



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 19th, 2022 5:30PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Betty Howell called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

FLAG SALUTE: Mayor Kim Horton led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavileer, Nick LaRotonda, Steve Light, Donna Poley, and Council President Betty Howell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Kim Horton, City Administrator/CEO Jessica Thompson, William Blaney (City Solicitor), City Clerk Carie Crone, Deputy City Clerk Mary Fetske

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2022 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 06** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 118 – Alcoholic Beverage Control, Section 16 – Hours.

Motioned for a second reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Cavileer

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

- 09** Amending Ordinance #09-2022 – Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 300 – Solid Waste, Section 6 – Containers and Repealing Section 11 – Violations and Penalties.

Motioned for a second reading: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

J. Thompson – This Ordinance regards changes in trash collection to properly specify the new trash containers the City will be providing its residents starting the week of June 6. The language of the amendment now mirrors that of the recycling section and violations have changed to match as well.

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

2022 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 08** Amending the City of Absecon Code, Chapter 23, Election Districts, 23-1. First Ward boundaries, and 23-1. Second Ward boundaries.

Motioned for second reading: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes; Light -Yes; Poley: Yes; Howell: Yes

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
All were in favor.

Motioned to close public: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
All were in favor.

Motioned for final reading and adoption: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes; Light - Yes; Poley - Yes; Howell - Yes

This ordinance has been heard and is finally approved.

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 78** Applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in conjunction with the Township of Galloway.

J. Thompson: At the end of December, the City applied for grant funds from state. The state recently contacted the City suggesting we revise our application to include more items for reimbursement. So we need to update our application. Galloway needs to pass a resolution as well. Our original application was for \$85,000 and now it's for \$200,000, so we could potential receive much more money than expected from the state. This is grant for dispatch shared service.

- 79** Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2022 municipal budget to allow for the receipt of \$50,900.00 from the Atlantic County Improvement Authority.

J. Thompson: This is a grant for the Community Development Block Grant Programs (CBDG) funds. This is part of the Road Program – these funds are already planned to be used for the ambassador, sidewalk, handicap accessibility part of the road program. In order to use funds, we must bring them into our budget.

- 80** Authorizing the sale of personal property not needed for public use under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36.

J. Thompson: This is our annual resolution to authorize our use of GovDeals to auction off items we no longer use.

- 81** Authorization to prorate, cancel, and refund 2nd quarter taxes of 2022 on the property located at 202 Cedar Hill Drive (Block 25, Lot 2.02).

J. Thompson: This is due to a Veteran's Tax Exemption

- 82** Adopting the Atlantic County Multi-jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by the federal Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act 2000

J. Eberwine: This is our Mitigation Plan that we are required to update every 5 years. It was completed over the last 6 months with the help of Jessica and our City engineer, in addition to others. Other emergency management news - Jim has been talking with FEMA and the NJ State Police about COVID reimbursements. He will be meeting with them over the next week with Jessica Thompson and Lieutenant Ray Adams. The reimbursement is for COVID money spent since March 2020. The City expected to see a 75% refund of money spent, but now we are expecting to receive a 100% refund of money spent. The City must go back and look at receipts to update information. The City is ahead of schedule to get funds back. The deadline is December 31, 2022 so the City is well ahead of it.

- 83** Awarding a contract for a Professional Services for a Special Counsel to represent the City of Absecon with regard to matters involving affordable housing obligations.

J. Thompson: The City has been contacted about a potential issue and want to have Mr. Merenich, who has worked with the city in the past, available for Special Counsel.

PUBLIC PORTION – (For Agenda items only)

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

(No Public Spoke)

Motioned to close public: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman Cavileer
All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Howell read the following statement: 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.

Council President Howell read the Resolutions #78-83 by title.

Motioned to move consent agenda: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes; Light -Yes; Poley: Yes;
Howell: Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$1,714,438.97

Motioned to accept: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes; Light - Yes; Poley - Yes;
Howell - Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 5/5/2022

Closed Session as to form and content only – 4/21/2022

Motioned to accept: Councilman Burroughs; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - Yes; Light -Yes; Poley: Yes;
Howell: Yes

REPORTS

Steve Light - Parks & Playgrounds: The Parks & Playgrounds Committee met on May 17th at 7:00. Councilman Light, Burroughs, and LaRotonda were in attendance in addition to Wayne Dilkes and new committee member, Mark Barbetto. Items discussed include ballfield lights which were repaired and replaced, a couple of lights on the bike path are out and potentially damaged, and Veteran's Park preparation for the Memorial Day Parade. Shout out to Bill Neiderhofer who voluntarily power washes Veteran's Park at own expense several times a year. Public Works is going to check on the Clocktower in town and one of the city owned light poles. Mark Barbetto pointed out that on Blue Devil's field there are several large trees blocking lights which is a safety hazard. The Committee will be inviting members of Creekfest to meet and go over their itinerary to make sure there will be no conflict with any sports events. Councilman Light went to the Field of Dreams and saw the enhancements for himself, saying it is "truly the pride of our community." He's known many people involved in the program for many years. He's trying to work with other organizations he's involved in to provide more sponsorship. He suggests maybe the City could contribute to the Field of Dreams major improvements by donating. A new sign was placed at main entrance of park but some landscape is overgrown, Councilman Light suggests Public Works could follow up as to compliment the other Field of Dreams improvements. The next Parks & Playgrounds Committee meeting is on June 19th at the Municipal Complex at 7PM.

Mayor Horton: The 8th graders are putting flowers down at Veteran's Park for Memorial Day and Bill Neiderhofer is power washing in preparation for the parade.

Donna Poley – Community Affairs: Encourages everyone visit the Field of Dreams on a Friday or Saturday night. Tour de Lights on Friday May 20th down at the football fields from 7:30-9PM. Come with your friends and families, and decorate your bikes, helmets, and self in neon bling. There will be prizes for the top 3 winners. The Absecon American Legion is having a vendor event yard sale on Saturday May 21st from 9AM-2PM. On Monday May 23rd at 7PM at United Methodist Church, Jacob Hackett, Absecon's own Accessibility Advocate, is having a conversation about accessibility and its importance. The 4th Annual Absecon Dog Show, run by the children of Absecon, is on Saturday May 28 in Heritage Park. You can put your dog in the show and they will be selling dog treats. All money raised goes to the Human Society. The Memorial Day Parade is coming up on Monday May 30th. The children's bike parade starts at 8:15AM and the regular parade starts at 9AM. On May 29th, the City with the American Legion, will be having a patriotic house decoration contest. Prizes will be given to the most patriotic house. You can find all these events on the Community Affairs Facebook and on the Absecon website. The next Community Affairs Committee meeting is on June 9th.

S. Light: Holy Spirit High School's 100th anniversary is this year. A lot of residents are alumni. There's a committee that is thinking of fun things to do to celebrate the schools 100th anniversary.

Sandy Cain – Public Safety: The Public Safety Committee has not met since last council meeting, but next meeting is June 6th. Because of the holiday, the Committee's July meeting will be moved from the 4th to the 11th at 4:30PM in the Municipal Complex. Councilwoman Cain expressed her thanks to the Absecon Fire Department, Police Department, and Ambulance Squad for going above and beyond when fighting a recent house fire. Although there were several pet deaths, there were luckily no human fatalities. Hearts, thoughts, and prayers are going out to the family.

Caleb Cavileer – Finance: The Finance Committee met the evening of May 19th. The attendees included Councilmembers Cavileer, Cain, and Burroughs, Mayor Horton, and Jessica Thompson. Topics of discussion included personnel matters and other City action around the municipality. Camera video recordings are being conducted to update some maps of sewers. When the city receives the report from company that performed this service, they will be able to see if there are any quick fixes around the City and anticipate any needs required in future budgets. The Road Program will be going out to bid soon. So far this year the City has approved purchase orders for the audio system in the Court Room and the codification of all City Codes. Recycling containers are under warranty for 10 years, residents can contact the City or ACUA to have their recycling containers replaced. The ACUA will be distributing trash cans in early June. Councilman Cavileer encourages all to send prayers to the Santora Family, who suffered the fire. He expressed his appreciation to all the police, fire dept, ambulance crews on the scene who minimized the damage. He also expressed his thanks to the Absecon veterinarians who are working hard to save the surviving pet. There is a GoFundMe for the family, and any contribution would be appreciated by the family.

Chief Laughlin: Speeding is a big concern for Public Safety. There are digital speed readers around at all times. The data acquired by the speed readers is used to find most dense times of traffic and to identify areas of excessive speed. Chief Laughlin, Captain Mazer, Lieutenant Huenke, and Lieutenant Adams have all received countless complaints about speeding all around the city, so they are aware of the problem. They've been out trying to educate the public about speed and traffic violations. They will continue to enforce speed limits and issue tickets. There is a recent problem that the public needs to be aware of regarding catalytic converter thefts. About six residents have already suffered catalytic converter thefts with their vehicles, which cost in excess of over \$2,000 to replace. Thieves take catalytic converter to junk yard and get money. The Chief is asking residents, that if they see something possibly suspicious, please call it in. He assures the public that you are not burdening police with your calls and says many cases are solved with help from resident's

phone calls.

This Memorial Day Parade will see the Last Salute Organization and Honor Guard led by Chuck Knutson who comes every year and fires the cannon. This year Chuck and his organizations will be performing the 21 Mile March after the parade. Leaving from the Absecon VFW, they will walk exactly 21 miles to Brigantine. Uniformed guards will accompany them carrying the prayer box on their back in a military pack for the whole 21 miles. The Prayer Box is a when we have a fallen veteran, a prayer is put in the box. The organization comes to our parade every year, also they do not miss any veteran who pass in all of South (They have expanded into North Jersey and Delaware as well). They are all excited to honor the Prayer Box with the 21 Mile Walk.

S. Light: If people want to contact you, but are uncomfortable calling 911 if it's not an emergency, what number should they call?

Chief Laughlin: they can call the main number and they can remain anonymous. Please don't hesitate even if on way to work or just passing by. They will investigate every call. Many cases are solved with help from call ins.

Mayor Horton: What is the number to reach the Absecon Police Dept?

Chief Laughlin: Dial 609-641-0667 then follow the voice prompt and hit 0 and it will send you right to dispatch. The police appreciate all calls. It's very important that if you think something is not right, to call the police. The Police would rather go out and immediately find an issue, rather than wait hours later to find numerous issues/victims.

J. Eberwine: Regarding the recent stormwater on May 14th, we were getting about 1.4 inches in an hour and a half, which is a downpour and would overwhelm any kind of drainage system.

S. Cain: Expressed concern about record high weather this weekend, specifically Saturday, in Philadelphia and at the Shore.

J. Eberwine: The weather we will experience is due to a unique situation. We had relatively cool weather in April and this heat is coming at us quickly. It's expected to be 96 degrees. It's critical to watch the dew point this time of year, if the dew point gets into 70s, the heat for that day will be extremely oppressive. The ocean water temperature is in the 50s though, so the sea breeze will provide some relief to areas as far as Hammonton. The Weather Service may issue a one-day excessive heat statement for the elderly and young.

S. Cain: Emphasized the importance of watching out for the elderly, pets outside, and children.

Butch Burroughs – Public Works: The Public Works Committee had their meeting last Tuesday. They received several emails sent from residents about various situations. After their analysis, they passed information for a few matters onto the City Engineer, Ed Dennis, for further analysis and advice regarding how to fix it. For one of the matters, the committee denied the request.

Nick LaRotonda – Economic Development: The Economic Development Committee has not met since last council meeting. The next meeting will be June 1st at 4:30PM at the Municipal Complex.

MONTHLY REPORTS – Mary Fetske

Tax Collection - \$3,745,945.25

Construction Office - \$10,400

Municipal Court - \$8,163.56

Mayor Horton: This past Tuesday, there was an informational seminar and lunch at the Senior Center for senior residents. They learned valuable information on Medicare, Medicaid, short term rehab, home care assistance, alternative living communities, legal documents, and end of life support & final preparations. Attendees found the topics very informative and hope there will be more seminars in the future. Next Thursday May 26, Mayor Horton will be attending the Honors Brunch where over 200 students in grades 5-8 will be honored for earning the Honor Roll or High Honor Roll designation for the first 3 marking periods. She thanks the generosity of the following local business who sponsored the event: Brayces, Ace Hardware, Ocean First Bank, All State Insurance, and the Absecon PTO. Mayor Horton encourages all to please join the City this Memorial Day, May 30th, as we remember and honor our heroes at our annual Memorial Day parade.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

(No Public Spoke)

Motioned to close public: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION - #84-2022

Bill Blaney: Explained the reason to go into closed session is to discuss two matters of personnel and one matter of potential litigation. There may be action taken when the session is over.

Motioned to enter Closed Session: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
All were in favor.

(Closed Session)

Motioned to adjourn Closed Session and re-enter the meeting: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Blaney: Closed Session statement

REGULAR MEETING

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 85 Accepting the Hearing Officer's findings and recommendations with respect to City's employee's preliminary notice of disciplinary action and authorizing and ratifying the issuance of a final notice of disciplinary action.

Motioned to move Resolution #85-2022: Councilwoman Cain; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs - Yes; Cain - Yes; Cavileer - Yes; LaRotonda - (Absent); Light - Yes; Poley: Yes; Howell: Yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 6/2/22