



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

**JUNE 5, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – William Williams III, Asbury United Methodist Church, Atlantic City

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong, City Solicitor, Tim Maguire, CFO, Jessica Thompson; City Clerk, Carie Crone, City Engineer, Eddie Dennis

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

PRESENTATION – Mayor honored 3 members of our community on the eve of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy, France. They are Charlie Campbell; Bob Noble and Joe Robinson for their participation in that world-changing event. He explained what each one experienced during that war. He thanked them and told them how grateful we are. He presented each of them a plaque.

CLOSED SESSION – 112-2014

Attorney Tim Maguire – stated the reason as contract negotiations with the PBA. It should last about 10 minutes, after which the public meeting will reconvene.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum
All were in favor.

Tim Maguire – we discussed the matter announced earlier regarding the PBA contract. Action will be taken later on in the meeting by resolution.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works – next meeting is 6/19 at 3:30 p.m. Spoke about resolutions #114, 117 and 118.

Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety – they met this past Tuesday and the ambulance squad was discussed and the amount of monthly calls they get. President Bruner was there and introduced himself and is training now and turning out more volunteers. Things seem to be moving along nicely. A part-time dispatcher is needed to be hired, so he asked that it be considered to add two resolutions to the agenda tonight; Res. #125 and 126. The DARE graduation was held and Lt. DeRitis did an outstanding job once again. Awards will be given out at the 6/19 meeting. Cameras are being moved on, as well as the boat ramp work. He spoke about Res. #115 also, that we have done for years. He thanked the Mayor for honoring the men at tonight's meeting. We will also vote on res #122 and 124.

Councilman Phillips – Parks & Playground – the concert schedule is complete and flyers are up. Thanked all the sponsors. They spoke about the wagon wheel at the baseball fields and the other fields that all need some maintenance as to drainage problems and cosmetics. He hopes to put some money in next year's budget to fix some of the problems. ASAC applied to AtlantiCare who matches money to get a new defibrillator for down at the field. He thinks their cost is \$600 and feels it's a great idea to have them. United Way will be installing an early-learning center starting 6/20 at Heritage Park. The citizen of the year dinner is 6/11 and will honor Pete Higbee.

Councilman Ring – AtlanticCare does this as an incentive for people to get them. They do have a life span and don't last forever.

Council President, Seher – asked Jessica to make sure that someone from the City is overseeing them from a liability standpoint.

Councilman Camp – Finance – his next meeting is on 6/19 @ 6 p.m. He spoke about res. #113, 119, 120, 121 and 123. Spoke about the letter from Assemblyman Chris Brown regarding property tax relief and asking us to support it and he then read it. Congratulated the 2014 HSHS graduates.

Council President, Seher – we've done this before and he asked to attend the next meeting and we can have a resolution ready for that night too.

Councilman Ring – Community Affairs – thanked everyone involved in the Memorial Day parade, which was a great success. He echoed Jim's comments and thanked the Mayor for tonight's presentation. Announced upcoming events in the area. Spoke about res. #116. His next mtg is 7/3.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – they met tonight and discussed the access path to connect Absecon Creek with the Central Business District. The property owner is still in the process of reaching out to the bank to release from the mortgage a historical trust, which regulates the use of the property. They discussed the possible sale of land to promote residential growth in town. The possible downtown façade upgrades will be discussed at the 6/25 ABCD meeting. Absecon Gardens is working on their landscaping and moving along with completing the project. There is a possible buyer for the old Fulton Bank and old Dunkin Donuts sites on Mill Road. Thanked the Green Team for coming to the Marsh School last night and helped with plantings. She asked residents to buy locally when they can. Her next meeting is 7/3.

Mayor – he sent correspondence today regarding a recent personnel change in the city. As we know, Tom Henshaw has left to take a full-time position as Administrator in Wildwood Crest. We wish him well with this new opportunity. In the interim, Council has previously designated our CFO to undertake the responsibilities when the administrator is not present. He asked that she be appointed and if so, give additional hours to a part-time employee in the finance office to help. Talked about the economy and ways to promote business development in Absecon and has had discussions with Dennis Levinson about the County problems as well.

Councilman Camp – suggested we look into possibly qualifying for a lower sales tax program.

Attorney Maguire – recently those programs have been cut back and Pleasantville even lost some or even all of that designation. It would be a struggle to get it most likely.

Council President Seher – announced the Mayor has been appointed to the ACIA and he thanked him for tonight's presentation to the Veteran's.

CFO, Jessica Thompson – thanked everyone for considering her for the position of Administrator.

Council President, Seher – he read Tom’s letter to Council. He wanted to form an ad-hoc committee to review the Mayor’s recommendation of appointment of Jessica Thompson and work with some terms and conditions in a contract. He suggested the Finance Chair, Community Affairs Chair and Economic Development Chair serve together on that committee; that would be Don Camp, Mike Ring and Kim Horton. He thanked Tom for his service to the City and wished him the best in Wildwood Crest. There has been some activity on zoning, C.C.O fee revisions and we talked about in our Friday meeting.

Jessica – the finance committee hasn’t met yet so we will at the next one.

Council President, Seher – we talked about making sure the appropriate committees review the standard operating procedures 1 and 2 for Public Works as well as the Police Dept.

Mayor – he had spoken to Mr. Henshaw about this and we are close to finalizing a proposed SOP, which would be considered by Public Safety and Public Works committees. Before he left, Tom said, Lloyd would like to share one comment with us, so it should be put together shortly.

Council President, Seher – mentioned the third round COAH obligations for the City and how they might not be finalized until November. We can talk about consequences to the city, but we won’t know the final numbers yet.

City Engineer, Eddie Dennis – had a pre-construction meeting Wed. for the 2013 road program and that work will start on 6/16 on Lisbon Avenue, Birch Hill and Morton Avenue. A minor drainage upgrade on Davis Ave. is part of that project as well. Upgrades to the tennis courts are almost ready to go out to bid and then the Mill Road & NJ Ave. intersection will go out to bid. We then have the 2014 road program, which is in design now and hopes to have it out to bid by mid summer. They are working on permit documents for the two FEMA grants we received; one at Turner Avenue and the old Kunkley property. He hopes to have that completed by the Fall. He then talked about the generator for City Hall and the Veteran’s sign. The original location of the sign has been shelved. The County suggested another spot since the original one was on the median on NJ Avenue, but there are site triangle issues. We are considering another location and he will present them to the appropriate committee and if acceptable, will move on. They wouldn’t be on a County right-of-way either. One is on City property and one on private property, and would have to see approval from that owner. It will go to the Public Safety committee.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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.

- 113 Granting a Raffle License to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.
- 114 Authorizing the acceptance of, and when authorized, the release of various street opening permit security deposits.
- 115 Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$1,200.00 from the State of New Jersey Cops in Shops.
- 116 Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$16,069.50 from the State of New Jersey Clean Communities.

- 117 Authorizing the continuance of an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for the provision of motor fuel.
- 118 Authorizing participation in the National Cooperative Contract with National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA).
- 119 Authorizing the release of Escrow funds posted by Joseph Potkay.
- 120 Authorizing the release of a Maintenance Bond posted by John Rifici.
- 121 Authorizing the release of a Maintenance Guarantee posted by Schiff Enterprises.
- 122 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Local 77, Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc. for a four-year labor agreement.
- 123 Authorizing the 2014 salaries for non-union employees.
- 124 Authorizing the need to advertise for a part time Fire Inspector.
- 125 Accepting a volunteer Firefighter into the Absecon City Fire Department, namely Christian Foti.
- 126 Authorizing the City Administrator to advertise for part-time Tele-Communicators.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Phillips

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 347,711.84

Motion to approve - Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, except M0201; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 5/15/2014

Motion to approve - Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____