



**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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Alex Clark, Linda Evans, Nick Larotonda, Steve Light, Christine Parker, Mike Sykes and Council President Rich DeRose

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Marrone, Eddie Dennis, John Amenhauser and Clerk Carie Crone

**STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW**

**NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED**

**PRESENTATION** – Police Chief Laughlin – swore in new police officer Matthew Munn

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Council President DeRose** – asked for a motion to add Resolution #77-2025 – authorizing the establishment of a new bank account for Housing Trust Fund. Motion - Councilman Larotonda – seconded by – Councilman Clark  
All were in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 72** Authorizing the City of Absecon to award a contract for Crestview Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Phase 2.
- 73** Authorizing the release of Escrow Funds posted by Premier Outdoor Media 445 Absecon Boulevard – Block 225, Lot 1.
- 74** Authorizing to prorate, cancel and refund 1<sup>st</sup> quarter taxes of 2025 on the property located at 1109 New York Avenue (Blk. 45, Lot1).

**75** Authorizing to prorate, cancel and refund 1<sup>st</sup> quarter taxes of 2025 on the property located at 141 E. Faunce Landing Rd. (Blk. 164, Lot 8.01).

**77** Authorizing the establishment of a new bank account for Housing Trust Fund.

**PUBLIC PORTION – Agenda Items Only**

Motion to open the meeting to the public for agenda items only – Councilman Clark – second – Councilman Sykes  
All were in favor

**Greg Seher** – 625 Yarmouth Ave. – wanted an explanation of the type of account the Housing Trust Fund is

**John** – municipalities set them up typically for developer's fees throughout the course of the year whenever there are construction fees for the affordable housing funds. They will sit in that account and those funds can be used to pay for professionals that the city utilizes for meeting their obligations under the Mt. Laurel doctrine and their affordable housing obligations. It can be used for development as well. Unfortunately, Absecon has been operating without one.

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Larotonda – second - Councilman Clark  
All were in favor.

Motion to move the Consent Agenda – Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilman Clark  
ROLL CALL: Clark, yes; Evans, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Parker, yes; Sykes, yes; DeRose, yes

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 333,210.00**

Motion to move the bill list – Councilman Larotonda – second – Councilwoman Parker  
ROLL CALL: Clark, yes; Evans, yes; Larotonda, yes; Light, yes; Parker, yes; Sykes, yes; DeRose, yes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/13/2025

Motion to move the minutes – Councilman Clark – second – Councilman Sykes  
ROLL CALL: Clark, yes; Evans, yes; Larotonda, abstained; Light, yes; Parker, yes; Sykes, yes; DeRose, yes

**REPORTS**

**Councilman Light** – Public Works Committee have met and discussed the road program for t2025. We are looking at the priority list, but nothing is picked out yet. We want to see what we have to spend on this coming year. His next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Councilman Clark** – Finance has not met since our last meeting, but in the meantime, we are working on the budget and fill in some holes. The next budget meeting is next Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

**Councilwoman Evans** – Community Affairs met tonight and went over a lot of information. Absecon Vet Hospital had a free parvo clinic and it was a big success. The Green Team is still active and their next event will be announced soon. The Easter egg hunt that is usually done every year, might be moved to another location. We are looking at dates and locations. Earth Day will be April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 12:00 and we will have a cleanup day and shredding and electronics will be taken as well. The Senior Brunch will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have two great sponsors this year: Royal Suites and

Spring Village are involved. The Memorial Day Parade was discussed and possibly some additional events to come.

**Councilwoman Parker** – Public Safety met this past Monday and the Chief is getting good reviews of the officers that are in the academy right now and of Matthew, who was sworn in tonight. We spoke about how happy the residents are about the police presence in some of the speeding areas in town and how quickly they respond. Chief Talley reminded everyone to change the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms when you move your clocks forward this weekend. He also encourages people to dispose of fire place ashes correctly to prevent fires. Her next meeting will be April 7 at 6:00 p.m.

**Police Chief Laughlin** - he mentioned that car thefts are ramping up again and if you need a steering wheel lock, we still have some left. He reminded everyone to please not leave any valuable belongings in your car. Exterior lighting is a good thing if you can install it. If you see something out of place, please say something. Call for service for the month of February were 4,221. There were 401 vehicle stops; 26 motor vehicle crashes; 49 arrests; 3 burglaries, 13 shoplifting and thefts; 18 domestic violence calls and approximately 270 community policing calls and 699 directed patrols and 6 DUI's. Reminded everyone that with daylight savings time, our children be out playing a little later in the evenings as well as all residents, so please be careful while driving. Speeding is one of the top issues that every town has. Most accidents can be avoided by slowing down. Call a friend or Uber if you have been drinking. We will be working with the County and numerous agencies this year, since there were so many accidents last year.

**Councilwoman Parker** – thanked them for posting the calls of service up on Face Book

**Councilman Sykes** – Parks and Playgrounds will meet again on March 18<sup>th</sup>. At their last meeting, 10 bands were picked for the concerts and dates picked. March Madness is going on now and asked for everyone to come out and support it. He is still looking into the mulch in our playground areas. The fields will be picking up more once April arrives.

**Councilman Larotonda** – Economic Development has seen a lot of progress being made at Jersey Cow and Aldi. Their next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Council President DeRose** – just wanted to say “go Absecon Lady Panthers”

**Mayor Marrone** – congratulated Matthew and the Munn family for tonight. It is nice to see commitment from someone who is born and raised in town. Matthew's father is on the ACFD, so Public Safety is in their blood. He thanked the Chief for his report, which explains to the residents how busy our police department is. Our men and women are doing a great job. He thanked all the employees of the city; they are all doing a great job. Every office is running as efficiently as they can. We are working on the budget and our 3,5 and 7-year plan for the city.

**Eddie Dennis, City Engineer** - we awarded Phase II of the Crestview Ave. project, which is to connect the new sidewalk done last year to the cut through on the dirt path that exists there. It cuts behind the playground into the walking path at Pitney Park. The bids did come in under budget, so it will be entirely funded by a grant and more to work with. The first phase of Crestview Ave. is complete, but there are a few items that need to be completed. They should be finishing it soon. Calderon Avenue was recently paved and next week the final striping will be done and that will be closed out. The street scape on NJ Avenue might have some final items to be completed as well. Most likely in April, the 2024 road project will start. The Meadowview Ave. sewer rehab project will start on Tuesday and it will be night work. We received our final list of comments regarding Shore Road from the County last week. The mayor has been helpful in pushing that along. We are optimistic that this will be the last call to address their comments and put this project out to bid and

have a schedule for it. There was a question about the driveway at McDonald's and we did reach out to NJDOT and they got back to us and gave us direction into the next step. He will keep everyone updated on it.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Parker  
All were in favor.

**Harry Hartman – 632 Woodland Ave.** – he sees that in closed session, land sale will be discussed. Since you can not say anything more specific now, will there be any action taken tonight afterwards? There are a lot of veteran exemptions and no taxes are collected on those properties. Do we have any idea of how many we have? Councilman Clark said he asked for a report on it and it is hard to plan for as well. What is the difference between a City Engineer and a City Planner?

**Ed Dennis** – it is two different licenses. A planner would deal with zoning, land development, land use, ordinances etc. for the city. The Planning Board has its own professionals to advise them.

**Council President, DeRose** – he is pretty sure the billing for the Planner that he is discussing, was for our fourth round of affordable housing.

**Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Ave.** – thanks for pursuing the Route 30 and Mill Road concerns. Just wanted clarification that land was not being sold tonight.

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

### **CLOSED SESSION - #76-2025 – Contract Negotiations and Land Sale.**

**John Amenhauser, Esq.** – the governing body can go into closed session for confidential matters to be discussed and tonight there are two matters to be discussed: the firehouse contract and the sale of city-owned land. Both fall under the exception for pending or active contract negotiations and for land sale.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Clark – second – Councilman Light  
All were in favor.

John Amenhauser, Esq. – based on the discussions that were conducted in closed session, no formal action will be taken by this body this evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Clark – second – Councilman Sykes  
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5-15-25