



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 19, 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 – Pastor Heather Stenberg-Sugden, Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Camp

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

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED – Chris

PRESENTATION

Police Chief DeRitis – introduced the two new police officers to be sworn in – Joseph Akeret, Jr. and Christopher Popper and they were sworn in by the Mayor.

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works – met today and the 2014 road program had a pre-construction meeting and they plan to start in April. The 2015 program was unable to be surveyed due to all the snow, so they are starting now and going out to bid. They hope to start it in the summer. The WAWA intersection should start mid to late summer. The tennis courts are waiting for the weather to break also. Quotes are due by 4/24 for the Girl Scouts Lodge and hopefully it will be down by June. Next year rumble strips along the side of the drive lanes will be installed by the County in various locations of Rt. 9. Thanked the Public Works department for their excellent job this year with keeping our roads cleared. Her next meeting is 4/16 @ 3:30 p.m.

Jim – Public Safety – spoke on the resolution on tonight's agenda hiring two Class II officers. His next meeting is 4/7 @ 7 p.m.

Frank - Parks & Playground – the Concerts in the Park schedule is almost complete. The baseball back drops work has begun. The background check process is a little smoother and the idea of possibly doing the temporary badges ourselves instead had come up.

Jessica – explained where we are with the temporary badges, which lead to a discussion on it

Don – Finance – (absent) – Jess explained the land donation policy that was passed in October was reviewed and the committee has decided to bring this to council to accept the piece of land for donation. A discussion then ensued regarding how it should happen.

Frank – forgot to mention earlier, but he brought up complaints regarding a Lacrosse team that has been started and the parking and trash issues at the school and along Webb Road.

Mayor – he talked to the organizer of the group and he agreed to control the problems

Mike – Community Affairs – congratulations to Chief DeRitis on the new officers and the Class II officers as well and the positive things happening for the department. He announced upcoming events in town. His next meeting is 4/2 @ 6 p.m. Explained two resolutions on tonight's agenda. Res. #59 for a raffle license for the Masons and Res. #63 dealing with the construction fees for the 911 memorial committee. Kim encouraged everyone to support this. Most of the manpower and the materials are donated and they will be doing some fundraising events.

Kim – Economic Development – no meeting. Her next meeting is 4/2 @ 6:30 p.m.

Chris – spoke on Res. #64, the tower Homeland Security wants to put up

Tim – explained what this is and how we got to this stage and how it's the State Homeland Security and not Federal. This agreement will authorize them to put up the tower at the Public Works yard and some other conditions that he mentioned.

Mayor – he attended the school board meeting on Tuesday and the school budget passed with a 3 cent increase in the rate, attributable to the capital program previously approved; the need for additional computers for the PARC testing and other curriculum changes and the tuition increases from ACIT and Pleasantville. There will be a public hearing on 4/28 @ 7 p.m. Our website has a feature for residents to post comments and we received one for the Public Works department and their snow removal as well as for the police dept. for responding to a medical emergency where a relative was very thankful. We are still working on the FEMA permits for Turner Ave. and Kunkley property. We will continue to monitor that area for safety and security issues.

Jessica – explained Res. #60 and #6. There will be a notice for the Green Day to be held on 4/25 @ 9 a.m. Shredding and medicine drop offs will be available. Bob Battista can be reached at 609-641-0663 ext. 105 for anyone who's interested in helping out or participating.

Carie – read reports for
Construction - \$5,485
Tax Office - \$3,686,549.14
Clerk's Office - \$3,197
Court - \$10,585.85

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public- Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips
All were in favor.

Marc Catona – 22 New Jersey Ave. – complained about a puddle for over a year now. The Mayor and Chris explained that it's the jurisdiction of the State and we are not allowed to fix it. He will go back to Eddie Dennis and see what he can do. He then asked about the façade application that he had signed a few months back. The Mayor explained it was grant money to be given for that, but he has not heard that again. He is still having constant vibrations at his building caused by Cross Fit gym the neighbor. The changes done to the gym were done, but not tested and he was told he would have to go to court for any recourse now, since the city has done everything they could. He feels he shouldn't have to since it violates the city ordinance. Chris explained there is an app now for cell phones that is a vibrometer that can measure vibrations and he wanted to see some numbers. Mr. Catona has been logging it since January 1st the way Chris suggested. He gets anywhere between 2 and 3.

Chris – explained the ordinance and why it's unenforceable.

Tim – Chris described it pretty well. The only thing he left out and part of it is a financial consideration. The testing you required cost thousands of dollars if not tens of thousands of dollars.

Mayor – Mike O'Hagan has been down there many times; maybe not instantly when you call, but weekly for months and months and sometimes twice a week and he has observed a slight vibration. He then explained what would have to be done to measure the reasonable standards.

Discussion between Chris, the Mayor and Marc Catona was held.

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

REGULAR MEETING

2015 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

04 An Ordinance establishing salary ranges – adding title Class II Officers.

Chris – For the public's knowledge, the range is \$15-\$18 per hour and he feels we are getting a bargain, by adding almost two new police officers to the force.

Motion to introduce – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Phillips

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

2015 RESOLUTIONS

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.

59 Granting a Raffle License to Atlantic Lodge #221 F & A.M.

60 Authorizing the sale of personal property not needed for public use under N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-36.

- 61 Authorizing the need to advertise for a Part-Time Plumbing and Fire Sub-Code Official with an HHS license.
- 62 Appointing two Part-Time Special Law Enforcement Officers, Class II.
- 63 Waiving any Construction Office fees associated with the construction of the Absecon 911 Memorial.
- 64 Authorizing the Mayor to sign a Use and Occupancy Agreement between the City of Absecon and the State of New Jersey, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

Resolutions #59 to 64 were in the Consent Agenda.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Phillips

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 1,980,859.96

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Horton, yes, abstain A-80005; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, abstain on 9637, A0032, C1059, F0096, G0041, K0059 and T0112; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 3/12/2015

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, abstain; 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: _____