



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 6, 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 – Lisa Whitaker, Missionary, Youth with a Mission, Absecon UMC
Chris – asked for everyone to keep the hurricane victims in their prayers

ROLL CALL

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

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

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW – Chris
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING – Chris

REPORTS

Sandy – Parks and Playgrounds – they met on 9/20. The work is still going on at the ballfields but it's been delayed because of the rain. Eddie explained the base distances and the mound set ups at the fields. More trash cans are needed down on the bike path. Lights are also needed down by the bike path about midway from the concession stand towards 15th Street. Her next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Chris – asked Eddie what he found out about the construction blockade on Crestview Ave.

Eddie – he spoke to the engineer and he is supposed to get back to me, but he hasn't yet. He will notify them again. He will speak to Mike O'Hagan to see if he can compel them to do something.

Pat – Finance – his next meeting is 10/20. He asked Tim to be there since the Ambulance squad will be discussed. The 2017 road program discussions will begin, which will tie in nicely with the start of the budget process.

Mike – Community Affairs – met tonight and the vehicle ordinance seems to be okay and just needs to be enforced. He then announced upcoming events in town. Res. #152 is the raffle license permit for HSHS Mother's Guild's craft fair on 12/4. His next meeting is 11/3 @ 6:00.

Kim – the 9/11 memorial committee has a goal to have our monument registered nationally and asked Tim if we need an ordinance or resolution to go to the Freeholders to ask them to start on the process. Do we have any consequences if people/kids damage city property? Cameras are possibly being looked into being installed at the monument.

Tim – there are statutes and the police have every right to write a summons and file in the correct court, whether juvenile or adult.

Kim – asked if we have a contract with Comcast each year because people still can't hear our meetings on channel 97.

Mayor – he's received many complaints too and he watched the last meeting and he thought the audio was fine on his.

Chris – finds that the level of the sound is different on all televisions in his house.

Jessica – they came in and tightened some wires for us.

Chris – asked Jessica to do poll other neighboring towns to see if they have the same problem

Jim - Public Safety – the Explorer has arrived for the fire department and it's getting outfitted and they also received an 18 ft. rigid inflatable boat with a jet drive at no cost to them. The tower had some minor mechanical issues but have been repaired. On 10/19 the fire house will have an open house at 7:00 p.m. JIF did a walkthrough of the fire house and all was good and other training and testing is being done. Emergency Management came to the meeting and he will be having a separate meeting for the group in the next few weeks.

Frank - Public Works – met 10/3 and the 2016 road program is coming to an end. The punch list is being completed and the striping and signage are the final items. There was some concern about the striping, but we have no control over where the stripes go. The stop signs at Traymore and Haddon Avenue are up. Next meeting 11/7 and will discuss the 2017 road program. Route 30 is almost complete. He is happy to see Res. #153, voting against the casinos in the North on the agenda.

Eddie – In 2015 Pennsylvania Avenue was funded through a grant for the first half of the block. He then explained why some streets are done in phases and how the process works for state funding. He explained the process of micro surfacing.

Chris – we recently had some NJ Avenue repairs done and he questioned why one lane was not always open.

Eddie – explained what happened and that it's a utility company project. He met with them to say what the city expected. He was told one lane would be open as well, but he was told that the police made the decision to close it due to safety reasons.

Kim – Economic Development – met tonight and the subdivision was prepared for the old Girl Scout Lodge and the committee agreed to forward it. They want to have more communication with ABCD and Councilman Sheeran will be the middle man since he is a member of that group. Her next meeting is 11/3 @ 6:30 p.m.

Chris – it was decided that 2 lots would be created and asked Tim and Jessica to have some communication with the neighbors about the encroaching problem on one of the lots. He is concerned about traffic safety on Crestview Avenue and asked Public Safety to discuss having a speed hump installed in the middle of the block and also a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Highland Blvd and Morton (10th Avenue) be installed.

Mayor –announced the passing of Charlie Campbell and offered his condolences to the DeFeo family. He led an incredible life and was an amazing person. Joe Robinson also celebrated his 97th birthday. Lloyd Jones is back to work after having a severe bike accident. He discussed the foreclosure process we started this year and we have collected \$45,000 to date, which pays for Lee Gadd's salary. Atlantic County has the highest foreclosure rate and Absecon is high up there. With the Taj closing we have about 100 workers who live in Absecon. There is a State assistance program that will be presented on 10/18 from 3-8 p.m. in Atlantic City for people who may qualify for money to keep their homes.

Jessica – explained Res. #148, 149 150, 151. She handed out the Best Practices worksheet that we do every year and the State will withhold some of the State aid unless you score 80% or better. We scored a 90% and will get our full State aid that we expect in the budget. The leaf pickup will begin November 1st and go through the end of the year.

Eddie – he feels the road program was a success this year using all three techniques. We did 3.7 miles of road and there are 35.8 city miles of road. So we did 10% of the streets; 22 separate roads and there are 148 roads, which is 15% of the city streets. He explained the different techniques used and the costs for each type. They will be working on the 2017 road program at the next Public Safety meeting. He plans to schedule a meeting with the County soon about the list of issues we have.

Chris – he is optimistic that the Taj Mahal will reopen soon in a different function.

Frank – there are plans to start reconstructing inside once it closes.

Chris – we did a reassessment of our properties 4-5 years ago and that helped us with the appeals. Sales were below the new assessed values, but in the last 6 months homes above \$200,000 are being sold for 5-10% over their current assessment. The school will be having their Veterans Day tribute on Monday, Nov. 7th @ 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

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 – Councilman Sheeran

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.

148 Appointing a part-time substitute crossing guard, namely Cynthia Mandra.

149 Appointing a full-time tele-communicator, namely Melissa Mason.

150 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located 720 S. New Rd. Unit 1M.

- 151 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the listed properties.
- 152 Granting a raffle license to Holy Spirit High School.
- 153 Opposing licensed casinos outside of Atlantic City, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$522,036.02

Motion to approve – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Cain
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes, abstain 9230, A0032; E0057; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 09/15/16
Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Sheeran, 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: 10/20/16