



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15th 2022 5:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Sandy Cain

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

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2022 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 16** Authorizing the purchase of certain real property known as Block 31, Lot 5 in the City of Absecon from the estate of Jane Seddon Willson, and the execution of a vacant land purchase agreement.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Burroughs

E. Dennis: Explained that Ordinance 16 and 17 are both related to the New York Ave. Subdivision Project. Th project has had moving targets, as there were several lots that the City needed to acquire in order to fully assemble the subdivision.

These Ordinances pertain to the two vacant lots contiguous to the subdivision that the City needed to purchase. The City is now allowed, as the contract purchaser of those properties, to file their subdivision application with the Planning Board, which is the current goal.

Council President Howell: Confirmed that both properties were unbuildable lots.

B. Blaney: Indicated that the City was still waiting on a signed agreement for the second property.

Councilman Cavileer: Requested a timeline for said paperwork.

B. Blaney: Advised that the paperwork has been sent out to the seller who assured they would sign them; however, the City has not yet received them. The Ordinance indicates that the seller and the City have an agreement and its language may be minorly changed in the future when the City actually receives the completed paperwork.

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on October 6th, 2022.

- 17 Authorizing the purchase of certain real property known as Block 40, Lot 1 in the City of Absecon from Vincent James Accardi, and the execution of a vacant land purchase agreement.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley

Council President Howell: Reminded that this property is the second unbuildable lot previously discussed.

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on October 6th, 2022.

- 18 Amending Chapter 224 of the Code of the City of Absecon to establish Cannabis Land Use Regulations.

Motioned for a first reading: Councilman Burroughs; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley

E. Dennis: The following explanation regards Ordinances 18 through 20. Background information is that in July 2021, the Governing Body adopted Land-Use Ordinances related to various classes of cannabis-related establishments within the city. There have been many meetings the past year which have focused on perspective cannabis-related establishments and the City has consented to three retail cannabis establishments, as well as several cultivators. Through the process of almost-monthly meetings with various cannabis providers, the members of the City's Cannabis Committee have become much more educated on the newly emerging industry. The City has met with numerous cannabis-related companies and while several were approved for licensures, some were not. The City previously passed Land-Use Ordinances to allow for cannabis retail on the Route 30 and New Jersey Ave. corridors. However, through discussion, the City has found that a complimentary use to a retailer could be manufacturing, which is different than cultivation. Cultivation is where the cannabis is grown, and manufacturing is where different processes are used to manufacture. When originally zoning the area, the City did not think it was appropriate for a standalone cannabis manufacturer to be located on Route 30 or New Jersey Ave, but through educational discussion with some cannabis retailers, it has become apparent to the City that it's reasonable for retailers support their business through manufacturing. So, three ordinances have been created, similar to the original cannabis land-use ordinances. One ordinance applies to the entire city, and the other two apply to the redevelopment areas within the specific zone (which do

not follow the City's general land-use ordinance, but rather their own land-use requirements specific to the redevelopment plans). To effectively change the zones the City must modify both its general land-use ordinance, but also amend land-use for redevelopment plans. Plainly, the City is establishing cannabis manufacturing as a conditional use within the discussed zone, and the condition is that the manufacturing must be affiliated with an active retail establishment at the same site. This way the City avoids having a standalone manufacturer not tied to a retailer. The Ordinance also addresses the concern about possible hazards in the manufacturing process through certain prohibitions applicable to the entire city (including the redevelopment zones), including the prohibited use of flammable solvents in the extraction process as part of the manufacturing if manufacturing is located in same building as retail and the building is open to the public for the sale of goods and services. Although the processes are generally safe, the City wants to avoid any unnecessary hazard, especially with people coming in and out of the building. The City gave a presentation to the Planning Board the night before, as they must review all land-use zoning changes to make sure the changes are in accordance with the City's Master Plan. The Planning Board Solicitor has already replied indicating that they found the changes consistent with the City's Master Plan.

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on October 6th, 2022.

19 Amending the Redevelopment Plan for the Block 203 Redevelopment Area.

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

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on October 6th, 2022.

20 Amending the Redevelopment Plan for Redevelopment Area 1: CBD Redevelopment Area.

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

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

This Ordinance will be posted, laid over, and published according to law. A Public Hearing, second, and final reading will be held on October 6th, 2022.

2022 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #13-2022: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley

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

- 13** Vacating a portion of Highland Blvd. and a portion of Ambassador Dr. and conveying such land to the adjacent property owner.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #13-2022: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Light, All in Favor, None Opposed (*No Discussion*)

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #13-2022: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #14-2022: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman Cavileer
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

- 14** Authorizing acceptance and dedication of Public Roadway.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #14-2022: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley All in Favor, None Opposed (*No Discussion*)

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #14-2022: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

Motioned for the second reading of Ordinance #15-2022: Councilwoman Poley; Seconded: Councilman Cavileer
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

- 15** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 330 – Vehicles and Traffic to designate a multi-way stop intersection at New York Ave. and Elberon Ave.

Motioned to open the meeting to the public for comment or discussion of Ordinance #15-2022: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley All in Favor, None Opposed (*No Discussion*)

Motioned for the final reading and adoption of Ordinance #15-2022: Councilman Cavileer; Seconded: Councilman LaRotonda
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

2022 RESOLUTIONS

- 123** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for 2022 on the listed property.

J. Thompson: This regards a duplicate payment.

- 124** Authorizing a refund of overpayment of taxes for the 3rd Quarter of 2022 on the listed properties.

J. Thompson: Regards duplicate payments owed to prior owners.

- 125** Appointing a part-time Fire Official, namely Thomas Flynn.

J. Thompson: The City had a vacancy in the position of Fire Official. Thomas Flynn was the City's Fire Inspector and he's now been put into the position of Fire Official.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

Motioned to open to the public: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Light
All in Favor, None Opposed (*No Discussion*)

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.

Council President Howell read Resolutions #123-125 by title.

Motioned to move the Consent Agenda: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilwoman Poley
Roll Call: Burroughs – Yes; Cain – Absent; Cavileer – Yes; LaRotonda – Yes; Light – Yes; Poley – Yes; Howell – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$ 1,434,489.04

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 9/1/2022

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

REPORTS

E. Dennis – City Engineer: The Road Program is under construction, specifically focusing on curb work, currently active on Cordova Dr. Attended the pre-construction meeting about a week prior, and it's anticipated that paving will start mid-October and finish up by the end of October. Will provide updates as progress continues. Asked residents who live on the streets being worked to please exercise some patience. The project consists of heavy construction processes, such as concrete and curb work. Assured that the end result will be well worth the minor inconveniences. Indicated that the contractor will be providing Notices to residents about paving schedules, when they need to move their cars. So currently the approval of the Ordinances for the subdivision is one of the last pieces needed to be locked up in order for the City to move forwards on their much-anticipated submission to the Planning Board. The City now just needs site control in order to allow their submission.

Council President Howell: Thanks City Engineer Dennis. Found out that day that the road construction on Cordova Dr. could possibly interfere with Creekfest, but E. Dennis was on top of it to ensure there would be no interference.

E. Dennis: Had the Inspector reach out to Lt. Adams in order to make sure the construction move all their equipment so that way, this weekend everything will be cleaned up and there will be no issues.

S. Light: Requested a status update regarding County work on South Shore Road raising. His understanding is that the City is waiting on the County about Delilah Rd.

E. Dennis: Met with the County Engineer last week. Now waiting on the final schedule for Delilah Rd., but the work is anticipated to be completed this fall. The City cannot start any work until that is finished, so it's possible the City may start their project in the winter. The project includes a decent amount of drainage and pipe work that can be completed in the cold weather, and that would carry into the spring for final paving. So overall the project has a winter/spring schedule.

Councilman Light: Complimented E. Dennis, his team, and city. Doesn't see the roads being maintained at a comparable level in other municipalities. Commended everyone's contribution as a team.

Councilman Light – Parks & Playgrounds Committee: Topics from his Committee including matters with the Blue Devil Field, Creekfest, potentially conducting a survey of all fields at the end of each sports season, the status of the ball field lights, the maintenance of 85% player participation. Affirmed that the 2022 Concerts in the Park were very successful and disclosed that he had received many compliments about this summer's lineup. Gave a shout out to the Veterans and American Legion who did a great job supporting the community and the concerts. Councilman LaRotonda had pointed out maybe looking into the condition of the wagon wheel parking lot and possibly microsurfacing that at some point. Considering potentially, as a community, either upgrading the temporary bathrooms/trailers for the summer concerts next year. Residents and organizations have reached out to the Committee about a triangular green space on Tremore Prkwy and Morton Ave. The American Legion may potentially donate time and money for enhancements on the property, so the Committee, Mayor, and Council will consider the impact for that space. Next meeting will be Tuesday September 20th and the public is welcome.

Councilwoman Poley – Community Affairs Committee: Gave a shout out to Councilman Light and Parks & Playgrounds for the Concerts in the Park this past summer. The weather was amazing, as there was not a single rainout. The music was great and the atmosphere was happy. Commemorative 9/11 Ceremony was held at the 9/11 Memorial, it was a beautiful event which honored a very sad day 21 years ago, when we lost so many firefighters, police officers, EMS, and civilians. Emphasized the importance of honoring their memories. Commended Absecon's amazing volunteers, Mayor Horton, Council President Howell, and Butch Stewart for all their work for the event. Creekfest will be on Sunday September 18th from 2PM-9PM at the Faunce Landing Boat Ramp. There will be jitney service that will start pickup at 1:30PM at the Public Works Facility parking lot on Pitney Road. They will be transporting people to and from Faunce Landing. Four bands: Billy Walton Band, Mel & Tony, Motts Creek Pickers, and Don't Call Me Francis. There will also be 15 food trucks. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to get together and have fun. On October 1st there will be a community cleanup and paper shredding at the Municipal Complex from 9AM-12PM. The next Movie in the Park is on October 7th showing Hocus Pocus. More information regarding the Movie in the Park will be shared in the future. The next Community Affairs meeting will be at the Municipal Complex on Thursday October 6th, all are welcome to join. Look on the Community Affairs Facebook page for more information about community events.

Council President Howell: Noted that both Creekfest and its jitney service is free. Food, alcohol, and T-shirts will be available for purchase. There will be some tables and chairs, but it is suggested for attendees to bring their own chairs. Encourages attendees to use the remote parking as not to inconvenience the neighbors nearby.

Steve: Commended Council President Howell for her work for the 9/11 Remembrance.

Councilman Cavileer – Finance Committee: Discussed personnel and other matters, including an anticipated note for the temporary bond refinancing the City does at this time annually, and the Capital Projects of 2022 along with some rollover projects from previous years, all packaged together. The rates not the best this year. The City had spectacular news that everything was rolled up into a bond of less than .5%. However, this year it's 3.5747% for an almost one-year bond. In regard to Creekfest financials, this year the City reached out to local businesses to see if they'd sponsors of event. All said and done, the City came just short of receiving \$21,000 in sponsorships. This ensures that this event can continue to completely sustain itself. Other than the initial \$20,000 that was put into the City Budget four years ago for an event like this for the community, no money is being taking from taxpayers for this event this year. Echoed Councilwoman Poley's words about Absecon's 9/11 Ceremony this past Sunday. Commended Butch Stewart, Mayor Horton, and Council President Howell, all the volunteers, and the remaining members of the 9/11 Memorial Founders Committee. The memorial was unveiled in 2016 and since then, the City has sadly lost several of its incredible residents who helped make the memorial come to fruition. Every year at the ceremony a rose is laid for them in remembrance. Appreciated everyone coming out, especially those who put it together and made ceremony possible.

Councilman Burroughs – Public Works Committee: Has not met since last Council Meeting. Ed Dennis already provided and update on the road projects. Next meeting will be next Tuesday September 20th.

Councilman LaRotonda – Economic Development Committee: Members of the committee discussed local businesses promotions during holiday season to encourage residents to shop locally. Also discussed an initiative to beautify New Jersey Ave., possibly working together with volunteer organizations, business owners, and tenants. Encourage all to join the next meeting on October 5th.

J. Thompson – City Administrator: No Report.

Carie Crone – City Clerk: Monthly Report – August 2022:

- Municipal Court: \$6,572.23
- Tax Office: \$5,270,842.69
- Construction Office: \$10,559
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$6,942.10

Chief Laughlin – Public Safety: Expressed thanks and appreciation for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony. On September 11th there was another pedestrian accident that involved a motorized scooter. Has repeatedly reported this issue and has repeated asked the public to ensure that their children wear helmets when riding bikes and/or scooters. The Police have been out doing the work required on their end, the issue is that enforcement is rather difficult. There is no state legislation, and therefore no clear authorization, for the police on how exactly to fully enforce safety precautions with electric vehicles. Moving forward we can start putting together details focused on giving tickets and violations for those without helmets. Cautioned that tickets issued to those under 17 years and old without a driver's license, gets issued to their parents instead, which is sure to anger a lot of people. This issue is pervasive, not just in Absecon, but throughout the entire state. Contacted

Cross County Connections, Michelle Geiger, was pleased to receive Chief's call and they discussed this problem. She works closely with Safe Routes to Schools, and has agreed to come to both the Attales School and Marsh School's Back to School Nights to, not only speak in the beginning, but also hand out pamphlets and other materials/resources to give parent the notice that this issue is a danger to their children and the general public. She also agreed, that once the LEAD program begins again in the fall to come in and teach with Lt. Huenke and the other LEAD officers, to give the children presentation about bike safety, scooter safety, to maybe give out helmets, and to teach the importance of curbing this issue. Geiger was so pleased to hear that the City put the StreetSmart signs up, she offered to come out and do a StreetSmart campaign for one of our intersections. The PD will be working with her to get that accomplished. Took matters further and contacted a retired EHT Police Chief, who is now in charge of NJ Division of Highway Safety. He is already aware of the issue, as is the state. They are trying to work at the state level to fix some of these laws and assist with getting the word out the public. Unfortunately, we had another accident where the scooter rider was injured, however it was not as serious as it could have been. There are things of note for Fire Safety but give Fire Dept. Chief Talley the opportunity to provide the information himself.

Council President Howell: Thanked Chief Laughlin for all his effort in his work to ensure the safety of Absecon's children and the general public. Shared that the City had a confiscation.

Chief Laughlin: Confirmed that the City confiscated one motorcycle under the new Ordinance regarding confiscation. Currently trying to combat that issue, the speeders, illegal parking, etc.. As far as the scooters are concerned, will soon be issuing a Press Release to put some pressure on the state to encourage action on the state level. Is currently getting hard facts to include in Press Release. This is an obvious and pervasive problem, as highlighted in his conversations with Chief's in other jurisdictions who are also having the same issue. Ultimately this is a state-wide issue and suspects a country-wide issue. Motorized bikes and scooters are becoming more popular and more affordable, so this problem will not be going away.

Council President Howell: Also contacted other communities who have gotten some press regarding the matter and have met with the state and county about speeders. They indicated that they also came up with no solution. Assured Chief that he has the support of the city council.

Fire Chief Roy Talley: At the Public Safety meeting it was discussed how within past several years there have been numerous serious fires caused by people leaving battery/electric leaf blowers outside and plugged into yard when it rains so they shorted out. Suggested for the public to not leave cords plugged in and laying out in the yard because it can cause a fire when it shorts out. Urged people to check ground vaults in their residence. Knows of a recent house fire that was caused by the ground fault in the garage failing to trip and allowing a fire to form. The house was brand new, so it's important to always be cautious of the risk. In this case, by the time their Fire Dept. arrive to the house, it was almost burned to the ground. Reminded everyone to check their carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. Has been to called to some cooking fires at houses that didn't have functioning smoke detectors. Discouraged people from getting complacent and encouraged checking around for any possible dangers.

Councilwoman Poley: Thanked Chief Talley for sharing that information. Shared that at the Public Safety Meeting about she had discussed with Chief Talley about possibly creating a flyer for October Fire Prevention month including information about all the things people need to look be aware of that the City can send out. That information is important for people's safety and needs to be shared.

Councilman Light: Shared the fact that smoke detectors have a life expectancy of only 10 years. Suggested using hardwired smoke detectors in conjunction with battery-operated backup smoke detectors.

Mayor Horton: Discussed the past anniversary of 9/11. Thanked Council President Howell, Community Affairs member Butch Stewart, and Councilman Cavileer for preparing a ceremony appropriate to mark the day, and thanked Patrick Snyder for overseeing program. Gave special thanks to Nancy Hayes and Brian Conover for providing the patriotic music, Dave Seels for playing Taps, Reverend Dave from United Methodist Church and Father Cosme from St. Elizaebth Ann Seton for their prayers marking this very dark day in history. Thanked the VFW Honor Guard and all public safety groups for keeping the community safe. Encouraged all residents and their friends to attend the City's Creekfest this Sunday. Fifteen food trucks and four local bands will there to entertain all day long. Gave a special thanks to Councilman Cavileer, Council President Howell, and Community Affairs member Deb Reilly for their time and effort in planning and organizing this community event. Thanked the sponsors, whose names will be displayed on back of T-shirts, the website banner, and will be acknowledged throughout the afternoon. Recognized the numerous volunteers, staff at City Hall, Public Works Dept., EMTs, and the Police Department. Without them there would be no event like this. Last Sunday September 10th, recognized Ed Vincent in a proclamation for his 40+ years of service to the residents of Absecon. He was a fireman, member of 9/11 Founders Committee, Council, and an extraordinary human being. Announced another proclamation to recognize Knockout Opioid Abuse Day on October 6th. The state of NJ is suffering from a life-threatening opioid abuse epidemic, so the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has designated October 6, 2022 as Knockout Opioid Abuse Day. This initiative is to raise awareness about the issues of dependency on prescribed pain medication and its link to heroin and fentanyl use, to reduce the stigma of addiction, to shed light on the need for recovery support, to communicate to physicians the safer prescribing messages in the Center for Disease Control & Prevention Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Roy Talley – 100 Howlett Lane: Reminded to the public that the Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept. was recently awarded over \$200,000 in grants. Chief Talley and other volunteer firefighters have been actively involved in the firehouse and making sure that their Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) requirements are met. Requirements include getting hepatitis B shots. Many members already have gotten their shots. Many older volunteers received their shot in previous decades, and many younger volunteers were required to receive it as children, but their still remain several volunteers who have yet to get the hepatitis b shot. Under the PEOSH regulations, the City is required to pay for those shots. Recently learned, and already shared with Chief Laughlin, that the County is now offering those shots at about \$45 per shot (for a series of three shots), and could bill the City directly. Yesterday, while in City Hall, approached the City Administrator to request funding for members of the Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept. to get their shots. Believes the comments that were responded to him were completely inappropriate for the Fire Dept. to ever receive from City Official or anybody in general. Was told to take money from their donations, instead of spending it on parties in Wildwood. Claimed that no donation money is used by the Dept. on anything in Wildwood, except for Dept. equipment. Is of the opinion that comments and questions of such nature cause friction and are inappropriate for anyone to ask him, as he considers the challenge to be a personal insult. Offended by the notion that people are under the impression that the Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept. is using donation money to spend on themselves. Explained that only certain

volunteers of the Fire Dept. are sent to Wildwood by their state relief association as delegates to vote and attend meetings. At no time does the Absecon Fire Dept. spend donation money on volunteers to party in wildwood.

Councilman Light: As someone who donates to the Absecon Volunteer Fire Dept., asked how they do each year on their donation collection.

Chief Talley: Indicated donation collection has been as it has typically been. They are sending out a second mailing after their next meeting. Will be sent out to any residents who responded to first mailing. In money wise, falling at pretty much the same they were at this time last year and the years prior.

Councilman LaRotonda: Commended the Fire Dept. for their service. Assured Chief Talley of the City Council's support for the Absecon Fire Dept.

Chief Talley: On behalf of the Fire Dept, expressed appreciation for the public's support throughout the year. Mentioned how grateful the public is for the Fire Dept.'s service. Thanked the City Council for their support.

Councilman LaRotonda: Thanked those who provide charitable contributions to the Fire Dept. The Absecon Fire Dept., as a volunteer Fire Dept., is designed to operate from collected funds that are provided by generous donations, which thereby saves residents from paying higher taxes.

Maria Burns – Faunce Landing: Expressed, that, although excited for the upcoming Creekfest, is also apprehensive because of the close proximity to her house. The note she received in the mail stated that the road was being marked for no parking on both sides, but there are no parking spots there anyway. Asked if the road will be blocked at the intersection of Shore Road and Faunce Landing like previously. Noted that there's sidewalk for only a couple houses on one side of Faunce Landing and the road is narrow.

Chief Laughlin: Officers will be stationed at the corner to patrol. Residents who live there will be allowed to exit that way, however, a flow of traffic will not be allowed to travel down the road. Initially considered having some kind of parking available there, but decided against that. If someone parks on both sides we are unable to keep flow of traffic and most importantly, if we needed emergency personnel, like a firetruck, it would be problematic.

M. Burns: Questioned if the road will be physically blocked off. Is still concerned about people parking and driving recklessly. Claimed that for previous events people disregarded efforts to control parking and still parked their cars on the street, breaking a few of her sprinklers in the process.

Chief Laughlin: Urged M. Burns and her neighbors to call dispatch if anyone parks on their property. Assured her that an officer will go take care of the matter and tow the car. There will be signage there to make it clear they are not to park there.

M. Burns: Observed that in previous years the event area was cleaned up afterwards, but was recently at the boat ramp and considered it to be very dirty and in need of power washing. Considered the other parks and recreation areas of Absecon to be immaculate, inquired as to who is responsible for the maintenance. Does not think the Faunce Landing boat ramp area is being taken care of properly. Disclosed that her husband cleans the dock every Saturday. Asked if the City could have Public Works clean the area. Observes Public Works mowing the grass there, but they mow over the trash instead of picking it up and discarding it correctly. The other parks and recreation areas in the city are beautiful.

Council President Howell: Pointed out the differing functions between the docks and the parks, in that the activities people partake in differ. At the docks people typically spend all day there, eating and sitting around, while people at the parks participate in quicker and more mobile activities, like walking. Informed Burns that Public Works was at the boat ramp to clean on Tuesday.

M. Burns: Requested for Public Works to pick up the trashed littered around the boat ramp. Suggests the City pay Public Works to do an extremely thorough cleaning of the boat ramp at least once a year. Urged the City to power wash the mildew off the dock.

Council President Howell: Informed M. Burns that the City's volunteers help take care of the other parks and memorials by power washing and things like that. She herself, Councilman Cavileer, the middle school's 8th grade class, and many others have all power washed the parks and memorials. So now that the need has been expressed, volunteers know it's something that can be done. Assured M. Burns that the matter is noted and will be addressed in the future.

Mayor Horton: Had received M. Burn's email about this matter and already responded to her informing her that Public Works was imminently going to the boat ramp to clean for Creekfest.

Council President Howell: Confirmed that Public Works had cleaned the area.

Councilman Light: Remembered that in the past there used to be "No Littering" signs at the boat ramp and littering fines were charged against offenders.

Chief Laughlin: Informed Council that for many years Bob Schultz went down there to pick up trash and did a fantastic job in maintaining a clean area. Suspects this is another contributing factor.

Councilwoman Poley: Suggested a group of volunteers be sent to the boat ramp on the upcoming community cleanup day.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Light: As an alumnus, recognized Holy Spirit High School's upcoming 100-year anniversary celebration. Spoke in honor of Steve Ratzlaff, an Absecon resident who recently passed.

Council President Howell: Thanked Butch Stewart and Councilman Cavileer for their help with the 9/11 Remembrance. Mentioned that at the Remembrance an Irish couple expressed to her their admiration of the memorial and event. Also thanked Patrick Snyder, Nancy Hayes, Brian Conover, and Ed Vincent, and all public safety.

Motioned to adjourn: Councilman LaRotonda; Seconded: Councilman Cavileer
All in favor, no opposed

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 11/3/22