



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 20TH, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Honorary Mayor in honor of Down Syndrome Day.

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 Chief J.R. Laughlin

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2025 RESOLUTION OUT OF CONSENT

- 78** Recognizing World Down Syndrome Day and welcoming Honorary Council Members for the day.

Council President DeRose – Read Resolution #78-2025.

Councilwoman Parker – Introduced J.J., who is sitting in the Mayor's seat tonight. J.J. is ten years old and has lived in Absecon all his life. Attended Marsh Elementary School and is now attending Atlantic County Special Services. He plays on the Cardinal for the Field of Dreams. He loves eating pretzels and taking walks; going to the beach, swimming, going on roller coasters and singing with his tablet.

Introduced Luke, her nephew who will be four in eleven days. Luke's mom, Anna, found out halfway through her pregnancy the Luke would have Down Syndrome. Four years ago, we were waiting the arrival Luke, while we knew he would have Down Syndrome, we didn't know exactly what that meant for Luke. Most see Down Syndrome as something they're lacking, while they actually have a little extra then the rest of us. Gave update on things Luke has done since being here last year – started

school and was highlighted in a sign language song in the preschool showcase last year. He has excelled in his therapies, especially speech. While my heart beams with joy for this precious little boy, I am also proud of his parents. Explained some of his health threats and concerns, and how even the common cold can land him in the hospital. Some days are frustrating, long and a lot of appointments. Going anywhere takes a little extra work, but they handle it all so gracefully. Luke is one lucky boy to have them as parents.

Councilman Clark – sitting here tonight with Faith Marczyk. Accompanying Faith is her big sister Anna Maria. Faith is eleven years old and is in sixth grade. She loves playing baseball for the Field of Dreams, loves to sing, dance, bake, swim and when her Uncle Fred takes her to Dairy Queen for ice cream. Her smile will always brighten your day. Would also like to recognize her sisters Anna Marie and Rose for spreading the word of kindness with creating mixed matched socks. The two started selling socks about four years ago and have donated over \$4,000 to the Field of Dreams. They are working on having the four-pattern sock made through a sock factory, with the name B.O.F. – because of Faith – Rose and Anna's X-Factor Socks. Thanked Faith for coming and sitting on Council tonight.

Council President DeRose – we as a community are beyond lucky to have the South Jersey Field of Dreams is here in Absecon and what it does for the community.

Councilwoman Parker – Presented a Proclamation from the Congressman Jeff VanDrew, who regrets not being here tonight, but is very proud of all our honorary councilmembers. And gave a gift from Mayor and Council.

Councilman Light – Thank you to our special guest and their parents and families for the extra special dedication and passion the give to our community.

Motioned to move Resolution #78-2025: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose - Yes

2025 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 79** Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the CBD Streetscape Improvements – Phase 4.
- 80** Extending the 2025 Budget Introduction and Adoption dates.
- 81** Allowing for the Absecon Parent Teacher Organization to hold a City-Wide Yard Sale.
- 82** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon PTO.
- 83** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon-Galloway Rotary Club.
- 84** Authorizing the continuance of utilizing Cleggs Garage Inc. for maintenance and repairs to the City of Absecon Vehicles.
- 85** Authorizing the participation in the LEAP Implementation Grant.
- 86** Authorizing the transfer of appropriation reserves in the 2024 Municipal Budget per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59.

- 87 Authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Ed & Gene's King Tire, LLC for the provisions of Fleet Maintenance Services.
- 88 Supporting publishing Legal Notices on official government websites.
- 89 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 1st quarter of 2025 on the listed properties.
- 90 Authorizing the sale of certain city-owned land.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth – Asked what property is going up for sale.

John Amenhauser, Esq. – It's three different parcels.

Councilman LaRotonda – the resolution only states block and lot, I know previously we've discussed listing the street address of the properties. These properties are partially on West Faunce Landing and Sycamore Ave.

Greg Seher – is it for residential development?

Councilman DeRose – Yes, it's three vacant lots.

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose - Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 2,951,586.72

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose - Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 2/06/2025

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

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

REPORTS

Councilman Light – Public Works: Have not met since last meeting. Meet again on April 7th, here at City Hall at 5pm.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Finance met before the meeting tonight. Went over a lot of items regarding the budget and what cuts we're looking at to prepare for the budget to be adopted in two weeks.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: No meeting since the last report at the prior council meeting. Next meeting is April 3rd.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Hasn't met since our last meeting. Meet again, Monday April 3rd at 6pm.

Chief Laughlin: Daylight savings time, people out enjoying the park, walkways and paths, want to warn the motoring public to please slow down and give yourself extra time from getting to point A to point B. Social Media chatter regarding car burglaries, 99% of the time, it's people just checking the doors and if they're unlock then they will enter your car. Keep your doors locked and don't keep any valuables in the car. Have received complaints about the Gas Company work that has started, the Engineer brought this up at the last meeting, the work will be done in the area of North Shore and Lisbon Ave. Unfortunately, the work is going to be done over the next 4-6 weeks. The NJ DOT makes the contractors work at night, so I apologize in advance for any havoc it creates.

Councilwoman Parker – Thank you to everyone who made tonight's Down Syndrome Night happen. Last year was my favorite moment on Council and probably will be again this year.

Councilman Clark – want to commend our Police Officers – in the middle of March Madness and the police presence at the basketball games has been unbelievable. Best ever with Officers popping in at all games and talking to residents and clearing out the loop. Hand an emergency on Sunday and Police were already there and the response time was great. Really appreciate the support.

Councilman Sykes – Parks & Playgrounds: Met this past Tuesday. Next meeting April 15th.

Emergency at March Madness ambulance was delayed due to the double parking in the circle. Reminder to leave that lane open for emergencies. Kudos to are boys' and girls' teams, we had 40+ teams and grades 5-8 made it all the way to the final four. Discussed replacing the two committee member spots that are vacant, hoping to finalize that at the next meeting. Talked about freshening up the one entrance at the baseball field off of Pitney Rd. People have brought up the flags at the 9-1-1 Memorial, I have reached out to Butch Stewart, they are going to be care of but not replaced until July, to get through the winter and past the storms we're going to have. They are on order and we will have new flags at the 9-1-1 Memorial.

Councilman LaRotonda – Economic Development: Met earlier this afternoon, discussed a lot of the projects that are going on in town. Spoke with the owners today of Jersey Cow, ran in to some trouble with the utility companies, so was trying to work through some of those issue to see if we could get some of those requests expedited so they can open up for summer. Looking forward to the opening of Aldi's, they seem to be on track. A lot of good things to come.

Mayor Marrone: Last week the Chief and I took a loop around town to talk to any of the businesses that are opening to check out the progress. We've been informed that tomorrow the Brewery is moving all their equipment in. I know there has been sign up since 2019 saying coming spring of 2020, this guy is determined and it's going to be really great for New Jersey Ave. Going through a tough budget season and one of the best ways to offset revenues is new business coming into town. We're committed to being business friendly.

City Clerk: Monthly Reports for February

- Municipal Court: \$9,307.65
- Tax Office: \$4,079,177.93
- Construction Office: \$15,539.00
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$4,434.50

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Ben Cain – 115 Lenape – Fiancé and I moved to this side of Absecon in August, both lived on the other side. We got to this side and being able to walk to Heritage Park is awesome, but only issue is having to cross New Road. At Delaware Avenue and New Road there is the bend from the intersection of New Jersey Ave. and New Rd. and that bend obstructs the view of oncoming cars and obstructs the view for pedestrians. There's no crosswalk there and there's several houses where you see them walking over to Heritage Park and thinks it's a huge public safety benefit to have a crosswalk, especially one with a lighted sign.

Councilman DeRose – I know you have expertise in this area and appreciate you coming as a resident and advising us. I can connect you with our Engineer and you can talk to him directly and see if we can get the ball rolling.

Larry LaMaine – 512 Franklin Blvd. – in regards to the ambulance incident at March Madness – yellow curbs don't seem to stop people, personally thinks putting temporary sign out that lets them know not to park there, then you also have something to back yourself up with. And second comment is in regards to the flags, nobody likes to see a ripped flag, maybe something can be put out for donations.

Councilman DeRose – the Legion is donating the flags.

Councilman Sykes – we do have an American Flag on hand that could be replace immediately. I believe it's the New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and one other flag. The American and New Jersey flags were replaced recently, it's the other ones that are in rougher shape, and again speaking with Butch the flags can be ordered and here in days, but he said no point int replacing at this time only to be torn down in the next month or so with heavy storms.

Councilman Light – Throughout town there are temporary signs and people still ignore it. Regarding the flags, I would personally come up with help and means to get the flags replaced ahead of July

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5-15-25