



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

**Carie A. Crone, RMC**  
Municipal Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**JUNE 2, 2016**

**REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE – Mayor**

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

**STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Chris**

**NOTIFICATION OF MEETING - Chris**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Cain, Sheeran, Horton, Phillips, Seher

ABSENT: Ring, Vizthum

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

- 89** Consenting to the appointment of Captain to the City of Absecon Police Department.

Motion to adopt Resolution 89 made by Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**PRESENTATION – Swearing in of Captain**

**Chief DeRitis** – this will be the first captain in the department and this restructures the department to show the chain of command. He announced that the position will go to J.R. Laughlin and gave a brief history of him. His wife and 3 children stood with him while he was sworn in.

## **PRESENTATION – 911 Memorial Committee**

Ed Vincent and Jim Smith gave an update on the memorial being built on Mill Road. Rain has held them up recently, but they anticipate it to be finished by the end of July, with August being the buffer. The original estimate was approximately \$197,000, but with increases it comes to \$205,000, but no cost to the taxpayers. They've received donations for almost every aspect of the project. He thanked the Committee, the Mayor and Council for their support and gave a big thank you to Frank Phillips for getting the South Jersey Building Trades to donate their labor time. He recognized all the businesses and workers who have donated or given their time.

**Jim** – commented about people who have stopped and commented on the monument and the work that everyone is doing to get it done. This memorial is going to be in the EP Henry 2017 catalog.

## **REPORTS**

**Frank - Public Works** – Res. #105 is the purchase of the backhoe that came in a little lower. The bids will be opened on 6/10 for the 2016 road program. The heat pump went at City Hall and will get replaced. Public Works is doing the retention wall themselves down at the ballfield. New carpet is ordered and chairs will be for the court chambers. The fence around Heritage Park will be discussed in several committees but there is concern for near the playground area. The cement block area at the rear entrance of city hall is being replaced due to deterioration. We attended a meeting with residents who live in the area of Euclid Drive to discuss the new bulkhead to go in, but they are asking us to rescind that application. He doesn't know the procedure and liability if the city does pull it.

**Mayor** – Frank covered the feelings of the people who attended last night. This application was handled normally in April. He felt it was the necessary step to deal with a recognized flood risk in that area. He is shocked that the people don't want it. The dilemma now is what the city should do. We don't want to force an improvement if they don't want it, but we need to be sure of the feelings of all the individuals at risk of future flooding and be impacted by the bulkhead. We should be sure that everyone has had an opportunity to say what they prefer.

**Chris** – also sat through the meeting and he thinks the concern of the citizens was that they weren't informed or consulted on it and then explained how the grant came about.

There was then discussion held on the pros and cons of the bulkhead.

All of council agreed to rescind it for tonight's agenda and possibly it will be on the next one. Councilwoman Cain, yes; Councilman Sheeran, yes; Councilman Horton, yes; Councilman Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**Public Safety** – Frank reported that they haven't met since last meeting. The next meeting will be 6/7.

**Sandy – Parks & Playgrounds** – the concert posters should be out soon and the first concert is 6/26. The purchase order has been cut for the lights at the ballpark and sent to Atlantic Electric and asked to do as soon as possible. The rec director is doing the badge checks and all is going well with that process. Her next meeting will be 6/21.

**Frank** – the netting will be getting repaired as well down at the fields.

**Chris** – encouraged everyone to come down to the fields during the summer to watch the Atlantic County Adult League. Eddie said it's a very competitive league and how college players stay fresh so they come down to the shore for the summer and play. He asked about a hole in Veteran's Park where a tree and stump were removed and several people asked if we could get it filled in. He asked if we have an ordinance prohibiting smoking in public open spaces.

**Pat – Finance** – his next meeting will be 6/16. We received some information regarding the personnel issues and it was what he asked for.

**Kim –Community Affairs** – thanked everyone who was involved in the Memorial Day Parade. Announced upcoming events in town.

**Economic Development** - she attended the ABCD meeting on 5/25 and Melissa Phillips was the speaker and said that possibly she would create a city business directory and strategies for promoting businesses. It was a very informative meeting. The videos from CGI who created 4 videos showcasing our community and in return they send letters out to advertise their business. They have been received and we are reviewing them and they are not happy with the end result. We will be sending our comments and concerns back to the company and want them to fix the videos. Had a meeting with Joe Molineaux, an economic developer with ideas for our community. He walked our streets and saw the proximity of AC and will help us to bring things around hopefully. Her next meeting is 7/7.

**Mayor** – gave an update on the Fair Housing Litigation in which multiple cities are fighting together in for their third round affordable housing obligation. He explained a suggested program on how to qualify homes that are in Absecon now as "affordable" units to satisfy our obligation. He will be having a meeting in the near future

**Jessica Thompson** – the shredding event and cleanup day was successful and mentioned the groups that were involved and thanked Bob Battista for his work. She reported results on the first electronic tax sale. There were bidders from 15 different states. There were 144 homes on our list and some were redeemed before the sale, but we ended up selling 100 and reported the numbers. We should have the new backhoe in a few weeks. She reported on some of the agenda items.

**Ed Dennis** – there is a bid opening on 6/10 for the 2016 road program and hopefully award the contract at the next meeting. He reported on the roads that were to get worked on. The DEP permit for the Kunkley project should be in any day. We are still waiting for the data from the well driller on the ground water at the Turner Avenue project.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 2016 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

- 11** An Ordinance Establishing Salary Ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

- 12** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 320 of the Code of the City of Absecon Regarding towing.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Sheeran

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

### 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.

- 100** Appointing a Full-Time Tax Clerk namely Joy Lewkowski.
- 101** Appointing a Part-Time Tax Clerk namely Adrienne Reyes.
- 102** Authorizing to advertise for a Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer.
- 103** Authorizing to release of a Maintenance Guaranty and Escrow fees posted by Dunkin Donuts.
- 104** Authorizing the salary change for Part-Time Fire Inspector.
- 105** Authorizing the City's participation in the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) for contract #31336, acquisition of a backhoe.

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

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$256,890.91**

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain - second – Councilwoman Horton  
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 05/19/16  
Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton  
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 6-16-16