



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 4, 2016

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council Pro Tem Jim Vizthum at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

INVOCATION – Imam Jawad Rasson, Masjid Al-Taqwa, AC

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Jim

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING - Jim

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cain, Sheeran, Horton, Phillips, Vizthum, Seher (arrived 7:40)

ABSENT: Ring

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

PRESENTATION – **Jim Eberwine** – Emergency Management Coordinator

Jim – explained how he became the coordinator and his responsibilities and the emergency operation plan. All the collective groups: police, fire, EMS and Public Works do a great job, but the only downfall is not keeping up with the quarterly meetings, but we will be rectifying that. The safety of the residents is our main issue and we do a good job with that.

Jim V. – also suggested that he come to our public safety meetings that are held monthly

Mayor – Jim is being very humble and his reputation is solid gold. He explained some training and actions that they have been discussing in case of a real emergency. We will be meeting tomorrow with the new owners of Absecon Veterinary Hospital to see if they would be interested in helping out with housing pets during an event. Jim would be in charge in case of an event here.

REPORTS

Kim - Economic Development – met tonight and discussed the property where the old Girl Scout Lodge was, which is going to be subdivided a little differently now. They are in the process of preparing letters to the business owners on New Jersey Avenue regarding new businesses opened down there. She contacted Absecon Gardens and 24 units have been sold so far and no children are living there. The video tour of Absecon is now on the city website. Her next meeting is 9/1 at 6:30 p.m.

Frank - Public Works – the streets will be getting some hot patching done this well as well as the street sweeper. Connecticut Ave is finished with the concrete part of and Oak Circle was finished today and Tremont Avenue sewer is getting work on. We asked the asphalt company to give us a price for seal coating the city hall parking lot. DOT met with us today and the Route 30 project will not start until 9/15. Fencing and guide rails are being done and whatever other than the asphalt work. Also was told that the lights at Turner Avenue lights will get a 3 second delay for all red. Eddie will be discussing the bulkhead at Euclid Drive, but the BCA (benefit cost analysis) came in below the 1% so we may not qualify. Ed will explain later. He is cancelling his next meeting since it falls on Labor Day. Res. #133 allows the Legion to put up another shed and this went through the committee and our attorney as well.

Eddie – a cost analysis is when the benefits of a project outweighing the costs. That ratio needs to be at least 1, but one of the main concerns was that ours came to 1.4, but with new engineering needed to handle a problem that came up, the ratio comes to under 1. He then explained this to the DEP and they came back and told us the project would not be eligible for the grant money. When the Route 30 project starts, it will be done at night.

Pat – Finance – discussed Ord. #14 on the agenda tonight to re-appropriate funds to purchase a vehicle for the construction office and significant repairs to the air conditioning at City Hall.

Sandy – Parks and Playgrounds – there are 2 concerts left and her next meeting is 8/16

Mayor – congratulated and thanked the police and everyone else who participated in National Night Out. Blue ribbon label pins were handed out in support of the police and extras are in City Hall to be given out to residents as well to show our gratitude. He heard today that the Taj Mahal Casino is to close after the summer. Almost 3,000 employees will be out of work and roughly 101 reside in Absecon, which will lead to more home foreclosure issues. He has reported in his column this week, two programs that could be a way to help folks who are at risk of losing their homes.

Jessica – explained resolutions #131, #132 and #134 on the agenda. She was not part of the dispatcher selection, the dispatch supervisor provided the name to us. As far as the part-time tax clerk, we received applications and held interviews along with Jessica Snyder and she and Jessica chose one. She explained the new note works that we got after paying off the old one.

Kim – Community Affairs – thanked the Police Chief for a great National Night Out; it was a great evening. It gets better every year. She listed off the upcoming events in town. Announced the first day of Absecon's school is 9/6 and other dates for local schools. The 9/11 unveiling event will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11th.

Jim - Public Safety – no report, since it was National Night Out.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Lou Polisano – 198 N. Shore Road – thanked everyone for being patient with a number of us. He discussed the project with the flooding on Shore Road and that vicinity and the flooding problems.

Eddie – explained the size of the pipes at each location and what they will be able to handle.

Carl Robinson – 414 Pitney Road – thanked everyone for their diligence. He questioned a \$24,000 payment to the engineer and what it covered. Since the bulkhead is not going to be done, will the Turner Avenue and Faunce Landing projects be completed?

Ed – explained the 2 approvals needed and hopefully the permits will be issued soon on the Faunce Landing project and the Turner Avenue was held up due to wetlands restoration. That process is done and the information was sent to the DEP and then permits should be issued. He wanted to know the status of the study on the Redevelopment of the Creek area.

Harry Hartman – 632 Woodland Avenue – asked why we are spending that money tonight instead of putting it back into the budget. Is there a need for a new vehicle for the construction office? He then asked about the amounts the city is borrowing and spending on the capital budget. He feels the capital expenditures are not known by the residents.

Pat – the request was put in the budget request this year and then taken out, but one car is a 2000 and a 2003 and on their last legs. With the new hiring, they will share two of them. The oldest one will be taken out of service. He explained why borrowing money is sometimes better than putting everything in the budget and raising taxes.

Chris – we are only dealing with 1/3 of the tax dollar. The city portion went down 3 cents but are still able to take care of it in order to keep people staying here. Is there any other town that could reduce the tax rate and offer the services we do? We are trying our best and we are not hiding anything from anyone.

Police Chief – asked that we keep the Iaconelli family in their prayers. Praised Jim Eberwine for his work that he does for us; we are fortunate to have him here. Thanked everyone for their support with handing out the pins to residents; it's definitely noticed.

Motion to close public – Councilwoman Phillips – second – Councilman Sheeran
All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING

2016 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

14 Reappropriating \$33,698.45 proceeds of obligations not needed for their original purposes to provide for the purchase of a construction department vehicle and HVAC improvements to city hall.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Vizthum, 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.

- 131 Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2016 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$7,436.19 from the State of New Jersey Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund.
- 132 Appointing a part-time Tax Clerk.
- 133 Authorizing American Legion Post 28 to install and to maintain a storage shed on premises subject to a lease agreement between the City of Absecon and American Legion Post 28 pursuant to Ordinance 16-2014.
- 134 Appointing a part-time Tele-Communicator.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Sheeran – second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$2,034,588.89

Motion to approve – Councilman Sheeran - second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Vizthum, no; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/21/16
Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Sheeran
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: _____