



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

MARCH 3, 2022

REGULAR MEETING - 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Betty Howell.

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, Cain, Cavileer, LaRotonda, Light, Poley, Howell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Jessica Thompson, Bill Blaney, Carie Crone, Eddie Dennis

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2021 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

02 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).

Jessica – we do this every year and we are under the cap by \$559,000, but this establishes the bank in case we need it.

Motion to introduce – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, Yes

03 Amending the Code of the City of Absecon to repeal Chapter 195; to adopt a new Chapter 195; to adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to designate a Flood plan Administrator and providing for severability and an effective date.

Motion to introduce – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Cain

Mike O'Hagan, City Construction Official – explained this is required by the State and FEMA is reviewing all the flood ordinances in the state and are making recommendations for changes. They send out samples and the city can adopt one of them. What is before you tonight, is basically their ordinance with local information. They are gearing them to more higher state standards and to the building codes that we enforce in the State of NJ. The biggest change we will have, is instituting a flood plan development permit. There is always a requirement to track substantial improvements to structures and substantial damage to structures that are located in a special flood hazard area.

Betty – asked if this is off the 100-year flood plan

Mike – Absecon adopted new maps in August 2018, so if your property does fall into a flood zone, you'd be required to get a permit, so substantial improvements can be tracked. It is mandatory to stay in the program, so we risk not staying in a flood insurance program.

Nick – what is the permit fee and how much do we retain if any?

Mike – fees weren't discussed yet. He feels there should be some fee for the city since work is involved, but it won't be a moneymaker. The state doesn't get any of it. We will need to amend the ordinance regarding the amount of the fees to be included.

Roll Call: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 43** 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".

Jessica – we are required to do this resolution yearly in order to introduce our budget and send it off the state.

- 44** Designating Ervin Oross, Jr. of Rehabco Inc. as the Affordable Housing Administrative Agent for the Absecon Gardens Development and approving a contract between Rehabco Inc. and New Vista Corporation, as agent for the Development Owner, for services in that capacity pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:96-18.

Jessica – this updates the contact we had in the past with the affordable housing.

- 45** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon Blue Devils.
- 46** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon-Galloway Rotary Club.
- 47** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Absecon PTO.
- 48** Authorizing the introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget.

Caleb – after several budget discussions and meeting, the residents should be happy to learn that the budget will have zero increase to the city's tax rate while improving infrastructure and public safety and maintaining the high level of services that our residents have come to enjoy. Some improvements will: to create a subdivision on NY Ave; the 2022 road program; Shore Road flood mitigation; hiring an additional full time police officer; bringing our ranks to 27; new police vehicle and upgrades to 3 others; software enhancements; audio; an additional tag reader. Insurance, pension, ACUA tipping fees, he's proud of the budget and thanked everyone for their diligent work for the people of Absecon.

Betty – thanked Caleb for working with Jessica on the budget

PUBLIC PORTION – (For Agenda items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Poley – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Nicole Cartwright – 804 Katie Court – spoke on the coin drop fundraiser where the benefits would go to the 8th grade graduation activities.

Motion to close public – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this 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 considered separately.

Betty read: Resolutions #43 to #48 again

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilwoman Cain - second – Councilwoman Poley
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$295,020.87

Motion to accept: Councilman LaRotonda - second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/17/2022
Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/10/2022
Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/24/2022

Motion to accept: – Councilwoman Cain - second – Councilman Burroughs
ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes, abstain 2/24; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

REPORTS

Steve Light – his next meeting is 3/15 at 7:00 p.m.

Donna Poley – they met tonight and announced all the upcoming events around town: March 12th is the new clean up day for the city; Earth Day is 4/23 with another clean up and shredding; May 30, the Memorial Day parade and September 18th the Creek Fest.

Sandy Cain – Public Safety will meet on 3/7 at 4:30 p.m.

Caleb Cavileer – reported earlier

Butch Burroughs – his next meeting is on 3/15 at 3:30 p.m.

Nick Larotonda – met last night and they are trying to get the state to come down to host a seminar for our business owners in town to discuss different grant opportunities for them and any new businesses who'd like to open up. He hopes to have them attend the next meeting on 4/6.

Jessica – thanked everyone for their work on the budget and feels this is a good budget and final adoption will be 4/7 meeting.

Eddie, City Engineer – mentioned the projects that Caleb spoke of earlier. With the Shore Road project, our plans are complete and are working with the County to pin down a schedule for bidding and utility companies. The road program is in the engineering phase and will go out to bid for summer construction. We received a \$525,000 grant for street scape work on NJ Avenue in front of the redevelopment site, which checks off a big box for us, because we had the responsibility for curb and sidewalk in that agreement. We have two years to use the grant. He and the mayor have met with local residents who use the creek to confirm that since the state did their dredging, we don't really have a need to move on with our municipal dredging project. The amount left to do is minimal as to the costs that it would be to get it done. There was money in last year's budget that wasn't used, except for some engineering work.

Mayor – last week she attended Jacob Hackett's presentation on disabilities, which was very good. The preschool program has 98 students in 7 classrooms and there are 76 4/year olds and 22 3/year olds. The goal is to have 184 children participate and is funding through state aid, but the Absecon school district is responsible for the special education costs. They are looking at four more classrooms, four more teachers and four more professionals. She thanked Jessica for her work on the city budget.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilman Light
All were in favor.

Tom Burns – 110 E. Faunce Landing Road – moved to Absecon 1 ½ years ago. He has to clean up his own street. It's a highly traveled street and people come eat and leave their trash. He sees it in a lot of other streets around town too. What can we do to make it better to make our community more presentable?

Sandy – we have had several cleanups during the year and we did an ordinance regarding shopping carts that were being left behind.

Kim

Nick – can we ask the state to see if they can have more presence on their roads?

Mike – recycling was a problem, so the city invested in the 96-gallon cans, so hopefully it will help. We do violate on personal properties, but the main roads are hard.

Jessica – we will be getting new trash containers with lids this year too.

Steve – explained the public works meetings are open to the public. Our community was not always like this.

Nick – will reach out to the state representatives to see about the roads

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION #49-2022 – Contract Negotiations and Potential Litigation

Bill Blaney – city solicitor – stated the reason for closed session were issues involving: contract negotiations, possible litigation and potential matters relating to attorney/client privilege. There may be action taken after closed session.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Bill – it's now 7:15 p.m. and we are back into open session and action will be taken.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 50** Denouncing the behavior of individuals who interrupted the February 3rd, 2022 City of Absecon Council Meeting.

Motion to approve – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilman Light

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; LaRotonda, yes; Light, yes; Poley, yes; Howell, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman LaRotonda – second – Councilman Cavileer
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-17-22