



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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Municipal Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 2ND, 2023 6:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

MOMENT OF SILENCE: In honor of Absecon Resident, Victoria Hunter.

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, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2023 ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

07 An Ordinance establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

J. Thompson: Annual establishment of 2023 salary ranges.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman DeRose

Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – 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 March 16th, 2023.

2023 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #06-2023: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

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

- 06 An Ordinance of the City of Absecon, to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation limits 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 #06-2023:
Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Howell
All in Favor, None Opposed

(No Discussion)

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #06-2023: Councilman Marrone;
Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #06-2023 has been heard and is finally approved.

2023 RESOLUTIONS

- 48 Certifying the Governing Body in 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".
- 49 Appointing an Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund, namely Kayla Haberstroh.
- 50 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon-Galloway Rotary Club.
- 51 Authorizing the introduction of the 2023 Municipal Budget.

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 Burroughs
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 #48-51 by title.

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$112,398.95

Motioned to accept: Councilwoman Howell; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Howell – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes;
LaRotonda – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 1/19/2023

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/2/2023

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: Met on February 21st. Thanked Public Works for preparing the fields for the upcoming sports season. Currently in discussion regarding Concert in the Park band selection. Some bands have already been selected and booked. Also discussed minor improvements to Heritage Park (power washing, painting and cleaning benches, buildings, etc.) in preparation for upcoming events. Former Mayor Pete Elco continues express suggestions and provide input regarding suggestions for the City's parks and playgrounds, for example, maybe having plants put in on Veteran's Parkway for some enhancement. Thanked Mayor Elco for presenting the City's Proclamation at the recent Holy Spirit High School Gala. Lastly, mentioned that for March Madness, the girl's tournament is March 4-10 and the boy's is March 11-22. Next meeting is March 21st and the public is welcome.

Councilman Marrone – Economic Development: Last met on March 1st and their next meeting will be April 5th. Discussed several matters. Expressed desire to have communication with businessowners and landlords in the area to hear their ideas about how, as a City, to help get more business open in the community. Creating an excel sheet to compile contact information so that they could also send out email blasts, etc. Also discussed Royal Bine Brewery updates, as well as some issues regarding the placement of homeless individuals in local hotels.

Councilwoman Cain – Finance Committee: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Met on March 23rd for their second Budget Meeting. A few Councilmembers met beforehand to have more extensive conversation about certain matters. Everyone ended up in agreement for the budget to be introduced at tonight's meeting. If anyone wanted to see a copy it would be available with the City.

Jessica Thompson: The budget will be available online at the City's website by next week. Shared with the public that the City's 2023 Budget keeps City taxes flat while still providing all required elements and City services. Tax rate is still .8 cents lower than it was in 2013. The assessed valuation has increased over \$3million over the past year, indicating that the City is becoming more valuable, which helps the budget. The City has also grown and improved their infrastructure while increasing public safety presence and resources. Many municipal costs have grown as a result of inflation; however, strategic financial planning has enabled no additional cost to the taxpayers. City has one of the lowest average tax bills in the County. 2023 Capital Budget includes the Road Program and Crestview Ave. Pedestrian Safety Project (supplemented by state grants), three new Police vehicles, Fire Dept. and Recreation equipment. The budget's final adoption will be April 6th.

Council President LaRotonda: Thanked J. Thompson for introducing the budget. Pleased that the tax rate is remaining flat, but also that they are increasing their Police presence while making improvements throughout the community.

Councilwoman Cain: Next Finance Meeting will be on March 16th at City Hall. Public is more than welcome.

Councilwoman Howell – Community Affairs Committee: Met earlier that day. Earth day is April 22nd on which the City will hold a city-wide cleaning and shredding event. Residents are welcome to join. Discussed having an annual Senior Event possibly sometime in June. Donations are welcomes. Mike Monteith is in charge of the Memorial Day Parade, where they will have the decorate bike brigade again. Creekfest is moving forward. They are currently planning the bands and food trucks for the event.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety Committee: Met last week, with the Police and Fire Dept. in attendance. Figuring out how to save money on the Fire Dept. utility bills is a current priority. Economic Development was also discussed in regard to the hotel situation Councilman Marrone mentioned. Expressed his intention to work in cooperation with the City's other Committees in order to get things accomplished for the community. Next focus will be on Emergency Preparedness with Jim Eberwine. Thanked members of the Finance Committee for their time and effort.

Councilman Burroughs – Public Works Committee: Committee approved the local Catholic church's request to install symbolic street signage for Michigan Ave., so that project has been given to Public Works Supervisor Lloyd Jones. Council President LaRotonda received an email requesting additional lights and stop sign on Woodcrest Ave. Because there are already two light existing, their light request was denied, however the Stop Sign request was forwarded to the City Engineer to conduct some follow-up analysis. Rich Hudson addressed a sewer issue on Stone Cir., which will be followed-up by L. Jones. Councilman Light made several special improvement suggestions, and Councilman Marrone suggested installing more trash bins on Faunce Landing, which is being debated. Committee reviewed and selected streets for their Street Light project. Next meeting will be on March 21st.

Councilman Light: Added that some residents have requested water stations throughout the City. Councilwoman Cain also suggested installing doggy bag stations on Franklin Ave.

J. Thompson – City Administrator/CFO: Already discussed budget. Thanked Council for their time and effort in the budget process. Informed public that spring leaf pick-up will be from April 17th-May 12th.

Ed Dennis – City Engineer: Although the 2023 budget is just being introduced tonight, there are several Engineer Projects that were funded in past budgets, including the Road Program and Streetscape work on New Jersey Ave. So, the City will soon begin work on those projects. The 2023 includes other exciting projects, such as the Shore Rd. Project, so the City is looking forward to getting that underway this year.

Mayor Horton: Thanked everyone for their time and effort in the budget process. Next Monday she will be visiting the Absecon Marsh School to participate in Read Across America. Several Police Officers will also be participating in this wonderful event.

Council President LaRotonda: Also looks forward to visiting the Marsh School to participate in Read Across America.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

(No Discussion)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Light: Spoke in honor of the City Clerk's father, a U.S. veteran, who recently passed away. Thanked Carie Crone for all her hard work and time spent in service to the community. Offered his sincere and heartfelt condolences for her and her family's loss.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-6-23