



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

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Bernice Prescott, St. James, AME Church, Atlantic City, NJ

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Phillips, Mayor Armstrong

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

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

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works – no report – next meeting is 9/17 not the 18th @ 3:30 p.m.

Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety – met Tuesday and reports were given. The cameras and equipment purchased has been put in place and it is being tied in and should be operational shortly. Some burglaries occurred in town, but due to good detective work, they made an arrest. The carpet in dispatch is working out great. EMS has had just over 1,000 calls so far for the year; a little less than usual. As of 9/1, they were a 24-hour service without the help of Galloway. Letters should go out next week for the subscription program. They are back up to 3 ambulances. The fire dept. had a computer issue and they are looking into getting it replaced. They will be asking for resolution to be done for a new fire inspector that has been decided on. A new member has started the firefighter I class. The Chief thanked everyone who was involved in a house fire the other day.

Council President, Seher – commented on the public safety announcement that Chief Risley is in
Councilman Ring- Parks & Playgrounds – lights are being repaired and looked into and they are working on a priority list for the repairs to the fields.

Councilman Camp – Finance – police overtime is running about the same as last year and the next meeting is 9/18 @ 6 p.m. Thanked everyone for their help and condolences on the passing of his wife.

Councilman Ring – Community Affairs – tomorrow the Attales school is doing the ice bucket challenge @ 2 p.m. Memorial for 9/11 will be on 9/10 at the park in front of the firehouse. It is being done so the flags will be on display all day on Thursday. On 9/20 the Presbyterian Church is having a yard sale as well as the Legion Beef & Beer that night from 4-7 p.m. The Peddle Paddle Run is 9/27

and the Seton church will have their fall fun day that day too and there is an Italian festival at Smithville. The senior center talk will be held on 9/23 regarding the new EMS plan. His next meeting is 10/2.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – 11 business owners are interested in participating in the building façade upgrades and funding is being looked into. They discussed the Girl Scouts lodge and they recommend demolishing it; it's an eyesore and a hazard now and being right next to a playground is not good. This would create two buildable lots and then sold.

Council President, Seher – asked for a consensus of Council on this matter. There was no further discussion and all agreed on taking it down. It was suggested to talk to Lloyd Jones in Public Works since he had looked into it before. The American Legion has used part of the city lot on Mill Road north of their building for years. There was never an agreement made and they have used it for a sign, parking, benches and tables, sheds and barbeque pit. The Legion now plans to replace the sign but to get a permit they need formal authorization to use that area. She then read off some terms. The next meeting is 10/2. The 9/11 Committee plans on attending the 9/18 meeting for a presentation for possible locations for the piece of steel from the World Trade Center. The Green Team discussed the FEMA grant and the Kunkley property and asked Ed if they could be involved with the plans.

Council President, Seher – asked for a motion to add Res. #146 authorizing the Administrator to advertise for the position for a part-time finance specialist to the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

He discussed the process of taking minutes from the Committee meetings. An ordinance is in the works and being reviewed. Reported on the traffic study on the parkway exits 40, 42 & 44 and he feels it was rigged. 42 was inevitable to be completed with the new police barracks so 40 and 44 were then looked into. Studies were done at rush hours and in October when things slow down and even with those counts we still had worse traffic.

Councilwoman Horton – had attended a meeting held in Galloway and was told that casino patrons use the Expressway and not the White Horse Pike.

Jessica Thompson – she handed out to council job descriptions of everyone except the police dept. The Recycling coordinator sent out flyers to schools to be handed out for the rules of recycling.

Ed Dennis – the old piles at the Kunkley property will be started the week of 9/15 and be done by the end of the week.

Councilman Vizthum – there is a sunken boat in the water as you go to the other marina and asked if that would be raised.

Ed – the contractor is only working on the one side, but it can be looked into for when we do the rest of the project. On 9/11 bids for the tennis courts will be opened and an award will be made at the next council meeting. The 2014 road program will go out to bid and hopes to have it awarded at the 10/2 meeting. We submitted the documentation to the state for the \$75,000 grant for the new emergency generator at City Hall. Explained Res. #144.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Marc Catona – 22 New Jersey Avenue – he has the ongoing dispute with the neighbors next door to him, Cross Fit gym. He then read a letter to council with his concerns and complaints. Even though the upgrades are completed, the vibrations are still happening and something needs to be done.

Council President, Seher – this was a planning board approval and the city gets involved through code enforcement. The summons issued was for one occasion that he was a witness and had we won in court, we would have won the sum of \$1,000. That would not have required or solved the

ongoing problem. The settlement was for them to do additional saw cuts on the foundation base and we were to inspect it. We hoped that the problem would be mitigated then. Now tonight you are telling us it's not working. We will try to be receptive to your calls and the code enforcement office to observe and will move forward with this.

Tim Maguire, City Solicitor – He clarified the \$1,000 if won. It gets paid as a fine does and the city doesn't get it all, the State does. He told Mr. Catona that he could get testing done himself and file a summons.

A daily log was suggested for when he observes it.

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

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

16 An Ordinance of The City of Absecon authorizing a Lease with the American Legion Post 28.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

2014 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

15 Granting renewed consent and permission to South Jersey Gas Company to use the public streets to furnish gas for light, heat and power in the City of Absecon.

Motion for second reading – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Ring

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

Council President Seher – said we had meetings with them and asked Ed to explain.

Ed – we talked about a draft ordinance and creating a more stringent street opening application process. They claimed they had a new and improved communication system and outreach to the communities and felt they would be more responsive in repairing the roads to our satisfaction. I sent them a list of streets to be repaired and was told they would be addressed right away. If not approved, we may pass that ordinance and they will have to comply.

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

2014 RESOLUTIONS

144 Authorizing the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by Statewide, LLC and accepting the posting of an approved Maintenance Guaranty.

145 Authorizing the release of escrows posted by John and Michele Wexler.

146 Authorizing the Administrator to advertise for a part-time finance specialist and acceptance of the resignation of the former employee

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 144, 145 & 146 are in the consent agenda.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$237,498.55

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Ring, yes, but abstain on F0007 and F0095, Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 8/21/2014

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Marc Catona – 22 New Jersey Ave. – had inquired about a dip in the road where there is a drain near the Black Cat and WHP near the curb, but it was winter and he was told it would be looked into when it got warm. He asked for someone to look into it.

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

All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney, Tim Maguire – stated the reason as an update on a collective bargaining negotiation and/or grievances filed. We hope to be only 10 minutes and no action would be taken.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Tim – it's now 8:37 p.m. and the item discussed was the Government Worker's Union and council authorized Jessica to go ahead and handle the matter. If any formal action needed to be taken, then it would come back to council for a vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Respectfully,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 9-18-14