



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2025 6:30 PM
MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Alex Clark, Linda Evans, Steve Light, Christine Parker, Mike Sykes and Council President Richard DeRose

ABSENT: Councilman LaRotonda

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Marrone, City Solicitor John Amenhauser Esq., City Clerk Carie Crone, Engineer Ed Dennis, Police Chief J.R. Laughlin and Administrator Jessica Snyder.

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

PRESENTATION – Chief Laughlin – Life Saving Awards.

Chief Laughlin – First want to apologize to the men and women of the Absecon Police Department along with the Ambulance Squad. We've had these types of incidents in the past and myself and the administrative staff have made commitments to recognize those, but then time gets away from us and it never got done. Moving forward we're going to address them when they happen.

Tonight, we come together as a community and as witnesses to an incredible power of courage, passion and teamwork. We gather to honor real life moments when people took action and moments that made all the difference.

July 25th, 2025: Officers responded to a call on Ruth Court. Douglas and Kristen Owen heard their father/father-in-law fall, they rushed in to find him unconscious and started administering CPR.

Absecon Police Officers and Galloway EMS arrived and continued life saving efforts. Together they worked as one team and succeeded in regaining a pulse. He was transported to the hospital where his life was extended for a few more weeks, though he did pass away, the actions taken that day gave his family something truly meaningful – Time. The Owen's couldn't be here tonight, but asked to share their sincere gratitude to all who responded that night. In their words, "The efforts of the Police and EMS personnel gave us the space to process our father/father-in-law's passing with dignity and grace". It's our great honor to recognize the individuals who responded with urgency, skill and heart. Please join us in honoring the following recipients of the Life Saving Award: Galloway Township EMS personnel – Christina Caruso and Adam Dammam. Absecon Police Officers – Sgt. Levin and Officer Howell. Thank you for your bravery and giving the family a chance to say goodbye.

July 24th, 2025: Responded to the Home Depot for an unconscious individual. Police Officers and the Galloway Ambulance Squad found a man in medical distress inside his vehicle. Before first responders could even begin their work, help had already arrived. Retired Ventnor Fire Fighter Phil Boyle, who happened to be at the scene, did not hesitate. He removed the man from the vehicle, assessed the situation and began rendering aid – a reminder that spirit of service never retires. Absecon Police Officers took over working seamlessly with Galloway EMS Personnel. Together they issued life saving measures and were able to regain a pulse. Thanks to the swift and skilled response to all involved, the patient was stabilized and transported to the hospital. Proud to say, that man, Mr. Richard Everette is here with us tonight.

Please join me in recognizing the personnel – Galloway Twp. EMS Personnel – Anease Degennaro, Evan Frugoli, Evan Hendrickson and Tom Bailey. Retired Ventnor Fire Fighter Phil Boyle. Absecon Police Officers – Ptl. Bethea, Ptl. Barbagallo, Ptl. Lee and Ptl. Hartman. Thank you all for your outstanding service and your life saving that day.

These two incidents just one day apart speak volumes about the dedication of our First Responders, the courage of bystanders and the strength of our community. This is what true service looks like and thank you to all.

REGULAR MEETING

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.

- 159** Accepting the 2024 Municipal Audit.
- 160** Accepting the 2024 Audit Corrective Action Plan.
- 161** Authorizing to participate in the Bergen County Cooperative System to purchase one 2025 Ford F550 Cab & Chassis Crew Cab.
- 162** Certifying the Qualified Participants in the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department for the calendar year 2024.
- 163** Authorizing to prorate, cancel and refund taxes for 2025 and preliminary of 2026 on the property located at 704 Haddon Avenue.

PUBLIC PORTION – (Agenda items only)

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

No Discussion

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

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Motioned to move Consent Agenda: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Sykes

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$2,787,980.63

Motioned to accept: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilwoman Parker

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 8/7/2025

Special Meeting Minutes – 8/22/2025

Motioned to accept the Minutes: Councilman Clark; Seconded: Councilman Light

Roll Call: Clark – Yes; Evans – Yes; LaRotonda – Absent; Light – Yes; Parker – Yes; Sykes – Yes; DeRose – Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Sykes – Parks and Playgrounds: Finished up the Concerts in the Park last month, had a successful summer of concerts. Shout-out to Pete Higbee who did a great job organizing and being there for every concert. Also thank you to public works for making sure Heritage Park is cleaned up. Has an issue with a dedicated bench in the park under a pine tree being destroyed by sap, public works did a great job getting it moved all in one shot. The ladies involved with the bench expressed their thanks to council and public works for moving it. Reminder, school started today, keep an eye out for kids. Wished everyone a great school year.

Councilwoman Parker – Public Safety: Did not meet this month due to it falling on Labor Day. We had the Community outreach with the Homeless Task Force. The Police will be having a Movie in the Park in a couple weeks, which the Chief will elaborate on.

Chief Laughlin: I have worked here for over 25-years and am all in for the City. Had to make some decisions this year regarding Crossing Guard posts. We decided to eliminate the post at Faunce Landing and Shore Road, and we know that has upset some people. When a Crossing Guard is unable to make it to their post, the Police Department has to cover them. Last year we had to cover that post over forty times, and our Police Officers reported that not one child was crossed there. We evaluated that post as an intersection not safe for crossing children. Have a hard time filling these positions every year. Decided to move to Lisbon Ave. where there already is a Crossing Guard and a traffic light. People were concerned about it being a longer walk for the kids, it's only 1/10 of a mile. Administrative staff on Shore Road and Bayview Drive today for the first day of school, to direct the kids how to navigate their way to school, and will do so again tomorrow. School is back in session, so please give yourself a little more time in the mornings to avoid tragedies. Parents take the time to show them how to get to school, make sure they're wearing helmets, and teach them how to cross the road. Safety starts at home. Movie at the Field of Dream on September 27th – I challenge every family to come down and spend time with the members of the Police Department. Homeless collision last week Church by the Bay hosted a day providing service for the homeless. Very moving, don't think we realize how many people are in these situations. Provided services for housing and offered showers. Lastly, can't be prouder of those who were awarded tonight, this town is lucky to have the First Responders it has.

Councilman Light – Public Works – Did not meet due to holiday. Thanked Public Works, First Responders and City Hall Staff.

Councilman Clark – Finance: Did not meet in August, next meeting will be September 18th.

Councilwoman Evans – Community Affairs: Met tonight and discussed Creekfest, great meeting and great input. Still looking for volunteers. Shredding event in November.

Council President DeRose – 9/11 Committee will be hosting two ceremonies on 9/11 at the memorial. 9:30am geared to children and 6:30pm community event. Keynote speaker, former Navy Seal Frank Larken.

Mayor Thomas Marrone: Partnership with Galloway in the Homeless Task Force is absolutely valuable. Pastor Lou is a huge asset. Tonight, was another night that makes doing this work all worth it. Caught some flack about going with Galloway EMS over other services that bid, but we made a great decision – Galloway EMS response times are phenomenal. Thanked the Chief and Police Department for instilling heroic attitude into all of our Officers. It has been questioned about the need to hire more Officers and it's very clear that we do and thank you to Council, we made the right decision.

City Clerk: Monthly Report – July

- Construction Office: \$10,990.00
- Municipal Clerk's Office: \$4,836.15
- Municipal Court: \$13,388.91
- Tax Office: \$2,310,415.78

Engineer Ed Dennis: Shore Road still in final review phase with the County, the flooding recently reminds us the importance of this project, and hopefully in the next couple of weeks we'll have a definitive date on when we'll get this project out to bid. Signs are up for Ohio Avenue and got word that work will be starting soon. New flashing crosswalk sign at New Jersey and Highland will be up within the next month. Next two projects going out to bid are the Road Program and the raised crosswalk project and then they should be ready to go in the fall.

Council President DeRose – During a paving project do homeowners get notified, because no one on Ohio Avenue has been

E. Dennis – They should be, normally the contractor is required to do door hangers. It's a County project, so I can reach out to them to make sure that is going to happen.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

No Discussion

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

CLOSED SESSION - #164-2025

Contract Negotiation/Possible Litigation: Firehouse Complaint; Sale of City owned Lands; Alley Vacation

Personnel Matters: Jessica Snyder

J. Amernhauser: Pursuant to section 12B of the Open Public Meetings Act, City Council will know move into Closed Session to discuss the following items:

- Contract Negotiations/ Possible Litigation
 - Firehouse Complaint
 - 10th Avenue City Owned Land
 - Alley Vacation
 - Sale of City Owned Lands
- Personnel Matters
 - Jessica Snyder

Motioned to enter Closed Session: Councilman Light; Seconded: Councilman Sykes
All in Favor, None Opposed.

(Closed Session)

Motioned to adjourn Closed Session and re-enter the meeting: Councilman Light; Seconded:
Councilwoman Parker
All in Favor, None Opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 9-18-25