



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
FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilman Nick LaRotonda

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Marrone, City Solicitor Nicole Curio Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin, and City Engineer Ed Dennis

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2025 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #02-2025: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

- 02** Authorizing to exceed the Municipal Budget appropriations limit and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14)

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #02-2025:

Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

Motioned to close the public portion: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

All in Favor, None Opposed.

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #02-2025: Councilman Light;

Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

Ordinance #02-2025 has been heard and is finally approved.

2025 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 60 Amending Resolution #33-2025 confirming meetings of City Committees, Commissions and Boards for the year 2025.
- 61 Authorizing the contact person for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 62 Authorizing the continuance of utilizing R.W. Brown Landscaping Co., LLC for Landscaping and Field Maintenance throughout the City of Absecon.
- 63 Authorizing the continuance of utilizing Waszen Brothers Sanitation Inc. for emergency sewage pump repair/replacement for the pump stations throughout the City of Absecon.
- 64 Authorizing the continuance of utilizing ProPhoenix Corporation for annual maintenance and support for its Public Safety Communication System.
- 65 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 1st Quarter of 2025 on the listed properties. (Returns to mortgage company)
- 66 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 1st Quarter of 2025 on the listed properties. (Returns to property owner)
- 67 Authorizing the Tax Collector to prorate, cancel and refund the property taxes for 3 days of the 4th Quarter of 2024 and cancel the Preliminary for 2025 and refund the 1st Quarter of 2025 on the listed properties.
- 68 Authorizing to cancel and refund taxes for the 4th Quarter of 2024 Added Assessment and preliminary 2025 Added Assessment on the property located at 637Weiler Lane.
- 69 Appointing an Interim Bureau of Housing Inspector for the City of Absecon.
- 70 Appointing a Police Chief Secretary/Police Department Secretary and Police Department Records Custodian.
- 71 Authorizing to advertise for a Full-Time Deputy City Clerk/Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

Council President DeRose: Explained that Council wants to memorialize any time tax dollars are being spent. Moving forward, contracts will be included on the Agenda.

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Avenue: Asked how the contracts are conducted (bid, RFP, etc.)?

Council President DeRose: Explained that the contracts were under the bid threshold. Recently reviewed best practices with the new CFO. Those contracts are already open, but the City wanted to implement this new procedure.

G. Seher: Considering Public Works, asked what landscaping service is being contracted out.

Mayor Marrone: Explained that the contract is for chemical treatment.

G. Seher: Asked for clarification in regard to Resolution #69.

Mayor Marrone: Explained that there is currently a City employee out on leave. The position in question is required to be certified through the State through the Bureau of Housing Inspectors. The opt-in program has the State pay the City money for the Inspector to do inspections on any multi-family dwelling. There has been a lapse in getting them completed, so we got recommendation for someone who could fill the position and earn a percentage of the incoming money.

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 Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 2,646,548.66

Motioned to accept: Councilman Sykes; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/6/2025

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

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

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Public Works & Sewer: Discussed some of the streets to be paved and improved, no commitment to a list yet. Went of some of the improvements going on in the community. Followed up with resident on Highland Blvd. wanting stop signs, speed bumps and increased police presence in his neighborhood along with some of his neighbors. Thanked Public Works for hard work during the snow and all of the City's employees – appreciates all they do.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Went over some ideas for the 2025 Budget as well as discussing some of our shortfalls and where we need to discuss different things. Working towards a budget for next meeting.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: No meeting since we reported last. Did meet with Christine, Terry Tally and myself in reference to the Senior Brunch, just setting a date so we can get everything in order. That date will be May 3rd and we're open to any suggestions and anyone wanting to help out is always welcome.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Has no met since last meeting, however, Councilman Clark, Mayor Marrone and I have been working with the Police Department and the school, working out Crossing Guard situation. Have made some headway, Police will be posting jobs to be filled and we have come up with a slight salary increase to get them up where they should be, and hopefully will have all corners covered once they are hired and trained.

Chief Laughlin: Anyone looking for a part-time job as a crossing guard, we would love to have you. It's a huge task, especially this time of year. Currently covering with the Detective Bureau and the Administrative staff. January Statistics: 4,642 calls for service, 604 traffic enforcement, 40 traffic accidents, 37 arrest and 1 burglary.

Councilman Sykes – Parks & Playgrounds: We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Finalized the ten bands for the concerts. Concerts will start June 22nd. The PTO will be running the concession stand and doing 50/50's. Residents have stated they are very happy with the new nets that have been placed at the ballfields; they were the original nets and have been patched up as much as they could and was definitely time for new ones. Discussed needing two new members of the committee. March Madness has started and will take place at the Marsh and Attles Schools. Also had a concerned citizen bring up concerns with the playground and the depth of the mulch, will do some research and make sure they're in compliance.

City Clerk: Monthly Report –

- Municipal Court: \$7,832.52
- Tax Office: \$2,276,810.14
- Construction Office: \$7,832.52
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$4,065

Mayor Thomas Marrone: Thank City Hall staff, CFO and Deputy CFO from Galloway Twp. have been here far more then they had anticipated helping us get our numbers in line for the budget. Thanked Senator Polistina for coming down to check out the livable conditions in some of the hotels. This is a State issue, they are coming from other Counties within our State.

ED DENNIS – ENGINEER – Things have been pretty quiet with the winter weather. 2024 Road Program under contract so once weather improves will get that work started. Working through the Capital Budget. Next Public Works meeting will continue to take a look at the roads for the upcoming road project. For Shore Road project, we were notified today by County Engineers Office that they plan to have a review of plans done next week. This is for the raising of the road by Illinois Ave. Then we meet with the County Engineer to review their comments.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Harry Hartman – 632 Woodland Ave. Is Mr. LaRotonda still on Council?

Council President DeRose: Yes.

Hartman: He hasn't been at any meetings.

Council President DeRose: He has attended meetings. He has taking on a new job and his schedule had been a little hectic, so he has missed two meeting so far. Once he gets in the swing of things I don't imagine that is going to be an issue moving forward.

Hartman: I went back through all the minutes and there is no mention, no discussion on who's running the City day-to-day. Thinks the residents should be aware that there is no City Administrator, you may have your reasons, but for transparency think it should be known. There're departments within the City that are being unsupervised.

Council President DeRose: Currently, right now, the absence of an Administrator wasn't a decision, we had an employee retire. We're in the process of going through a budget and hiring CFO's – which an Administrator is not a mandatory role, where as CFO is – was our focus. Now that that's settled we're in the process of evaluating where to go next with an Administrator. The City is being run by all the amazing employees and the department heads are running their departments, the Police Chief is running his department and some have taken on additional responsibilities. Can't speak much more on personnel items.

Nicole Curio: We've covered it, they're looking at the position and the City has been running and will continue to run.

Council President DeRose: Absolutely thankful for how much every employee has stepped up and the City is running beyond efficient.

Hartman: Do you do anything legally to appoint a City Engineer, I didn't see anything.

Council President DeRose: Yes, it's done every three years.

Hartman: Asked Ed Dennis if he could have a copy of the project he gives the council for budget consideration.

Ed Dennis: Yes. It's a list of projects and a cost estimate for those projects. It's not projects that we plan to do, but projects we could do.

Council President DeRose: Next Thursday, February 27th at 6:30pm we will be having a Budget Meeting.

Greg Seher: 625 Yarmuth Ave. Mill Rd. and Route 30 intersection is a disaster on both sides. Have been told in the past that the County has ignored you. It's going to become significantly worse with the new development going in on Westcoat. County was supposed to be coming up with a plan, well know people are moving in. Have you been updated with the plan?

Council President DeRose: The most recent update I got was that the only to solve or look at the problem was by doing a traffic study and they're not going to do the traffic study until the traffic is there. If they did the traffic study now, it would show this is no issue.

Seher: There is a problem there, before those homes even got there. And when you approve a 500-600 sub-division, you do traffic studies.

Ed Dennis: They did do that.

Seher: Can't believe they don't have a plan ready and implementing it yet.

Ed Dennis: I haven't seen the traffic study, I assume it was done as part of that development, but don't know if it would have considered Route 30 and Mill Road.

Council President DeRose: Willing to continue to be an advocate, but you going to a County Commissioner meeting would be a big impact.

Seher: The City can put of traffic pylons and ask for forgiveness instead of permission. If the City wants to improve safety in and the County wants to come rip it up then let the County be the bad guys. It's a somewhat easy temporary solution and if they're not going to do it their selves then I don't see why the City doesn't do it.

Council President DeRose: The City isn't going to pay for a traffic study and rip up a road we don't own to make a point.

Seher: Not suggesting an engineering report needs to be done or the road torn up, just pylons on the yellow stripped medium.

Councilman Clark: You don't want the left-hand turn at McDonald's?

Seher: In and out of McDonald's and now people turn right coming westbound on Route 30, right to go north on Mill and make a U-turn were Jersey Cow is going to be. Brought it up three years ago and was told we haven't had any fatalities of it's not a problem.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5-1-25