



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Municipal Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 3, 2015
WORK & REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

Chris – asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Steve Prisament who passed away

INVOCATION – Pastor Bill Warner, Director of Men’s Ministry, Atlantic City Rescue Mission

ROLL CALL

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

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

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED

PRESENTATION – Leigh Gadd

Chief DeRitis – gave a brief history of Leigh and his accomplishments during his years here. A plaque was then presented.

Leigh – thanked John and for everyone who came out tonight. He thanked his family and their sacrifices over the years.

Mayor – said a few words about Leigh and he will be missed and wished him well

Chris – said a few words as well

PRESENTATION – Green Team for Heritage Park Update

Brad Smith - spoke about community projects around town that are being looked into. One will be handled by a group of eighth graders, which will be approved by the green team. Volunteer projects are being looked into as well. We were asked to come up with a work plan for the year. Some ideas were: environmental themed movie; the green fest we do every year; the ACUA celebration; cleanup day and National Night Out. He feels some direction from Council or an update of what is to happen would be beneficial as well. There could be some grants that could be researched for projects the city might be planning.

Al Newman – thanked Council for the time tonight and the money given to the Green Team. He handed out paperwork to Council with some ideas for the Heritage Park area and went through it explained what projects they feel are needed and would like to try to do. He explained what they have done this year. They will be looking for continuing funding to take care of what they have planted to make sure it stays there. AC Electric will be donating some funding for next year.

Mayor – he has a good view of the pond from his office and sees many folks from the community walking around. It's a gem that we have and he commended the Green Team for all their work to preserve and enhance it. The water fowl do have a tendency to take over and they have over the years. What they do is a lot more sustainable than having the geese catchers come in.

Jim – thanked them as well. He thinks the progress they've made is fantastic. He hopes the budget will allow at least what was given to them last year and hope all agree with him. He asked if they plan on coming in to discuss that during the budget process.

Kim – she's a proud member of the team and the project is amazing. Other towns are wondering how we are controlling our geese problem.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor. No public comment

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

All were in favor.

REPORTS

Kim – Economic Development – met this evening and hopes that council all looked at the community video showcase offered to us. We discussed the old Girl Scout Lodge and they want to put forth that land up for sale with many stipulations that would go along with the bids and if a developer purchased the whole thing, they agree to build within a two year time period. We will be asking our attorney to review everything, but the committee is recommending. If we don't get any takers at \$70,000 then we don't sell it.

Chris – he observed the surveyors out there and thinks it's a good idea. What kind of money will it cost us to get them ready for sale? He would like a recommendation from Eddie on this as well

Eddie – does not believe it's been subdivided yet, so that would be needed before auctioning it off as 2 lots. You probably have spent more than half of what would be needed.

Frank – suggested selling it as one large parcel.

Eddie – you may get more money the other way

Mike – Community Affairs – announced upcoming events

Don – Finance – The city received \$250 for a few of us attending a JIF meeting last night. Police overtime is down from last year. Next meeting 12/17.

Frank - Parks & Playground – his next meeting is 12/15. The Ballfields are almost finished; The Field of Dreams mini golf is being constructed; the Blue Devils fields will be getting 3 speed humps as well as signage. The use of the school gym for basketball was a concern of the superintendent and the fire inspector said there would be no danger if closing off the hallways. Nothing will change then. They will close the one hallway off with the metal gates as always. You will enter and exit through the main entrance and out the gym doors if need be. He spoke to Lloyd about the floating docks and some bolts are missing again, which could be hazardous. He asked if it could be professionally fixed to get the right parts for it. What is happened with the Public Works flag?

Jessica – Lloyd was to contact John Farinelli and now waiting to get information.

Chris – the flag should be taken down at night until a light is installed

Mayor – there is a website to monitor events that require flags be changed

Jim - Public Safety – Chief Bruner sent him an email requesting us to consider a rate increase to come in line with other towns. He will forward it to everyone and discuss it later. The fire department talked about possibly replacing their Jaws of Life and they are installing a speaker in the firehouse to hear radio traffic while the vehicles are off. Engine 85 upgrades and repairs are going to get completed. This Friday is Santa in the Park at 6:30 p.m. As to the Police Dept., they had a presentation about a modified Lexington Plan, which is a police vehicle maintenance program where you have enough cars that each officer can take it home. They will be looking into putting together a budget for it. The chief was to look into body cameras and he put together a budget working with the Prosecutor's Office. It was decided that the public works and the fire dept. could use the military vehicle so that is being looked into. We will be hiring tele-communicators tonight.

Chief – we raised \$2,000 for St. Jude's – No Shave November and applauded his guys. He has spoken to the school superintendent and they will have a State inspector come in regarding lockdown procedures. He spoke with Brown the veteran who had some concerns at the last meeting. He explained his thoughts for the city on a modified Lexington Plan. Our fleet is older and we are short so they are running almost 24/7. Purchasing one new car a year is not servicing us well any more. Doesn't want people to think that each officer will take a car home. There has been a halt on the mandatory cameras, so he needs to find out if the funding is going to be taken away as well. We will just buy 12 this year and then 12 next year.

Chris – still just surprised about school safety at Holy Spirit H.S. and our police dept. not holding any drills in case of an emergency.

John – explained a lockdown drill they did have, but he has done a full drill with our department.

Sandy - Public Works – no meeting since last council meeting. She reminded residents about lights being out that they can get the pole # and can either call or go on their website. Asked residents to drive carefully since it gets dark early and kids could still be out. We will be cancelling our last meeting for 12/17.

Mayor – at the last meeting he reported that we should be receiving our settlement payment with Visions, he is now happy to say that we have received the \$400,000 and showed a copy of it. He then explained how the money came about.

Don – thanked the Mayor for all his work he did on this - Chris agreed

Jessica – explained Res. #188, 189, 190 192, which is a property where we have a lien on and they owe us \$74,000. Their proposal is to make payments after putting 10% down and keep the taxes current on the property. It's a property we would not want to foreclose on since it's a gas station. The VIP program which allows credit card payments for taxes and sewer on line is now on the website, but not on the home page yet, just the tax collection page. There is a fee for the tax payer though to do this. Rental registration letters are going out his week. Public Works is on their third trip around town and will continue to the end of the year.

Mayor – met with Mr. Midelton regarding his concerns and there could be another amendment with some of the subjects he brought forward to us; especially excluding Section 8 properties.

Eddie – spoke on the projects at Turner Avenue and the Kunkley properties, which are both being 75% funded by FEMA. We received notice today that we have been approved for the remaining funding on the Kunkley property. They both will be constructed in 2016. Res. #190 deals with the 2016 road program, which proposes 2.84 miles of roadway improvements, about 8% of our roadway mileage. Most of Pennsylvania is finished and should be completed next week. The clock plaza work is being done now. The electric company are relocating poles along Mill Road for a minimal widening of the road.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor. No public comment

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

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING

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.

- 188 Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2015 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$5,000.00 for the State of New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety.
- 189 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 3 Strand Court (Block 35, Lot 14).
- 190 Authorizing Remington, Vernick & Walberg Engineers to prepare Design and Bid Documents for the 2016 Road Program.
- 191 Appointing one Full-Time Tele-Communicator and one Part-Time Tele-Communicator.
- 192 Authorizing redemption in installments for the property located at 128 Absecon Blvd. Block 171.01, Lot 13.
- 193 Authorizing all appropriate action to allow the City of Absecon to enter into a contract with CGI Communications, Inc. for a community video program.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$556,657.31

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes, Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, abstain 9230, J0033, P0103; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes –11/19/15

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12.17.15