



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

**MARCH 20, 2014  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Chris Seher at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Rev. David Cobb, Absecon Presbyterian Church

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Vizthum, Camp, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Seher

**ABSENT:** Ring

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Armstrong, Tom Henshaw, Jessica Thomps

**PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW  
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Cain – Public Works** – The Engineer and Public Works will be getting together to decide the roads that need the most work for this upcoming year. NJ Transit plans on replacing the bus shelters in town. Leaf pick up begins 4/7 and the schedule will be on the website with instructions as well as ABTV.

**Council President Seher** – questioned the two resolutions for approval to release escrow funds  
**City Administrator, Tom Henshaw** – spoke to the engineer and he said everything was complete to release them

**Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety** – asked for resolution #76 –Supporting the Distracted Driving 2014 Crackdown to be added to the agenda for tonight. He asked the Chief to explain an award to be given.

**Police Chief Dave Risley** – announced that Officers Laurel Winkel and Dan Krause are being recognized for an incident that occurred in 2013. They will be recognized locally as well as nationally in Washington, DC on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the White House and will meet the President.

**Mayor** – is hoping the event gets recorded so it can go on our website

Motion to add Res. #76 to the agenda – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips  
All were in favor.

**Councilman Phillips – Parks & Playground** – the field scheduling is almost complete. Concerts in the Park schedule is beginning and the bands will be contacted. Lights in the ballparks will be repaired soon. Recognized the boys’ basketball team for their accomplishments and invited residents

to come out and support them this weekend. They discussed Ord. #5 dealing with background checks and the committee agreed that the appeal process should be kept in.

**Mayor** – thought it could still be moved on subject to the change of the appeal process. He contacted JIF to get advice with this and he received an email including Ocean City's ordinance that had an appeal process but more extensive criteria. Was told that there is a split among municipalities having the appeal clause. He is in favor of the ordinance, but feels there should be no appeal process in it.

**Tim Maguire, City Solicitor** – stated that it's not in the State statute or the administrative code of the State to have an appeal process. He can see why some cities that have it other don't.

**Council President Seher** – there are valid points on both sides. He sensed the majority wanted to have it in so he suggested that Tom, Tim and Frank come up with some language for an appeal process being added to the ordinance.

It was decided to table Ord. #5

**Councilman Camp** – Finance – read the budget highlights for 2014. We have reduced our expenditures and we will be able to have no tax rate increase for the City's portion. Res. #72 is on tonight's agenda to introduce it and a public hearing will be held on 4/17.

**Councilwoman Horton** – gave Councilman Ring's Community Affairs report by announcing upcoming events. Economic Development did not meet this week and her next meeting is 4/3 at 6:30 p.m. Green Day cleanup is scheduled for 4/26

**Mayor Armstrong** – the budget will be put on the website by next week. The fairness hearing before Judge Isman was today for our settlement agreement with Visions, as well as the court's review of our amended fair share housing plan. At the conclusion, the Judge approved the settlement as well as our amended fair share housing plan. As a result, the City will be protected against any possible future builder's remedy lawsuits for a period of ten years. Our legal budget will be much lower this year than last. He also addressed the settlement of the PBA negotiations and wanted to clear up some statements that were made in last week's Current that were incorrect. He then read his article that would be coming out in this week's edition.

**City Administrator, Tom Henshaw** – thanked Public Works for their good work in snow removal this week. He has contacted AC Electric asking for a utility pole on Faunce Landing Road so we can install the cameras. Explained the Community Block Grant and what we should include this year. It's suggested that \$13,000 go towards senior transportation, which has been funded for the past few years and the remaining \$35,642.95 into housing rehab. It's been a good program since it's started.

All were in favor to continue this program and allocate these funds by Council  
Discussed Res. #70 having the County do Aerial Mosquito spraying

**Jessica Thompson, CFO** – explained Res. #71 – additional temporary budget appropriations to get us through April and Ord. #6 – to exceed the budget appropriation limits and establish a cap bank. We do this every year even though we are below the cap number but do it just in case we need to. It would have allowed us to spend \$846,000 more than we did this year.

**Council President Seher** – thanked Jess again for her work on this budget and we were able to spend less time going line by line. He discussed issues brought up by ABCD about the tree trimming in the clock tower parking lot area and also repaving the municipal parking lot.

**Tom Henshaw** – the trees were cut already.

**Council President Seher** – received correspondence from an organization called Family Promise who would like to give a brief presentation in the future. The Absecon Cultural Alliance Club will continue their work this summer and will look for funding to set off costs. Attended a County meeting that discussed tourism, which has affected this whole area. Asked that March 27<sup>th</sup> be designated as Stanley W. Marzyk Day in Absecon and commend Mr. Jim Mogan as the recipient this year of his reward.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Municipal Court - \$13,208.75  
Tax Collection - \$2,999,844.08  
Construction Office - \$2,489  
Municipal Clerk - \$5,626.14

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum  
All were in favor.

**Harry Hartman – 632 Woodland Ave.** – commended all for the great work on the budget this year. He's concerned the general public not knowing where the money is being spent with the bond we will be getting. Wanted to know the total city debt, which is \$3,145,000. Thinks we should push debt down before adding more on it and to seriously look into what is being purchased.

**Council President Seher** – we usually had a “wish list” but this year we talked and said we can't do that this year. The municipal sign is the one item we are kicking around. We are trying to watch every dollar. We have told everyone we are keeping the tax rate flat this year. He compared it to homeowners; most people can't pay cash for their homes and have to get a mortgage.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
All were in favor.

**2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

- 06 An Ordinance of the City of Absecon, to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

Motion for introduction – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

- 07 Re-Appropriating \$79,114.59 proceeds of obligation not needed for their original purposes to provide for building improvements and recording and video equipment.

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING**

- 05 Authorizing Criminal History Record Background Checks for employees and volunteers involved with City Programs or Services that can/will have contact with minors.

**TABLED**

## CONSENT AGENDA

- 70 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an inter-local agreement with Atlantic County for Aerial Mosquito Spraying.
- 71 Authorizing additional temporary budget appropriations for the 2014 Current Fund.
- 72 Authorizing the introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget.
- 73 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by Holy Spirit High School.
- 74 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by Nancy Carhart and Maria Garcia.
- 75 Affirming the Civil Rights Policy with respect to all officials, appointees, employees, prospective employees, volunteers, independent contractors, and members of the public that come into contact with municipal employees and volunteers.
- 76 Supporting the Distracted Driving 2014 Crackdown April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

### APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,913,156.21

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Horton  
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 3/6/2014

Closed Session as to form and content only – 3/6/2014

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

Entered into the record the recommendation for Council to approve a Proclamation of March 27, 2014 as being Stanley W. Marczyk Day in Absecon and further commendation to Jim Mogan as recipient of the Stanley W. Marczyk Foundation Distinguished Recognition Award.

### PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
All were in favor.  
No public comment.  
Motion to close public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips  
All were in favor.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp  
All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_