



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

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2014  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Pastor Richard Younger, Living Water Wesleyan Church, Pleasantville

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:**

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

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

**PRESENTATION – Absecon Varsity Basketball Team**

**Councilman Phillips** – read the team's record and introduced the coaches and players and presented them with a plaque for their accomplishments this past season

**PRESENTATION – 911 Memorial Committee**

**Councilwoman Horton** – gave a brief explanation of why the committee is here tonight

**Jim Smith** – 203 Oak Lane - explained the procedure for obtaining a 911 artifact, a piece of steel beam from the 39<sup>th</sup> floor and a description of it. He thanked the City of Absecon, Terry Dolan and Kline Construction for their help in acquiring it.

**Lynn Caterson** – the ad-hoc committee formed was incorporated in Sept. 2013 and have 501c3 status, full tax-exempt status and she introduced the board of trustees and then the members.

**Ed Vincent and Will Haryslak** – presented the design of the memorial. The area required is 100 ft. diameter circle or 7,815 sq. ft. The main entrance is identified with landscaped shrubbery and at approximately 9 ft. in there will be 18" high planter seats located on the walk patio. He then gave a detailed description of the whole memorial. The construction will be at no cost to the taxpayers. The committee has been reaching out to obtain donations of material and labor. Once a site location is approved, the committee will set a construction time frame schedule. They have met with the building trades for assistance.

**Lynn** – explained the process of narrowing down locations and read them off. She gave a list of criteria as: visibility, accessibility, parking, safety for people, safety for the memorial, would the design fit, is it quiet and peaceful, the possibility of having water at the site and was it city owned. After

voting, the committee discussed having a water feature but it was eliminated. Voting was done for their top 4 spots, but they can't move on any further, without council's blessings.

**Jim Smith** - described site #1, which is the entrance to the Shores at Turner Ave. It would be lit at night also. He went through the criteria and explained if he met them. He was asked if the salt air would affect the steel and it would not. It is already rusted and there is a spray you can use once every ten years.

**Don Patterson** – described site #2, the area behind the firehouse. The issues that came up with this site are parking, interfering with the firehouse operations and noise, but they feel it would work still.

**Ed Vincent** – site #3 is the American Legion site. Trees would have to be removed and parking could be an issue if an event is being held there.

**Lynn Catterson** – site #4 is at Heritage Park along Mill Road, where there is a monument and a light now. None of these sites are perfect, but it was a balancing of all the criteria. They would like guidance as to what direction they should go soon as possible. She understands they won't get an answer tonight.

**Councilman Phillips** – wow to the presentation and that's what the building trades said last week after their meeting with them. They have agreed to work together on this endeavor to get it done.

**Council President, Seher** – thanked and recognized the committee members and those involved in this. It's a classic commitment of spirit of the people of Absecon.

**Councilwoman Cain** – she has seen the beam and asked if it would be placed so that water doesn't sit in it.

**Ed** – the steel weighs about 3,000 lbs. and it will be placed at a point where the water rolls off.

**Mayor** – appreciates the efforts made on this he knows the decision will have a lot of factors to consider, including site plan issues, so he thinks the committee should provide site plans with each location and aerial photos of the locations. He wondered why the Pitney Park locations were not chosen.

**Ed** – he then explained the size and height of the towers and flags.

**Mayor** – the FEMA grant money we are getting is to be used to alleviate the flooding issues there but not eliminate, so there will be continue flooding in that area. You don't think it would have an impact upon the artifact itself, but what about the remaining improvements?

**Jim** – we haven't done the elevations of the site yet. So we need to see the outcome of the engineering.

**Councilwoman Cain** – wanted clarification of the firehouse sites that were considered

**Councilman Vizthum** – he wants to personally look at all the sites and the overviews that were requested and then give his opinion. He did thank the committee for their work on this fantastic project.

**Councilman Phillips** – there was a lot of time and effort put into this to narrow it down to four sites, but it sounds like after some discussion tonight, some of the sites suggested may already not work. Sounds like some more information is needed before a decision is made.

**Ed** – explained site #1 at Turner Ave. was still in contention

**Will** – explained the architecture of the project and how the drainage would work

**Council President, Seher** – questioned the number of votes that were taken and how were they rated?

**Lynn** – 17 members and probably 15 voted. They came in as 4, 3, 2,1 and 1 came in as the highest and 2, 3 and 4 were close. We wanted Council's opinion first before we discussed it with anyone who would be affected by the choice.

**Chris** – will this design fit equally well on all 4 sites? Because I thought I heard it would not

**Ed** – explained the firehouse site and how it would have to be scaled down a bit if it's at the 100 ft. diameter. He then explained why he felt the American Legion site would not work now, unless they agreed to using 45 ft. of their land.

**Council President, Seher** – explained why he feels the Turner Avenue location is not a good location since the city is trying to work with the State to make that area safer for driving. This would create another distraction for drivers to look at.

**Mayor** – it is a dangerous intersection and a number of accidents have occurred. He agrees with Chris' comments.

**Chris** – after discussion, it seems that the American Legion site should be eliminated, leaving us with 3 sites. He referred this to the Community Affairs to committee to discuss it and come back with a recommendation and also asked to have an overlay done on each site. He doesn't want to leave the Planning Board out of this and he feels we should reach out to the residents of the Shores and feedback from the fire department as well.

**Mayor** – a notice could be done to residents within 200 ft. of the memorial

**Chris** – the Shores is going to need more than the 200 ft. list because it affects everyone going into that area and the fire dept might have concerns as well.

**Councilman Camp** – thanked everyone on the committee for their work. The design is amazing.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

All were in favor.

**Councilman Phillips** – introduced the next person to council who has concerns about signage at Heritage Park

**Michela Ring – 46 Natalie Terrace** - read a letter to council regarding the posting of more signs saying "NO" bike riding in the park. There are only 3 signs now and feels more are needed. They are dangerous and distracting while the concerts are going on.

**Chris** – feels the signs should say skateboarding also.

**Mayor** - feels she should bring this to the school as well and get her point out to the children as well

**Bob Quandt – 523 4<sup>th</sup> Street** – has been in before regarding the retention pond at their development. He heard today from Eddie that he has a response from the DEP finally. He said that the website listed the Public Works with a wrong date, so they actually missed that meeting that they wanted to attend regarding this matter. He also discussed the sewer laterals in the street, which the homeowners are responsible for if there is a problem in the street. We are not responsible for the streets though, so he wondered how that would work. Is it normal to put that condition on the homeowners in the building process if it's city property?

**Chris** – he can't answer that and unfortunately it could have been discussed at the Public Works meeting. We can discuss this next Friday morning when the city engineer is here so he invited any of the homeowners to attend.

Discussion about the performance bond, homeowner's association and their responsibilities was held.

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

All were in favor.

## **REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Cain – Public Works** – met yesterday and she spoke on Res. #149 authorizing the city to award the contract for the tennis courts upgrades. The winning was All Surface Asphalt Paving for alternate bid #3, a budget of \$92,000. She explained the repairs to be done. Hopes to be done by the end of the fall season. The street sweeper is going around and a schedule is being worked on.

Leaf collection will be on the website soon and the map is on the website too. Curbing at the wagon wheel at Pitney Park is being looked into being added to the 2013 road program. Bids for the 2014 road program will be opened on 9/30 and hopefully awarded at the 10/2 council meeting. Pilings were removed from the Kunkely property. Her next meeting is 10/16 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety** – no report. Spoke on Res. #150, the hiring of a new fire official. It was the only application, but he is highly recommended. Asked residents to be careful and slow down since school is back in session. Residents of Crestview Ave. have concerns.

**Lt. John DeRitis** – cameras on the gazebo came into play last week when a dispatcher saw on the camera, a large group of kids and not sure what they were doing. Tide markers were discussed that could possibly be installed at Faunce Landing Road.

**Councilman Ring- Parks & Playgrounds** – looking at upgrades to the fields and the costs. Getting estimates for lights at the soccer field; Pete Higbee and Lloyd are doing a lot of work on this. Hoping for an estimate of \$20-25,000 for the fields on Crestview Ave. Spoke about Ord. #18 and the amendment needed on the background check ordinance dealing with wording about close proximity and needing a badge, but it will be made clearer as to who needs one and who doesn't.

**Councilman Camp – Finance** – they discussed the new ordinance for the mercantile license, but will discuss it again on 10/16. We have used 74% of our budget and we are on target for the end of the year.

**Councilman Ring – Community Affairs** – spoke on Res. #151 the raffle that Seton Church has every year. The Attales students raised \$600 for ALS when they did their challenge last week. Announced upcoming events in town. 9/27 is the Peddle Paddle Run; the EMS letters have gone out and they will be explaining it at the Senior Center on 9/23 @ 10:15 a.m. Next meeting is 10/2 @ 6:00

**Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development** – next meeting is 10/2 at 6:30 p.m. Spoke about Ord. #16 for the lease agreement with the American Legion for final adoption tonight.

**Mayor** – spoke about the Kunkely property clean up that is being done. He did some volunteer work for the Food Bank. The ACIA had a meeting yesterday and they are developing a plan for Atlantic County that would provide for alternatives to the casino industry for our area.

**Council President, Seher** – a new economic advisor has been chosen for our County. We have spent time and money on a new website, but we have to find a way to keep it updated and current.

**Mayor** - We all need to be more attentive to it. If changes are needed, we need to get them on there.

**Jessica Thompson** – spoke on Res. #148 - auctioning off items we no longer need. The survey for the Best Practices is being completed; the Div. Of Public Health is having flu shot clinics and it will be put on the website and ABTV for the residents.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS - Carie**

Tax Collection - \$5,269,301.55

Construction - \$4,833

Clerk's Office - \$3,250.95

Municipal Court - \$7,665.85

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 17** An Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 3- Administrative Code, Section 11-Council Committees. Regarding Meetings of Committees.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Horton

**Chris** – explained that minutes will be taken at the committee meetings and memorialized now

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

- 18** Amending Ordinance 05-2014 relating to criminal history 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; Ring, yes, Seher, yes

### 2014 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

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

Motion for second reading – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

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

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

All were in favor.

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

All were in favor.

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

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

### 2014 RESOLUTIONS

- 148** Authorizing the sale of personal property not needed for public use under N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-36.
- 149** Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the reconstruction of the Tennis Courts.
- 150** Appointing a part time Fire Inspector, namely Thomas Flynn.
- 151** Granting a Raffle License to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

**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 148 to 151 are in the consent agenda.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,338,281.55**

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes, but abstain on 80005; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 9/4/2014

Closed Session as to form and content only – 9/4/14

Tim – wanted clarification made on a statement he made.

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

All were in favor.

Respectfully,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 10-2-14