Councilman Marrone – Public Works Committee: Has not met yet. Nice step forward tonight adding Code Enforcement to the Committee. First Monday of every month at 5pm if you have any comments, concerns or questions on City Codes.

N. LaRotonda – Thanked Councilman Marrone for changing the time to 5pm to make it easier for residents to attend.

Councilman Clark – Finance Committee: Budget Meeting February 8th @6:30pm. February 15th will be the first Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30pm.

Councilman Light – Parks and Recreation Committee: First Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm. Number of bands interested in the Concerts in the park are growing. Respect the parks if you see anything or anyone disrespecting the areas please reach out to the Police Department. Thanked Public Works for their hard work on maintaining the parks and fields. Councilman Marrone – The Bulkhead is also considered under parks. If you see something, please say something, did that area during the last clean-up and the things found down there were disturbing. Also, it is illegal to smoke or vape in these public areas.

Council President LaRotonda – Recognize Mark Marrone, celebrating 50th Anniversary in the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department on February 4th. Celebration to be held in the near future. Update on Pitney Road, I've been working with the County to mitigate and make it safer in terms of speeding due to it location near the school and also the park. Lengthy discussion with County Executive Levinson and Administrator Del Rosso gave me their full commitment to work with our Engineer to do a quick study. Ed will make recommendations, which some I have provided to him already, they will submit report to the County. Once received the Executive assured me he will act on any recommendations put forth by our Engineer.

J. Thompson – City Administrator/CFO: Yearly Tax Sale scheduled for March 20th. On website and sale will be held on-line. The striping on Illinois Avenue was completed yesterday.

Mayor Horton – Spencer Lyons has been elected to be the new Director of the Senior Center. He's generally exited to bring new ideas and increase the number of clients at the Center. Thanked Mary for stepping up and keeping the Center open for senior events on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the last nine months. Thanked Lloyd Jones and the Public Works Crew for stepping up and removing the debris on Route 30. Will continue to look into who is responsible for these receptacles, since Route 30 is a State Road which is maintained by the State. ACUA article regarding moving toward their goal of implementing a viable solid waste conversion project at the facility. Will provide an alternative to landfilling and potential to create energy. Three vendors have been selected to submit proposals.

E. Dennis – 2023 Road Program, work on Highland Blvd. is the only thing left on that project. Ran into a conflict with the Gas Co., conflict was resolved this week as far as how we're going to proceed. Gas Co. will be out there next week to relocate their gas main at no cost to the City. Then contractor will go back out and finish the drainage work on Highland, between Chelsea and Blenheim and then that project is complete. Next Public Works meeting will be bringing in our Road List for next Road Program. And also take a look at the Capital Project list.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Alex Perry – 620 Yarmouth Ave. Thanked Council for passing Community Garden Ordinance. Hoping to have the rules and regulation worked out for the next Council Meeting. Green Team was out last Saturday for an adopt a road clean-up on Shore Road. 15 bags of trash from marsh on Ohio Avenue along with three bags of recycling.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3/7/24