



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

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 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.

ABSENT: Council President Richard DeRose

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Marrone, City Solicitor John Amenhauser Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin, Engineer Eddie Dennis and Administrator Jessica Snyder

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

PRESENTATION – Joe Henry – Hardenbergh Insurance Group – Being part of the JIF you are required to have a Risk Management Consultant, which is our firm and a Safety Committee, which meets four times a year. The City of Absecon received the monetary reward last year for doing all the things that are required for safety. Also required is a safety presentation at one council meeting a year, which is why I'm here tonight. The topic discussed was Service Dogs and Emotional Support Animals.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2026 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #05-2026: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda

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

- 05** An Ordinance of the City of Absecon repealing and replacing Chapter 224 Article XXV of the Land Use and Development Ordinance entitled "Affordable Housing".

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #05-2026: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker.
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #05-2026: Councilwoman Parker;
Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans - Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes;
DeRose - Absent

Ordinance #05-2026 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.

- 57 Authorizing to prorate, cancel and refund property taxes for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2026 on the property located at 8 Cortez Ave. (Blk 95, Lot 12).
- 58 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for the 1st quarter of 2026 on the listed property.
- 59 A Resolution determining the form and other details of not exceeding \$2,000,000 general obligation bonds of the City of Absecon, and providing for their sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and the State of New Jersey pursuant to the Water Bank Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and authorizing the execution and delivery of certain loan agreements and an Escrow Agreement in connection therewith.
- 60 A Resolution determining the form and other details of its "Note relating to the Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank", to be issued in the principal amount of up to \$2,000,000 (in one or more series), and providing for the issuance and sale of such not (in one or more series) to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and authorizing the execution and delivery of such note (in one or more series) by the City of Absecon in favor of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, all pursuant to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Construction Financing Program.
- 61 Approving IT Services by Network Connectivity for the Municipal Complex Building.
- 62 Approving for HVAC Services by Bishop Mechanical Services, Inc. for various Department.
- 63 Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No discussion.

Motioned to close to the public: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker
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 – Absent

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$3,525,576.40

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/5/2026

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Evans
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans –Yes; LaRotonda – Abstain; Light – yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes –Yes;
DeRose – Absent

REPORTS

Councilman LaRotonda – Code Enforcement: Haven't met yet this month, meeting on 3/17 at 4pm, all are welcomed.

Councilman Sykes – Parks & Playgrounds: Met on 2/17, we discussed the concerts, still waiting to announce the official line-up. Bands are set, just have to pick the dates. Discussed lights and painting the goalposts. Big kudos to Public Works for this last snow storm.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Met this past Monday. Theme of the meeting was the last storm, again the Police, Fire and Ambulance Squads did are great job keeping us all safe during our last snow storm and went above and beyond for this last one, especially with downed trees.

Police Chief – Fire Department responds to remove trees from the roadways, not exactly their job and either is doing it for residence, so really want to thank them for all their help. In regards with the frustration about the plowing, again we have six guys and six plows. City Hall was down 18-20 hours without power and running on backup power, which is limited. Power out also means street lights out and some of our Officers were out at the intersections for up to 18 hours. Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works are always here to serve you.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Met earlier that evening. Easter Egg Hunter March 28th, at the Absecon School. Earth Day April 18th here at City Hall, we'll be collecting electronics along with a shred truck and city-wide clean-up. Senior Brunch, May 2nd. Memorial Day Parade, May 25th.

Councilman Light – Public Works – Didn't meet this month. Working on the Road Projects. Next meeting April 6th, @5pm. Very proud of City Staff as we worked through these storms.

Councilman Clark – Finance – We meet again March 19th @5pm. Doing a lot of behind the scenes preparing the budget. Have had meetings with the CFO, our Committee and will be meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee next week.

Mayor Thomas Marrone: Thanked Public Works, the Police Department and City Staff during these tough storms.

E. Dennis – Wanted to clarify that the two resolutions on the agenda tonight that talk about 2 million dollars in bonds and notes, the City will not be borrowing this money these are grants. The IBank requires you to borrow the money then they immediately forgive the loan. Very happy to announce that the Shore Road project went out for bid for construction on March 3rd. County is administering the Bid process. In a couple Council Meeting we should know who the Contractor is and a better idea of when construction will be starting. Major milestone and an all hands-on deck to get it to happen

Councilman LaRotonda – Big kudos to Ed and the Mayor for finally getting us to the finish line.

J. Snyder – Tax Sale will be held on March 18th @8:30 on-line.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

G. Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave. – Here tonight at the newly appointed Chair of the Planning Board, we are starting the process of the Master Plan, 10-year re-examination. Want this process to be open and public as possible. All Planning Board meetings in which it will be discussed will be announced.

Mayor Marrone – Thanked Greg for his preparation, you're doing a spectacular job.

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

CLOSED SESSION - #64-2026 – Contract Negotiations

J. Amenhauser: In accordance with the Open Records Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, the City Council went into Closed Session. Closed Session is to discuss union contract negotiations, in reference to the Police Chief's contract and a third-party collections matter related to the Municipal Court fines.

Motioned to enter Closed Session: Councilwoman Evans; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
All in Favor, None Opposed.

(Closed Session)

Motioned to adjourn Closed Session and re-enter the meeting: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Sykes
All in Favor, None Opposed.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- 65** Authorizing the Mayor to sign an Employment Agreement between the City of Absecon and Chief James R. Laughlin for position of Chief of Police.

Motioned to move Resolution #65-2026: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Light
Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans –Yes; LaRotonda – Abstain; Light – yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes –Yes;
DeRose – Absent

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-16-26