



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

MARCH 16TH, 2023 6:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Richard DeRose, Betty Howell, Steve Light, Tommy Marrone, 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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2023 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #07-2023: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

07 An Ordinance establishing Salary Ranges.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #07-2023: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
All in Favor, None Opposed.

(No Discussion)

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #07-2023: Councilwoman Howell;
Seconded: Councilman DeRose
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #07-2023 has been heard and is finally approved.

2023 RESOLUTIONS

- 52** Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to design and coordinate bids for the 2023 Road Program.
- 53** Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to perform engineering and construction services for the New Jersey Avenue Streetscape.
- 54** Appointing a Full-Time Tax Clerk, namely Kylee Fornarotto.
- 55** Establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee for the City of Absecon.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

Christine Seel – 115 W. Faunce Landing & **Alex Perry** – 620 Yarmouth Ave.

Christine – Here to reintroduce the Green Team Initiative. Originally formed in 2009 & created by dedicated citizens who made great strides towards adopting and developing fundamental principles of sustainability and sustainable development. Our goal is to pick up where they left off, take on new projects and potentially receive financial assistance through the Sustainable New Jersey Program. Goals for year one: Adopt a Road Program, water filling stations, enhancing community outreach and education efforts, Heritage Park habitat restoration and enhancement, Morton and Traymore project, farmers market and butterfly stations.

Alex – Thank you to Mayor and Council for believing in us and embracing the vision we have. Participating in the Sustainable NJ Program is a great way for the City to build a greener community and push for innovative initiatives. Currently updating the existing Facebook Page and Website. Special thanks to Barbara and Steve Feeler and Go Green Galloway for assistance and guidance.

Council President LaRotonda – Thanked all for putting in the work to get this back up and running.

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

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.

Council President LaRotonda read Resolutions #52-55 by title.

Motioned to move the Consent Agenda: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,599,373.41

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Cain; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 1/19/23

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds Committee: Welcomed Green Team, you are our future. Parks & Playgrounds will meet on 3/21 @7pm all are welcome including other Council Members. Still selecting bands for the Concerts in the Park. Asked Eddie to give a status update during his report on water line to the concession stand. Members from the American Legion inquiring if that will be completed for this season.

Councilman Marrone – Economic Development: Meeting are 1st Wednesday @4:30. Loves the idea of Farmers Markets, they are good for the community and for local businesses. Has already started some legwork and would love the Green Team to attend meetings and brainstorm together. Have been working with Chief Laughlin on Ordinances regarding hotels and length of stay. Congratulations and thank you to the Green Team,

Councilman Light – Economic Development is also working on potentially, with blessing from administration, to pick residents and businesses to invite or appoint them, like the Green Team, to entice involvement to help the community grow.

Councilwoman Cain – Finance Committee: Every three years audited by Bureau of Financial Regulations – this year was our year. Other two years Jessica does a self-audit. Our Budget in good and approved by the Bureau. Next meeting 4/20 @5:30.

Councilwoman Howell – Community Affairs Committee: Gave full report at last meeting. Next meeting 4/6 @5:30.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety Committee: Next meeting 3/21 @6pm. Very excited about the Green Team and knows he has big shoes to fill.

Chief Laughlin – Reminds everyone, see something, say something – you are 100% not bothering the Police Department. Days are getting longer, more people out, please slow down. Seeing a lot more people wondering around as a direct result of what Atlantic City is doing. Reminder homelessness is not against the law and a lot of these people need help from our Social Services. We are currently working with a few people and trying to get them the help they need,

Councilman DeRose – Thanked the Chief and Officers for handling the homeless with such compassion and professionalism.

Chief Laughlin – There are so many pieces to the puzzle and it's not just a local problem, it's national.

Councilman Light – Incident behind the train station prompted an area of concern.

Chief Laughlin – N.J. Transit in clearing out the brush and cleaning up the area.

Councilman LaRotonda – Reached out to N.J. Transit. They asked if I would take send them pictures and they'll send them out to the proper departments to get it rectified.

Councilman Marrone – The Chief and his Officers doing an outrageously excellent job keeping the community safe while still being sensitive to the needs of our homeless and advocating for Social Services to help.

Chief Laughlin – Thank you and thanks to the Officers and the training they've had that makes it happen. The Mayor and I have been working on a lot of things through the State to try and get help on that level.

Mayor – Explained letter and statistics they've sent out. Money is not going where it needs to. The Chief and I volunteered to be part of the conversation in Trenton on this issue.

Councilman Burroughs – Public Works Committee: Has not had a Meeting since the last Council Meeting. The next Committee Meeting will be 3/21 @3:30.

J. Thompson – City Administrator/CFO: Reminded the public of the Shred and Clean Up event on 4/22 from 9am – 12pm. Shredding will be in the City Hall Parking Lot. Spring Leaf pick up will run from 4/17 – 5/12. Electronic Tax Sale will be held on 3/22. Newsletter is available online.

Engineer Dennis: Regarding the two Resolutions passed either – one is the Road Program, listed roads, also some drainage work in several areas, Heritage Park to continue walkway and Pitney Park Football Complex stone parking lot will be paved. Second was one for Streetscape, that is to continue on NJ Ave. from New Road to Michigan Ave. part of our support of the redevelopment project. All will get done this year.

Councilwoman Howell – When will the Streetscape start?

E. Dennis - Engineering right away. Will be consulting and working with the developer to make sure everything is coordinated.

Councilman Light – Any Royal Farms update? Any update from the County of Shore Road? And who is responsible Webb Road Parking lot for the School?

E. Dennis – Webb parking lot the School is responsible. Shore Rd. currently working with the County on their right of way acquisition phase, design is done. Royal Farms site is bundled with various other sites purchased by the new developer. Before construction can happen here, those other parties of those transactions had to complete their pieces of the deal. Was informed this week those transactions are now completed, but wasn't given a start date for here.

Councilman Light – For the Shore Rd. Project has there been discussion about a detour plan.

E. Dennis – Yes, already been set up with the Police Department.

Clerk Reports – February Monthly Reports

- Municipal Court: \$8,157.56
- Tax Office: \$2,263,082.58
- Construction Office: \$36,687.00
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$3,875.00

Announced late fees for both Animal Licenses and Boat Ramp Permits begin April 1st.

Mayor Horton: Thanked school for the opportunity to participate in Read Across America. Recognized Sgt. Markman for his participation of reading to the kindergarteners. Attending the Holy Spirit High School play, as always, a great show and performances. Preferred Care having a grand re-opening on 5/17 @5PM.

Council President LaRotonda: Also enjoyed participating with the Absecon Public Schools during Read Across America Week.

Councilwoman Howell – Also participated at Mrs. Barnes Playhouse. Very nice facility and very impressed with the programs she offers.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Jackie Howell – 605 Bayview – Knows that Route 9 is a State Street, but wanted to know if anyone knows when it's getting paved.

E. Dennis – Water Company doing work in that area, paving estimated to be done in April.

Alex Perry – 620 Yarmouth – Introduced the members of the Green Team that were in attendance. Go Green Galloway is hosting a trash clean up event and will receive \$500 through Sustainable NJ and have agreed to give a portion to the Absecon Green Team to get up off the ground. Asked Ed about acquiring gas station property near Turner Cove and possible need for remediation.

E. Dennis – Took soil samples and some came back above limits and then the transaction stopped.

Alex – Who's responsible for the remediation.

E. Dennis – the property owner.

Alex – Advised Councilman Light that he would like to nominate himself to fill the vacant position on the Parks and Playground Committee.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-6-23