



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

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 6:30 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Sandy Cain, Alex Clark, Richard DeRose, Steve Light, Tommy Marrone, Christine Parker, and Council President Nick LaRotonda

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Kim Horton, City, City Engineer Ed Dennis, City Solicitor Bill Blaney Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, and Police Chief J.R. Laughlin

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**2024 RESOLUTIONS**

**67** Honoring Autism Acceptance Month.

Announced Patrick Dooley as Absecon's Honorary Council President of the day. Patrick has been a lifelong resident of Absecon, participated in Field of Dreams, and is involved with the Philadelphia Eagles. Patrick works at AtlantiCare and loves hot sauce. The City is very proud of him and all he has done.

**Motioned to move Resolution #67-2024:** Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone  
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

**2024 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

**Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #11-2024:** Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

**11** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 254 thereof titled Peace and Good Order.

Bill Blaney: Explained that Ordinances #11-12 both address outdated City Ordinances, so they were looked at and updated based on changes in Case Law and general attitudes. A general review of City Ordinances has been an ongoing process for at least the last year, however the City felt it urgent to make some specific changes.

Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – 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 April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Motioned for the first reading of Ordinance #12-2024:** Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Clark

**12** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 230 thereof titled Loitering and Graffiti.

Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – 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 April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**2024 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION**

**Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #07-2024:** Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman DeRose

Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

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

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #07-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker  
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No discussion.

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

**Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #07-2024:** Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilman DeRose

Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

*Ordinance #07-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.*

**Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #08-2024:** Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Marrone  
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

- 08** Re-appropriating \$670,000.00 proceeds of obligations not needed for their original purposes to provide for Capital Projects in 2024.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #08-2024: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker  
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

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

**Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #08-2024:** Councilman Marrone; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker  
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

*Ordinance #08-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.*

**Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #10-2024:** Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker  
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

- 10** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 224, Land Use and Development, Article XXIII – Signs.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #01-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone.  
All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

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

**Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #10-2024:** Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker  
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #10-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

**Councilwoman Cain:** Noted that the City has been working towards this goal for a while now. The allowance of feather flags will be very helpful for downtown businesses.

**Council President LaRotonda:** Thanked the Planning Board, who had to review the Ordinance before it could be adopted.

## 2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

**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.

68 Authorizing the City of Absecon to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement.

69 Authorizing the City of Absecon to reject all bids for the CBD Streetscape Improvements – Phase 4.

**E. Dennis:** Clarified that CBD stands for Central Business District. Explained that the resolution is a step of an overall process. The New Jersey Ave. Streetscape Project went out to bid, but the responsive bids came back high and overbudget, so the City needed to reject the bids received so that they can re-bid the project. Re-bids will be opened on 4/16 so that one may be awarded at the next Council Meeting. Lighting will be included in the bid as an option. The electrical conduit would then be included under the sidewalk, so lighting could still be an option in the future.

70 Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to design and coordinate bids for the 2024 Road Program.

**E. Dennis:** The Public Works Committee has been working on the Road List for the 2024 Road Program, which has recently been finalized. Moving forward, they will now work with Engineering to decide the improvements and work required.

71 Authorizing the acceptance of donated repairs and maintenance for the Absecon Downtown Clock.

Council President LaRotonda: The Absecon Historical Society has agreed to donate the repairs and improvements to the City's downtown clock to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this October.

### **PUBLIC PORTION** – (Agenda items only)

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

No discussion.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone  
Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes;  
LaRotonda – Yes

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 1,827,239.65**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/8/2024

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/29/2024

Budget Meeting Minutes – 3/14/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Cain - Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose - Abstain; Light – Yes; Marrone - Yes; Parker – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes

## **REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Parker – Community Affairs:** Met earlier that evening at 5:30PM. Topics of discussion included the Easter Egg Hunt with the Arts Alliance (3/30/24), the City's Earth Day Celebration (shredding event, community cleanup, electronics disposal), which will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-12PM, and the Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Brunch is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Methodist Church at 10:30AM. Volunteers are still needed, although Elvis has been secured. The Creekfest Committee will meet next upcoming Monday at 5PM. Community Affairs will next meet on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30PM

**Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development:** Met last night. Attended by she and Councilmembers Marrone and Clark. Still waiting on updates from businesses about opening dates. Discussed possibly having the ACEA help Absecon with economic promotions. Still considering whether the City will hire them for their services. Next meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6PM.

**Councilman DeRose – Public Safety:** Next meeting will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**Councilman Marrone – Public Safety Rep.:** Thanked Public Safety Agencies for all their hard work. Announced that the Fire Dept. has acquired a boat. FD Chief Talley brought up concerns about the floor in the apparatus bay. Shared a PSA from the Fire Dept.: Make sure you clean your grills before using them because the remaining grease residue is prone to catch fire. Also reminded the public that it is **NOT LEGAL** to burn your leaves during yard cleanup. At the Public Safety Meeting, Chief Laughlin made a point to mention how happy he was with Galloway EMS services. The Absecon PD will be doing a Distracted Driver Campaign, followed by a Click it or Ticket Campaign. They are in the process of hiring another Police Officer. In regard to public resident safety, emphasized the importance of wearing helmets when riding bikes and scooters.

**Councilman Marrone – Public Works/Code Enforcement:** Will next meet on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. One of the main topics they have been discussing for a while is the raising of Shore Rd (due to flooding issues). They are soon sending letters to the residents regarding imminent work.

**E. Dennis:** Clarified that residents located along the project on Shore Road will soon be receiving letters to ensure that the road improvements do not inconvenience things for existing residents. Has been in communication with those at the County regarding the project.

**Councilman Marrone:** Indicated progress in regard to the water and sewer line at the Heritage Park Concession Stand.

**E. Dennis:** Stated that work will begin tomorrow.

**Councilman Marrone:** Numerous options have been discussed in regard to the Road Program. Now is the time that the City must address major drainage issues in the City. In regard to Code Enforcement, they discussed the Hotel and Shopping Cart Ordinance. The Hotel Tenant Ordinance may need to be adjusted.

**Council President LaRotonda:** Asked E. Dennis whether he had any updates regarding the project on Crestview Ave.

**E. Dennis:** Stated that they would be working on the project soon. They have already completed a round of speaking with all nearby property owners, and their plans are about 90% complete. His staff will be meeting with property owners again to show them final plans.

**Councilman Clark – Finance:** Have not met since last Council Meeting. Next meeting will be on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. They have finalized the Budget and are awaiting City approval anticipated for next Council Meeting.

**Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds:** Have not met since last Council Meeting. Will meet next on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Thanked Absecon Public Works for all they do to help with Parks & Playgrounds.

**Mayor Kim Horton:** Hopes everyone had a lovely holiday. Contacted by Atlantic City Electric and New Jersey One to share with the public, the imperative need to call 8-1-1 before beginning any digging project (no matter the size). Praised librarians for their positive contribution to a school atmosphere. Hopes that Absecon Schools will resurrect their library system. Shared that the Tour of Honors Motorcyclists chose Absecon's 9/11 Memorial for their 2024 Season (April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>). Presented a banner for the event.

**E. Dennis – City Engineer:** Reiterated that the Heritage Park Concession Work will begin tomorrow and that the Mill Sidewalk Project (near the 9/11 Memorial), is starting next week. The City also just received County approval to bid the Calderon Ave. Project.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Alex Perri – 620 Yarmouth Avenue:** Green Team Announcement – Within the past month they completed community cleanups on Shore Road and New Jersey Ave., which they anticipate will earn them \$400 for the Green Team. Donation letters have been distributed for the Community Garden. The application for Community Garden beds has been posted on the Green Team website. According to his fence contact, they would need to put down a 50% down-payment on their purchase. Asked the City authorize the time-sensitive purchase. Will meet the upcoming Monday at Garden State Beer Company at 6PM.

**Council President LaRotonda:** Assured A. Perri that the application will also be posted on the City's website.

**Councilwoman Cain:** Asked how many applications he has received.

**A. Perri:** Unsure as they are being submitted to the Clerk's Office.

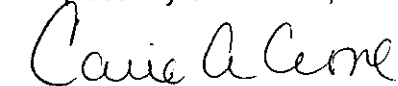
**C. Crone:** In that case, they have received none.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 6-6-24