



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

**JULY 3, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Reverend Blessings Magomero, Salem United Methodist Church, Pleasantville

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vizthum, Horton, Ring, Seher

ABSENT: Camp, Cain, Phillips

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

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

REPORTS

Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety – meeting has been rescheduled to 7/8 @ 7 pm. Spoke about rash of burglaries in sheds and the marina along Shore Road and the waterway. People should lock up everything and keep an eye out.

Councilwoman Horton for Parks & Playgrounds – concerts are continuing and they meet next Tuesday, 7/15 at 7 p.m.

Councilman Ring – asked Council members to announce there is a suggestion box in the concession stand for anyone to drop a note in when they announce the band at the beginning of the concert.

Councilman Vizthum for Finance – they will meet on 7/17 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Ring – Community Affairs – wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July. AC fireworks have been postponed until Sunday evening. Hoping to bring a resolution against possible casinos outside the state. Besides the burglaries, there are phone scams going around. Residents need to be aware. The ambulance service is going to be changing and that will be discussed at the Public Safety meeting on the 8th. An article will be in the Current this coming week and hopefully they will come to a council meeting to get it out there too.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – met tonight and still discussing possible sale of city lands to promote residential growth. They prepared a questionnaire for businesses to see if they would be interested in low interest loans for their businesses. Absecon Gardens status was discussed. On June 25th there was an ABCD meeting and a subcommittee will be made to help promote business. If there are concerns, they want to rectify them. The old ball field site has a new developer and they are working on a potential business. She encouraged local shopping to all.

Mayor John Armstrong – spoke about resolution on the agenda urging the Turnpike Authority to reconsider its decision not to pursue a full interchange at Rt. 30 and Parkway exit 40. Other municipalities are also doing this. He has had discussions with Senator Whelan and hopes to meet with DOT to talk about the traffic safety issues on the White Horse Pike as well as discussing municipal aid and dredging of the creek. He attended his first meeting as a Commissioner of the Atlantic County Improvement Authority and they entered into a lease agreement with a private entity and Atlantic City for locations on the boardwalk. A sublease was done with an operator that would place new lighting on the boardwalk and security features and an audio-visual system. The ad-hoc committee met and considered his suggestion of Jessica Thompson becoming the new administrator, as well as her capacity of CFO. They proposed a resolution with the agreement, which would provide for a raise of \$30,000, above her compensation as CFO. The total compensation would be somewhat in excess of \$112,000. He doesn't feel we warrant a full-time administrator with our size town.

Lt. J.R. Laughlin – spoke about the burglaries and stressed to people to lock everything up and have good lighting around their property at night. Other towns are dealing with this problem too so everyone needs to lookout for each other also. They have some leads and they hope to solve it soon.

Jessica Thompson – thanked council for their confidence in her. Met with Galloway Township and the background check program is getting started. Signs have been ordered for the Pitney Field usage. Public Works – next meeting there should be a resolution authorizing the purchase of a loader. The new ABTV camera is here and we are just waiting for adapters. Two ordinances will be coming up soon – one to update the hotel/motel ordinance and limiting the time they need to keep their identification records; and the finance committee is looking to update our mercantile license ordinance.

Carie – The liquor licenses are ready and once the resolution gets approved tonight, they will be mailed to the State and they will be issued.

Eddie Dennis – the 2013 road program is under construction. Lisbon Ave is well under way and then Morton and Birch Hill will be included. The drainage work on Davis Ave. is completed also.

Council President Seher – there are evidently two updates needed in the codebook. It still says the Mayor appoints the School Board, but we elect them now. In addition, it's the committee reports being written and submitted to council. He asked Tim to look at these two ordinances.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Rob Reid – 366 Upland Ave. - is president of Absecon Historical Society – wanted to share that Atlantic County provided grant money to Galloway Township Historical Society to help us fund putting historical photographs in the lobby of the Absecon Post Office since it's shared town. There are 13 so far hanging up. He did meet with the developer of the Memorial Field but he was not at liberty to say whom yet because they are still in negotiations; but he is hoping to put a large drugstore with drive-thru; a fast food restaurant and a grocery store.

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

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 11 An Ordinance amending Chapter 224, Absecon Development Ordinance and the Zoning Map creating the Special Needs Housing Development District (SNHD)

Motion for introduction made by Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

Rob Reid – explained the need for this ordinance. It's in keeping with our obligation for our affordable housing requirements. They propose 24 – 1-bedroom units on the Mill Road property across the street from City Hall and behind the American Legion for people with special needs and will try to market it to veterans only since it's close to the Legion. The other site would also be 24 – 1-bedroom units, also for special needs people on Route 9, just north of the wetlands and HSHS. This developer is called Community Quest and they will be spending money to apply for grants. They have other homes in town already and he knows of no negative issues that have arisen yet from those.

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

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.

- 131** Consenting to the Mayor's appointment of Jessica Thompson as City Administrator and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an employment agreement between the City of Absecon and Jessica Thompson to serve in that capacity.
- 132** Calling upon the State of New Jersey Turnpike Authority to establish a full interchange at Milepost 40 on the Garden State Parkway in order to serve the Route 30 Corridor, including the residents and businesses of Absecon, and to provide additional capacity for emergency evacuation of Atlantic County Communities.
- 133** Renewing Alcoholic Beverage Licenses within the City of Absecon.

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

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$255,063.17

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Horton, yes, abstain on H0095; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of 6/19/14

Motion to approve - Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, abstain; Horton, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____