



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 20TH, 2024
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Christine Parker

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Kim Horton, City Administrator/CFO Jessica Thompson, City Engineer Ed Dennis, City Solicitor Bill Blaney Esq., Deputy City Clerk Mary Fetske, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #14-2024: Councilwoman DeRose; Seconded: Councilwoman Cain

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

- 14** Amending Section 250-23 of the Code of the City of Absecon, granting a discounted price to Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard and Veteran Members of the United States Armed Forces for Seasonal Permits required to use the Faunce Landing Boat Ramp.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #14-2024: Councilman DeRose; 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 #14-2024: Councilman Light;
Seconded: Councilman Marrone
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Absent;
LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #14-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #15-2024: Councilman Light; Seconded:
Councilwoman Cain
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Absent;
LaRotonda – Yes

- 15** Amending the Code of the City Absecon creating Chapter 323 – Tree Removal and Replacement.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #15-2024:
Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker. All in Favor, None Opposed.

No Discussion.

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

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #15-2024: Councilman DeRose;
Seconded: Councilman Marrone
Roll Call: Cain – Yes; Clark – Yes; DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Absent;
LaRotonda – Yes

Ordinance #15-2024 has been heard and is finally approved.

2024 RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

- 107** Appointing a Full Time Patrol Officer, namely Gregory O'Connell.
- 108** Authorizing the submission of a grant application and the execution of a grant construction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of Delaware Ave. (Priority 1).
- 109** Authorizing the submission of a grant application and the execution of a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Improvements.

E. Dennis: Resolutions #108-109 are for the Fiscal Year 2025 NJDOT Grant Applications. The DOT offers a few programs every year (e.g. #108 - Municipal Aid Program – Road Program funding; #109 – Safe Streets to Transit Program – raised pedestrian crosswalks at various locations).

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 1,509,986.38

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Closed Session as to form and content only – 4/18/24

Regular Meeting Minutes – 5/16/2024

Regular Meeting Minutes – 6/6/2024

Motioned to accept: Councilman DeRose; Seconded: Councilman Marrone

Roll Call: Cain – Yes (4/18 & 5/16), Abstain (6/6); Clark – Yes (4/18 & 5/16), Abstain (6/6); DeRose – Yes; Light – Yes; Marrone – Yes; Parker – Absent; LaRotonda – Yes (5/16), Abstain (4/18 & 6/6)

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Economic Development: Have not met since last Council Meeting.

Praised Absecon Blooms, which sell other things besides flowers. Noted that they donated centerpieces for the recent Senior Brunch. Also praised the new Chipotle and Lola's Café.

Encouraged the public to stop and visit the City's new businesses. Mentioned that she recently saw people working in the former White Horse Liquors building. Next meeting will be July 3rd at 6PM.

Councilman DeRose – Public Safety: Have not met since last Council Meeting. Next meeting will be July 1st. Praised Court Administrator, Merrilee Carlson for videoing the Council meetings.

Chief Laughlin – Police: Reminded the public that children are now out of school and so there will be an increase in pedestrian and bike traffic. Urged proper preparation in traveling. Patrol has been on Route 30, funded by the HTS. Asked parents to efficiently parent their children. Other municipalities have been experiencing large gatherings of juveniles, and while Absecon has not experienced that, wants to avoid the possibility. Reminded parents to keep in mind the curfew.

Councilman DeRose: Residents are very happy with the City's patrol of speeding.

Chief Laughlin: Shared that the State is so delighted with the City's effective work, that they have offered to fund more grant money for August.

Councilman Light: Noted the high number of hours of work which the Police dedicate.

Chief Laughlin: Revealed that going into that week, Atlantic County was #2 in the state for fatal accidents. The majority of these accidents are due to excessive speeding.

Councilman DeRose: Commended their professionalism.

Councilman Marrone – Public Works: Has not met since their the last Council Meeting. Next meeting will be July 1st at 5PM. Noted that Public Works has been doing an exceptional job on the parks and streets. Praised their teamwork and quick responses. Shared that new water stations have been installed in Heritage Park.

Councilman Clark: As the President of ASAC, commended Public Works for their phenomenal job maintaining the ball fields. Everyone who comes from out of town (e.g. umpires) comments on the exceptionalism of the fields.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Met before the Council Meeting with a great turnout. They are currently negotiating a contract with the Chief and they are working things out with their contract with Government Workers’.

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds: Met earlier this week on the 18th with a nice turnout. Topics included the Eagle Scout solar cellphone charging station, water installation at the Concession Stand (thanked E. Dennis & Public Works), setting up a portable toilet at Turner Cove, the upcoming start to their Concert in the Park series, the advancement of the Community Garden, the continuation of the Field of Dreams and creation of a pavilion with proper lighting and electricity. Thanked Public Works for their excellent work. Will meet in July 16th at 7PM. Public is welcome.

Council President LaRotonda: Reminded the public that the next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 2nd at 6:30PM. A special ceremony will be conducted to celebrate Disability Pride month. Citizen of the Year, Jacob Hackett, will join Council as a special guest.

J. Thompson – CFO/Admin.: No report.

E. Dennis – City Engineer: The Streetscape Project officially began construction that day. The Calderon Ave. Project is ready to go, just waiting on approval from the State for a permit to begin. Have met with almost all the residents for a second round of meetings in regard to the Project. They are very close to going out to bid now. At their last meeting they approved several Engineering projects (i.e. next Road Program, Crestview Ave. Project (Phase 2), Meadowview Avenue Sewer Project, and the tennis courts). In regard to the Shore Road Project, the City has received Construction easements from almost all property owners. Hopes the project will soon be able to go out to bid.

Councilman Light: Asked about the property on the corner affecting the Crestview project.

E. Dennis: Indicated that the property owner has no objections to the project.

Council President LaRotonda: Noted that it will be an improvement for people going to school.

Councilman Clark: Asked for a timeline, specifically with the schoolyear in mind.

E. Dennis: Hopes to complete the project in time for school, but shared that the DOT review is currently holding up the project.

Councilman Light: Asked about including a stop in the project.

E. Dennis: Stated that he believes it would not be prudent to include that action in this specific Project. Suggested maybe including it in the next Road Program.

Clerk Report – May 2024:

Clerk: \$12,772

Tax: \$3,97,869.25

Construction: \$310,978

Court: \$12,695.70

Mayor Kim Horton: Congratulated all graduating Absecon students. Indicated pride for their accomplishments. Cautioned the public to be mindful of children when driving. Announced the opening of the charming Lola's Café. Wished them continued success. Praised the new business, Absecon Blooms. Encouraged residents to shop and dine local. Announced that the Senior Center has a new manager, Michelle Ritzle.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No Discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 7-2-24