



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

February 17th, 2022

REGULAR MEETING - 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Betty Howell.

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, Cain, Cavileer, LaRotonda, Light, Poley, Howell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Jessica Thompson, Bill Blaney, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2021 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

01 An Ordinance establishing Salary Ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion for second reading – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilwoman Poley

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes.

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Poley

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close to public – Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Poley

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes.

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 36** Authorizing the transfer of appropriation reserves in the 2021 Local Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-59.

Jessica – we were billed incorrectly for the dispatch shared services, so we are transferring money in last year's budget to make that payment. The law says you can do that within the first three months of the next year.

- 37** Authorizing a refund of overpayment of taxes for the 1st Quarter of 2022 on the listed properties.

- 38** Authorizing the submission of the City of Absecon's Tonnage Grant application for the year 2021 to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Jessica – we apply every year for this grant

- 39** Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits to Local Marinas.

Jessica – we do this every year, so the marinas can sell daily ramp passes

- 40** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon VFW Post 9462 Auxiliary.

- 41** Appointing Special Counsel

Jessica – this will appoint our attorneys from 2021 to complete a project that was left over. The maximum cost of this project is \$5,000.

PUBLIC PORTION – (For Agenda items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Light

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Poley

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this 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 considered separately.

Betty read: Resolutions #36 to #41 again.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Light - second – Councilman LaRotonda

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,614,170.21

Motion to accept: Councilman Cavileer - second – Councilman LaRotonda

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/3/2022

Motion to accept: – Councilman LaRotonda - second – Councilman Poley

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

REPORTS

Steve Light – did not meet this month

Donna Poley – announced Valentine's events they are running. The senior dinner is now 5/1 at the Methodist Church. The community clean up will be rescheduled. Her next meeting is 3/3.

Sandy Cain – they met on 2/7. Sandy Hickerson came to say thanks for the wonderful help that the ambulance squad and Jennfier Gregg gave to her mom. The fire department went over some safety issues. Many fires started due to chimneys not being cleaned out. If you have a fire, please call 911 first before you try putting it out. Space heaters should be carefully used. The new tower 8 is getting new equipment mounted on it and that will become the second one to go out on calls. The ambulance squad calls have gone up, as well as costs, so they asked the city for help during the budget time. Police Department reported that there have been three major car accidents.

Chief Laughlin – explained they were three pedestrian motor vehicle accidents since after Christmas. If you are walker, please wear bright colors and follow all the rules and use the cross walks appropriately. It's important to clean off their cars if it snows. Falling snow and ice can cause a lot of damage. The speeding in town is getting out of control again and we will be enforcing the rules; we don't need anymore accidents.

Nick – saw them out at five corners and told them to keep up the good work

Steve – wanted to know where the pedestrian accidents occurred

Chief – they occurred on Rt. 30. One was in the crosswalk and the victim was not abiding by the laws of crossing the roadway and the other two were walking along the side of the road. It's important to wear bright clothing and the drivers need to be aware as well.

Sandy – the police interviews are underway for the class II officers and they are still looking into getting a chaplain for the dept. The next meeting is 3/7 at 4:30 p.m.

Caleb Cavileer – met tonight and had a budget discussion, that would have a zero increase. They plan to present it at the 3/3 meeting. We heard back that our phase 4 streetscape grant has been approved in the amount of \$525,000. We also heard that the project is moving forward at the Royal Farms.

Steve – wanted to let residents know that the council and mayor's salaries haven't changed in years and we should be proud of that.

Butch Burroughs – no meeting in February, but the next one will be 3/15 @ 3:30 p.m.

Nick Larotonda – his next meeting 3/2 @ 4:30 and that is great news about Royal Farms

MONTHLY REPORTS - JANUARY

Municipal Court - \$5,757.17

Tax Collection - \$1,886,893.34

Construction Office - \$24,524.00

Mayor – there was a meeting to discuss Absecon's waterways. The main concern is that the state dredging is completed and the markers have to be put back. Future dredging projects were also discussed that would be the city's responsibility. She did contact the state and the markers should be installed by the spring.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Maria Burns – 110 E. Faunce Landing Road – spoke about the speeding down her street and she doesn't feel safe.

Chief Laughlin – asked to call whenever she has a problem. The reason for not seeing the police there all the time is because we don't have class II officers yet. We are in the process of interviewing and hoping to be able to hire some more and they will be patrolling there. He explained that some of the loud music is coming from across the bay and since they don't exactly know where it's coming from, not much can be done.

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

CLOSED SESSION #42 – Potential Litigation

Bill Blaney – city solicitor – stated the reason for closed session was issues involving potential litigation and attorney/client privilege matters. No action is planned to be taken after closed session.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Bill – it's now 6:36 p.m. and we no action will be taken on a resolution that was discussed.

Betty – wish Donna's mother a speedy recovery

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Poley
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3/3/22