



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

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2026 6:00 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

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

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

Council President DeRose – Moment of Silence for John DeRitis, Sr., who recently passed away. John was a long-time Absecon resident, former Councilman and Council President.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2026 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 03** Capital Ordinance providing for various General Capital Improvements and acquisition of various equipment by and in the City of Absecon, appropriating \$120,000 therefore from the General Capital Fund Surplus to pay the cost thereof.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #03-26: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose - 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 19th, 2026.

04 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Adding Chapter 168 – Buildings, Move of.

Discussion – Mayor – These are the rules and regulation to be able to move or raise a house within the City of Absecon, in terms of escrows, fees, fines, etc.

J. Amenhauser – Also about safety measures, the escrow fees will be used if the police are required to assist, EMS to be on-site when setting the house. Also ensures that a lot of inspections are done and approvals received before bringing a house from the outside into the City is up to Code.

A. Clark – This is something we've never had before so we're doing our due-diligence and protecting ourselves.

Council President DeRose – We're protecting us, the home owner and the neighborhood.

Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #04-26: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose - 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 19th, 2026.

2026 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #02-2026: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

02 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 251 – Rental Housing, adding Article VII – Lead-Based Paint Inspections.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #02-2026: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker.

All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #02-2026: Councilwoman Parker; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

Ordinance #02-2026 has been heard and is finally approved.

2026 RESOLUTIONS

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.

- 43 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon-Galloway Rotary Club.
- 44 Authorizing to cancel the property taxes for the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2026 on the property located at 9 Andrea Lane.
- 45 Authorizing the release of a Maintenance Guarantee posted by Dollar General located at 705 S. New Road.
- 46 Authorizing the release of Escrow Funds posted by Gary Gandolfi for property known as 138C Crestview Avenue.
- 47 Authorizing for emergency sewer pump repair/replacement for the pump stations throughout the City of Absecon.
- 48 Authorizing for the Maintenance/Repair to the City of Absecon vehicles and fire trucks.
- 49 Authorizing the acceptance of, and when authorized, the release of various street opening permit security deposits.
- 50 Authorizing the submission of a grant application and the execution of a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs under the fiscal year 2026 Local Recreation Improvements Grant Program for the Pitney Park Multi-Use Enclosed Sports Facility.
- 51 Authorizing to enter into a contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers for planning and design services for Absecon Estates Drainage Improvements.
- 52 Authorizing Change Order No. 1 (Increase) for the FY 2024 NJ DOT Safe Streets to Transit Program, Crestview Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Phase 2.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No discussion.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Clark
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 – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes;
DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$668,928.46

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Parker; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 1/22/2026

Motioned to accept: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

REPORTS

Councilman LaRotonda – Code Enforcement: Haven't met yet this month, meeting on 2/17 at 4pm, residence please come join us with any concerns regarding code enforcement.

Councilman Sykes – Parks & Playgrounds: Have not yet met. Will meet with the Committee on Tuesday the 17th at 7pm. Few things to discuss with the upcoming of Spring, and we want to get a head start on some of those things.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Met on Monday. Majority of the discussion was on the Storm, and the dangers of the ice and pipes bursting. Fire Department has been very busy. The Ambulance Squad thanked the Fire Department for allowing them to stay there during the storm. Police Chief asked to remind everyone to clean off their cars – it is actually a law to do so and is very dangerous.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Had their first Community Affairs Meeting earlier that evening. Discussed up coming events. Easter Egg Hunter was moved last year to a Tuesday night and was very successful, so going to continue with that again this year – March 31st at 4pm. Senior Brunch – first Saturday in May. Memorial Day Parade. Looking for any suggestion for the 250th year celebration. Moved the meeting time to 5pm due to Council Meeting time change.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Will meet on February 19th. We have our first Budget Meeting next week on February 12th at 6pm. Have met with all Departments and went over their budget request for 2026 and we're looking forward to starting to put things together for the 2026 budget.

Councilman Light – Public Works – Met this week. Discussed the Pedestrian Grant and some of the options we have, things that we're implementing, our streets and roads projects coming up for 2026. Working with Atlantic City Electric to get a better plan and better point of contact for street light outages and maintenance. Thank you to Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, and EMS during the Storm along with the Residence.

Council President DeRose: Want to echo Councilwoman Parker on the Public Safety effort during the most recent storm and also Public Works.

Mayor Thomas Marrone: Thanked Police Department and Public Works and also the residence. This storm was probably a once in a decade storm. Appreciate the residence patience with getting the roads cleared and how hard they worked to clean up also.

N. DeCosmo – Shore Road Project, updated inter-local agreement has been sent to the County. Sent the updated plans addressing all the County's comments on January 19th, so now waiting on final County approval then bidding of the contract should follow shortly after.

Mayor – was on the phone with the County today, and do have pictures showing the urgency of this. Bad enough with the flooding, but during the storm the police had to close the road due to two ice rinks in the middle of the roadway. It's not getting better, only getting worse.

N. DeCosmo – 2025 Road Program and repaving of Delaware Avenue are still on, waiting on the weather to warm up. Continuing with the design of the Pedestrian Safety Improvements – the raised crosswalks, we're hoping to bid and begin construction this coming spring. Flashing beacons on New Jersey Avenue have been installed and are operational. Will be submitting everything next week for the Recreation Grant approved tonight. Focusing on the 2026 Engineering budget and planning out the Engineering projects for this year, we have a couple DOT grants, as well as some NJDEP IBank Grants.

J. Snyder – Reminder that taxes are due February 1st, with a 10-day grace period. Thanked Public Works.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

S. Hickerson – 210 Upland – Reached out to Council several months ago regarding a Resolution regarding reimbursement of the \$150 fee for Concealed Carry permits. Attended Public Safety meeting, thanks the police department for their due diligence, but the fees are absolutely ridiculous. Left the meeting disappointed, because I was basically told the City is in a financial crunch right now, which I get but shouldn't be a burden on us. Comment made, maybe when the City's finances are a little better we can revisit this resolution and move forward then – again that's not fair to us. Want to encourage you to at least put it on the agenda to discuss. It's our constitutional right, all the permits required are unconstitutional. Now that we can carry, there's a \$200 fee - \$50 goes to the State, \$150 to the Municipality. A pistol permit fee is \$25 and it's the same background check.

Council President DeRose – I had great conversations with the Mayors you put me in contact with. How Absecon Government operates for something to be put on an agenda it has to go through a Committee. If the issue is money, then I suggest attending a Finance Committee Meeting and then go from there.

Councilwoman Parker – That was my suggestion at the Public Safety meeting since I'm on that committee also. What I brought up other than the services that the Police Department provides does have a price tag to it was that last year we re-opening a lot of the fees in town, so to raise some fees and to get rid of one was in balancing. Not that I don't want to do this for our residence, to raise some fees and get rid of others, just didn't seem correct, but is something that should be brought up at Finance.

Council President DeRose – I personally support it. I personally can't vote on it, but understanding the background, I think it makes sense to meet with Finance.

Councilman Light – Appreciate you coming out and your passion for the community. I was at that meeting. Something most people don't know is how many man hours for the police department to do these checks, beside it just being revenue.

S. Hickerson – I believe it's an average of roughly 20-30 minutes to do a background check on one individual – so it's \$150 for about a half hour worth of work.

A. Clark – Are other towns, getting rid of it completely or cutting in half, what are they doing?

Council President DeRose – You can't change the fees because they're State mandated. What towns across New Jersey are proposing is collecting the fee, send the State their fee and return the rest back to the applicant. It's not an automatic give back either, there's a lot more nuances to it that we can discuss in the committee.

S. Hickerson – There are 16 Municipalities that have passed this Resolution, giving back the fees.

T. Rockhill – Beachwood – Came here to support Sandy. This Resolution was passed in my town. The Police Department is net loss, there is no profit, everything the Police Department does comes at a cost. Background Checks is the only thing the Police Department charges for and it's just not right. 16 towns that have passed this were originally only going to do partial refunds, by the end of the night they decided the correct thing to do was to issue a full refund.

Council President DeRose – I have discussed with Sandy, I won't not make the Police Department whole, so there's a lot of conversations to be had.

Councilman Clark – What the reasoning in asking for the refunds?

T. Rockhill – It's unconstitutional.

Council President DeRose – It's a constitutional right, the argument is the NJ Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court, struck down New Jersey's restrictive carry permit rules and NJ in a retaliatory action decided to charge these fees, with no justifiability to the fees.

A. Florence – Manager of the Days Inn. City Ordinance passed recently for 14-day stay. Asking for an exclusionary process for those that have jobs, pay taxes and don't have kids can get a waiver. They're not leaving the town, they're just getting uprooted. Not asking to abolish the whole rule, but opposing if someone is a stable person or here under work force housing a waiver should be granted.

Mayor Marrone – We have been getting other County's homeless and parolees put in our hotels. We had originally passed the Ordinance with a 28-day period, and the issue became an enforcement issue, and other owners violated that ordinance so we had to take action. We have Social Services putting children in hotels with tier three sex offenders.

A. Florence – Not asking to get rid of the Ordinance, just go back to 28-days, with so many hotels in the town it's not really fixing the problem, they're just moving around.

Councilman LaRotonda – It's about not having a tenant making a room into an apartment. Being on the Fire Department I've been in these rooms and they become hoarder conditions. Those rooms are not built to code for long term housing, they're made for transient occupancy.

A. Florence – I understand the reason for the law, I'm just looking for a waiver for a regular person who just can't afford to live elsewhere, on a case by case basis.

J. Amenhauser – It's discriminatory, if we even tried to do that we'd get shut down. We've already been challenged on this.

G. Seher – 625 Yarmouth – I feel bad for the business owners effected by this, but it is not the City's job to elevate the housing crisis issues by turning a business that is designed for vacationing and transient residents into housing solution. Strongly caution Council to not lighten up on the work they've done to address this issue.

L. Evans – 610 S. Shore Rd. – Here on my neighbors' behalf. The streets are all dead ends and plows can only go straight down the middle which plows everybody in. They're asking if a sign can be put up that says no parking on one side, making it so the plow can go up and then back and make two lanes – unfortunately the one side won't be plowed. A lot of the houses there don't have driveways for them to be able to get their cars off the street.

Council President DeRose – Suggest your neighbor follows up with the Public Works Committee.

Councilwoman Parker – Would a sign like that even be enforceable.

Councilman Clark – Wouldn't it be the Code Enforcement Committee.

Councilman LaRotonda – We can discuss it at Code Enforcement.

Council President DeRose – Ok, so it'll go to the Code Enforcement is they want to attend.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilwoman Parker; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans
All in Favor, None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Carrie A. Crone, RMC in cursive script.

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-5-26