



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

**MAY 1, 2014  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Carol Hutchinson, Bethany St. John's United Methodist Church

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Ring

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Armstrong; City Administrator, Tom Henshaw; CFO, Jessica Thompson; Deputy Clerk, Jessica Snyder

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

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Cain – Public Works** – the 2013 Road Program will begin the last week of May. There is a pedestrian crosswalk at the corner of Shore Rd. and Bolton Avenue, which will enable people to safely cross over to go to the playground at Franklin Field.

**Eddie Dennis, City Engineer** – explained how the road program works and why 2013 is getting done late. 3 miles of roads will be getting resurfaced.

**Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety** – no report – his next meeting will be 5/6 @ 7 p.m.

**Councilman Phillips – Parks & Playground** – Ordinance #10 is on agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading tonight.

**Mayor Armstrong** – it's a total makeover of our prior ordinance, which sets forth the conditions under which groups may apply for use of the fields, the priority for local groups, and the standards for use of the fields, coaches, players etc. Ordinance #5 deals with the background checks that are now required.

**Councilman Phillips** – we did discuss Ord. #5 at our meeting and we believe the ordinance on the background checks is ready for introduction tonight. We are satisfied on how it is written.

**Council President Seher** - hopes to then be able to have a shared service agreement with Galloway to have an employee there do our checks.

**Councilman Camp – Finance** – announced Pep Boys is coming next to the CVS

**Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development** – thanked all the residents who helped with the clean up day. The Galloway Green Team is sponsoring a green fest on 5/17 @ 10:00 a.m. Absecon Green Team and ABCD will be attending promoting green initiatives. The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for 5/26 @ 9:30 a.m. The City Wide Yard Sale is 6/7. The Art Alliance will be at the library

on 5/8 @ 6:30 p.m. and then on 5/15 at the Presbyterian Church @ 6:30 p.m. and local resident Bob Preston, a landscape architect will assist in designing gardens. The Historical Society will have Irish/Scottish and American tunes on 5/10 @ 2 p.m. at Howlett Hall. The grand opening of The Flying Cloud, formerly Up the Creek Restaurant is 5/2 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Mayor Armstrong** – discussed his crusade with NJDOT and traffic conditions on Route 30 at Turner Avenue at the entrance to the Shores. It's his neighborhood so he is familiar with the location. There have been four accidents this year so far at or near that intersection. Eddie contacted the DOT and in order for them to study it, they require the city to commit to pay 25% of the costs of any improvements that might be dictated as a result of that study. He will be doing an article this week in the Current on this. The DOT will be referring this to their traffic management safety committee and they will make a determination based on what we have provided to them. If they deem it unsafe, they will have recourse to federal funds to provide for improvements. He suggested a sign with a flashing light be installed in the area of Glenn Insurance as well as the other side saying there is a red light up ahead. The bridge going into AC on Route 30 has one there.

**Eddie** – he tried to get a ballpark figure to see what Council might be looking at to change that traffic signal.

**Councilwoman Cain** –at her meeting, Lloyd came up with delaying the timing of the light a little bit.

**Administrator, Tom Henshaw** – he is working with Pete Higbee next week to finalize the advertising of the concerts in the park.

**Jessica Thompson, CFO** – we have 3 Chapter 159 budget insertions on the agenda tonight, which will add to the budget that was adopted. We will be adding some grant money and she explained Resolutions 100, 101 and 102. 103 allows us to enter into the agreement with the church for the senior program, which is done annually. We received the new ABTV server installed and the meetings should be done live soon. The new sound system is supposed to get installed next Wednesday.

**Councilman Vizthum** – explained Resolution 99 which will give the two marinas a permit for them taking their time to sell daily boat ramp permits for us when we are not open and this gives them the ability to use the ramp legally.

**Mayor** – Resolution 104 was explained. The Governor and legislation has passed a placement cap on arbitration awards at 2%, which ended 4/1, but an extension is waiting to be passed. The League of Municipalities is asking to extend this legislation so our resolution is on the agenda for consideration to join in on this. It's a tool necessary to even the playing field in negotiations.

**Eddie Dennis** – we are moving forward on the two FEMA projects for Turner Avenue and Absecon Creek on Faunce Landing Road. They are in the design phase and working with the regulatory agencies and hopes to have permitting in summer and construction to start before winter.

**Council President Seher** – the traffic study regarding the full interchange of the Parkway and Route 30 came back and said it wasn't warranted. He hopes they were done for exits 41 and 44. They should be public records so he asked Eddie to see if he could find the reports.

**Mayor** – received a letter from Dennis Levinson's office and he is supporting the full interchange at Exit 40. Mayor Purdy from Galloway and he are putting a resolution together for all the municipalities in Atlantic County to pass as well as Cape May County. It's an issue that won't go away.

**Council President Seher** – asked the Police Chief, Dave Risley for an update on the cameras.

**Chief Risley** – the ones at the gazebo are installed and the ones at the bulkhead are still in the process. We are waiting for the electric company to finalize the electric pole and then Comcast will hook up the service to connect the cameras to the police dept. via the Internet. He hopes within 30 days it will be completed. We need to buy a DVR and 2 new monitors also.

**Council President Seher** – he announced a special joint meeting Wed. 5/14 at 7 p.m. with the Absecon School Board at the school library. COAH round 3 ruling came out and our requirement has gone up by about 20% from around 140 to around 170. At the next meeting, Family Promise was

invited to talk about their program for homeless women and children. He thanked Frank and his committee of Parks & Playground on the ordinances to be passed. He thanked the Mayor for working with DOT and the Turner Avenue problems. Atlantic County is moving with architectural and engineering designing with the centralized dispatch.

**Councilman Vizthum** – not too optimistic that it will be done soon. He last heard that Stockton was willing to donate land if they could get a new police barracks out of it and that may not happen.

**Councilman Phillips** – the building trades are pushing for it, because it would put a lot of people to work. He hopes in 5 years it would happen.

**Council President Seher** – hopefully when it happens, Absecon agrees to be part of it. Another example of shared services that is in the Senate and Assembly relates to passing a requirement to have countywide tax assessments and abolishing local municipal level tax assessments. He doesn't know enough about it to say how he feels yet. Asked the status of the County helping us look into some "calming effects" of traffic on Pitney Road where the school is and Crestview Ave.

**City Administrator, Tom Henshaw** – the County sent us a letter that the work would cost about \$30,000 and they want us to pick up 50% of that cost.

**Mayor Armstrong** – he feels that traffic light will take a couple of years. Suggested that maybe an enhanced safety crosswalk could be installed with signage. Maybe with the Visions project a light will happen but there are conditions on distances between lights and it's not far from the five corners light.

**Eddie Dennis** – there are warrants related to traffic signals and locations of crosswalks too. A lot of latitude is given when a school or park nearby. He doesn't know what work is included in the \$30,000 they proposed. There are options, but they are county roads.

**Councilwoman Cain** - Described what Linwood has near their ball fields as well as Pleasantville, Ocean City and other towns.

**Councilwoman Horton** – asked if possibly there are grants from the DOT.

**Council President Seher** - We don't know what kind of work we are talking about yet. We should meet with the County Engineer. Asked Eddie Dennis to work with the Public Safety Committee on this. By next meeting, everything for the Council meeting agenda should be put on the website.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Jerald Hoenes – 740 Shelburne Ave.** – explained an article about Little Egg Harbor, who is near exit 58 and Stafford, who has interchange exit 63 on the parkway. He read some excerpts from the articles. He would like to have the reports of the facts that showed that exit 40 wasn't critical.

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

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

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

Motion for introduction – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

## 2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION

- 10** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 250 – Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Areas in its entirety

Motion for second reading – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips

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

Motion to open to the public for comment – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

**Councilman Phillips** – asked that Resolution #104 be pulled from the consent agenda and have a separate vote.

- 99** Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits to Local Marinas.
- 100** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$15,407.00 from the Atlantic County Municipal Alliance.
- 101** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$342,675.00 from the State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Turner Avenue and Absecon Blvd. drainage improvements.
- 102** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$436,275.00 for the State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Absecon Creek Waterfront Shore Protection Improvement.
- 103** Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the United Methodist Church for the Community Center for Senior Citizens.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Camp

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

- 104** Calling on the New Jersey Legislature to make permanent the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards.

Motion to approve: Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, no; Cain, yes; Phillips, no; Seher, yes

## APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 397,594.91

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 4/3/2014 and 4/17/2014

Closed Session as to form and content only – 4/3/2014

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, abstain on 4/3 yes on 4/17; Camp, ab 4/3 yes 4/17; Horton, yes; Cain, 4/3 yes ab 4/17; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

## PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

**Jerald Hoenes – 740 Shelburne Ave.** – he addressed some of the comments made. He doesn't like the idea of speed bumps because they are noisy and residents will hear them all night long. The residents should be asked first. He always felt there should be a survey done of the residents to see what kind of businesses they would patronize. The road from Turner Ave. to Shore Road is a problem. He is for the 2% cap on arbitration awards. He observed the school traffic and he feels with two crossing guards there is enough breaks made for traffic to get out. You can't get anywhere fast though. People should carpool. There is a blinking light on Pitney Road when school is in session that warns people.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

## CLOSED SESSION - #105-2014

**Attorney Tim Maguire** – stated the reason for closed session is a personnel matter involving employment appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of appointment or evaluation of performance concerning a municipal employee. It's a contractually mandated evaluation. It is expected to be 30-45 minutes long.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

**Attorney Tim Maguire** – we are now in open session and the time is 9:35 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

  
Carie Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5/15/14