



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 16, 2015
WORK & REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

INVOCATION – Rev. Neil Jaggie (Retired), Galloway, NJ

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong, Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED – Chris

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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

All were in favor.

Don - gave the finance report now. He stated some of the numbers of the budget, but the good news is that there will be no increase in the city's portion of taxes.

Chris – also commented on our finances and why the County's share is going up and read a letter into the record.

No public comment

Motion to close – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Leon Costello, Ford Scott & Assoc. – City Auditors – gave the audit report. There are no formal findings to report so we have a clean audit. Records are well maintained and in order. We are in good financial shape right now.

REPORTS

Don – Finance – next meeting is 5/21/15 @ 6 p.m.

Sandy – Public Works – met today and Lloyd is still working on the specs for the new dump truck. The 2014 road program has started and will continue until the middle of July. During that time, the 2015 road program will go out to bid by June and then begin after the 2014. The Highland Blvd. project is in the construction phase. The County agreed to help us with a cross light with a button at the ball field across from the school on Pitney Road. Our portion is less than we thought it would be. The tennis courts should be completed shortly. Next meeting will be 5/21 @ 3:30 p.m.

Jim – Public Safety – met on 4/7. The two new full time police officers classes have been cancelled and there could be a possible class in June. The Class II officers will mainly be working down at the boat ramp and handling traffic safety around town. EMS has 18 paid and 25 volunteers at this time and they are contemplating a waiting list. Their goal is to have a crew of 3 on each run. They've been able to pay the bills and have been 24 hours for almost a year now. Some building maintenance issues are coming up and they received the Boardwalk Hall contract for 3 years. Next meeting will be 5/5 at 7: 00 p.m.

Frank - Parks & Playground – The concerts start June 21st and will run through August 9th and the signs will be completed soon. The backstops at the wagon wheel and thanked Accent Fence for their work. Explained the background check procedure that is working better now and 7 temporary badges have been issued so far. He sees that Pep Boys is on the agenda tonight with Res. #77 and he asked the contractors who will get the job, consider using local workers when doing their work instead of outsiders.

Mike – Community Affairs – announced upcoming events in the area. Field of Dreams opens on the 18th and games will begin. April 25th is the annual clean up and shredding in Absecon. Res. #75 is the Chair of Honor that will be coming to our lobby and Res. #76 is creating a Veteran's Memorial Highway along a stretch of NJ Ave. Next meeting 5/7 @ 5:00 p.m.

Discussion was held on the signs that are to go up along the roadway.

Kim – Economic Development – they will meet 5/7 @ 6:30 p.m. She thanked the Mayor and Chief DeRitis for scheduling an information meeting last Thursday with the residents at Oyster Bay Condominiums, which addressed their safety concerns. There will be another one in July.

Mayor – spoke about the Oyster Bay meeting and the criminal incidents that have occurred. Added the good news that last Friday he heard that the City will be receiving the \$400,000 from the developer of the AB Visions project, since they were able to receive their funding for affordable housing, which was part of the settlement agreement with us.

Jessica – discussed several resolutions on the agenda tonight. Two dealing with the budget and audit; refund of taxes; #74 and #78 deal with the police dispatch department, one hiring 3 part-time dispatchers and one appointing an Acting Dispatch Supervisor. The Green Team has cleaned up around the railroad station and more will be done next Saturday on Green Day.

Chris – #79 and #80 are to be added to the agenda if everyone agreed. 79 is to hire a new plumbing sub code official and #80 is to appoint the Construction Official as the Fire Sub code Official with an increase in salary.

Motion was made to add #79 to the consent agenda by Councilwoman Horton and seconded by Councilman Ring to add to the agenda.

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

Res. #80 was tabled until the finance committee meets on Wed. 4/22 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss it.

Chris – on behalf of council he thanked Jessica and everyone for completing the budget process on time and helping us find ways to keep the tax rate flat, as well as a good audit report. The 911 Committee will be at the next council meeting to give an update. There is a vacancy on the Zoning Board if anyone is interested. Talked about we can improve our policing of Code Enforcement around town so that we can improve what our neighborhoods look like and other safety issues, specifically a home that has a pool that has no fully enclosed barrier around it.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public- Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

Lynn Caterson – 904 Marlborough Ave. – attended on behalf of the County. She is the Chair of the County Board of Elections now and at their March meeting polling places were discussed. It has been decided that Ward 2, District 2, the Absecon Library has now been changed to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. She thanked both parties for supporting this change.

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

REGULAR MEETING

RESOLUTIONS OUT OF CONSENT

68 Adopting the 2015 Municipal Budget

Motion to adopt – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

2015 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

05 Bond Ordinance providing for various Capital Improvements, appropriating \$950,900.00 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$903,355.00 Bonds or Notes of the City to finance part of the cost thereof.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- 69 Authorizing Self-Examination of the 2015 Municipal Budget.
- 70 Accepting the 2014 Municipal Audit.
- 71 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 74 Ables Run, (Block 258, Lot 1.60).
- 72 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 36 Iowa Avenue (Block 221, Lot 6).
- 73 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 1019 Shelburne Avenue (Block 107, Lot 1).
- 74 Appointing part-time Tele-Communicators.
- 75 Authorizing the placement of the Chair of Honor to be located in the vestibule of Absecon City Hall.
- 76 Authorizing the placement of two signs and the execution of a License Agreement in furtherance of placing those signs along New Jersey Avenue honoring United States Veterans.
- 77 Accepting a Performance Guarantee and Engineer's Escrow for site improvements on property known as Block 189 Lots 11.01 and 11.02 on behalf of Absecon Equities II, LLC.
- 78 Appointing an Acting Dispatch Supervisor.
- 79 Authorizing the hiring of a Part-time Plumbing Sub code Official

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this 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 considered separately.

Resolutions #69 to #78 were moved in the Consent Agenda.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Horton

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,340,490.58

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes & abstain A0005; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes –4/2/2015

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5-7-15