



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

**AUGUST 7, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Heather Stenburg-Sugden, Reformation Lutheran Church, Galloway

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Ring

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

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

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works – has not had a meeting, next one is 8/21 @ 3:30. Eddie will be giving his report later on.

Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety – reported on the yearly on the \$5,000 grant that we receive for the Drive Sober campaign. His meeting was cancelled due to National Night Out, which was a huge success. Everyone did a great job.

Police Chief Risley – they are trying to address the problem of pedestrians crossing on the highways and the fatalities that have occurred. They are working with the State Traffic Highway Safety Committee so a public safety announcement was suggested. It will be a 30 second viewing on TV40 and it will address some of the issues. Hopefully it will be out in a couple of weeks. He thanked Lt. DeRitis who organized the National Night Out, he did a great job as always.

Jim – we will also try to put that announcement on ABTV.

Councilman Camp – brought up the idea of putting up fencing

Councilman Phillips - Parks & Playgrounds – he gave his report at the 7/17 mtg. The last concert is this Sunday. They have read the suggestions and will try to see what they can do.

Council President Seher – thanked Kim for her participation at the concerts. He asked Frank for an update on the repairs at the Wagon Wheel at the ballfields.

Frank – they have had discussions on it and they do need some upgrades such as fencing, netting and other cosmetic issues. Money is an issue so if we can't get it done this year, maybe it will be

looked at in next year's budget. The drainage problems would need reconstruction. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts, he suggested they attend their next meeting on 8/19 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Camp for Finance – thanked Lt. DeRitis for his work done for National Night Out. He got a call from a resident who is a retired accountant and he complimented us on keeping the tax rate down. Police overtime was mentioned as a concern and they are over \$8,000 as of this time last year. We have an officer out due to surgery; one on military leave and a salary increase was put into effect. The suggestion of hiring Class 2 officers, who are already trained, that could do some of the work at a lower rate. We could also look into the class levels. Galloway has corporals, who become that after officer and then they become sergeant. That could save money too.

Councilwoman Horton (for Mike Ring) – Community Affairs – thanked DeRitis for National Night Out. Announced some upcoming events in town, as well as the senior center events.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – discussion was held on possibly selling city land and maybe start with the old Girl Scout Lodge on Chelsea Road. ABCD would like to meet with the Economic Development Committee. Their next meeting is 9/4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mayor John Armstrong – echoed the comments on National Night Out. He has attended meetings in regards to the casino closings; the expansion of gambling in other towns and other county issues.

Jessica Thompson – the salary ordinance is on tonight's agenda. The largest change is the police positions due to contract obligations. We will be executing a contract renewing the city with Atlantic County JIF and a resolution tonight will be appointing her the alternate Fund Committee for JIF. We will be appointing part-time tele-communicators and changing some pay rates.

Eddie Dennis – the 2013 road program is substantially complete. It included Morton Ave., Birch Hill and Lisbon Avenues. He is working on the numbers now to see how much money we have left to add some additional work at other locations. The tennis courts are a separate bid project. We received \$75,000 towards a generator for City Hall. It's an energy allocation grant and he thinks it can only be spent on something related to energy.

Council President Seher – we have finally received the 2005 draft report analysis for the exits 41 and 44 Parkway Interchange, which was done by an OPRA request. He will be reviewing it.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor. No public comment.

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

14 Establishing Salary Ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion to introduce – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

Jessica – we are updating salary ranges to make sure all employees' salaries fall within the correct range. The most important change for this one is that we need to put all the new levels of the police dept. that came from the contract negotiations and a change to the Administrator position,

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

2014 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

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

Mayor – explained this was drafted for the purpose of establishing zoning standards for two city owned properties; one on Mill Road across from city hall and behind the Legion and the other on New Road diagonally across from the car wash. Those proposed properties are in our Fair Share Housing Plan. We were anticipated moving forward with those two projects and will be discussing it in closed session later. This draft ordinance calls for the developments to be for special needs housing and in the current negotiations with the developer it's in question now.

TABLED

- 12** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 216-Hotel and Motel Registration, reducing the period required for certain document retention.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

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 – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

- 13** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 19-Education, Board of, deleting section 2-appointments; vacancies, and reserving the same for future use.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

Council President Seher - explained that board members are not an appointed position anymore and our ordinance needs to be changed.

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

2014 RESOLUTIONS

- 135** Supporting the Absecon Education Foundation's annual Pedal, Paddle, Run.
- 136** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$5,000.00 from the State of New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety.
- 137** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2014 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$200.00 from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority.
- 138** Authorizing the execution of a contract renewing membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 139** Appointing an alternate fund commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.
- 140** Appointing Part-Time Tele-Communicators and changing pay rates for current Part-Time Tele-Communicators.

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.

Resolutions #135 to #140 are in the consent agenda.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Phillips

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 1,721,231.05

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/3/2014

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/17/2014

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes 7/3; abstain 7/17; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, abstain 7/3; yes 7/17; Phillips, abstain 7/3 yes 7/17; Seher, yes

Councilman Camp – would like to look into check-cashing places doing business in buying and selling of jewelry, which might not be approved.

It will be go to the Public Safety committee for review and the Police dept. as well.

Council President Seher – explained a check scam that is going around that people should be aware of

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney, Tim Maguire – stated the reasons as:

1. Special Needs Housing Zone and terms of a contract
2. Absecon Gardens and the developer's agreement
3. Municipal Court matter in which the City filed a complaint against one of the local property owners

Action may be taken after closed session.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

Tim Maguire - it's 9:03 p.m. and the three items discussed were those announced earlier.

A motion was needed to allow the Mayor to sign the agreement with Cross Fit gym.

Motion was made by Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____