



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 21, 2019

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Christopher Miller, United Methodist Church, Absecon

ROLL CALL

Present: Cain; Cavileer, Howell; Light; Phillips, Seher, Bennett

Also present: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED – Keith Bennett

PRESENTATION – Rutala Associates

Jim Rutala – he is a master planner and grant writer for coastal towns. It's a challenge for a downtown revitalization or improvements. He thinks the first thing to focus on is the transit village destination. He worked in Pleasantville that is the only community in Atlantic County so far and he is working with AC now on it. This helps the downtown, because the funds raised through the transit village can be spent within a half mile of the train station.

Keith – in reading the contract, he didn't see anything that was going to be provided or a strategy

Jim – it's a standard contract and we have to work with Council and get to know the city and the direction to go. It's going to be a collaboration with everyone.

Kim – is there a possibility of enhancing the way everything looks or maybe a theme that all would get on board with? She's hoping your expertise and the owners will work along with everyone.

Chris – we have received two street scape grants and he thinks this is a great idea and suggests some fact finding analysis on NJ Avenue with the owners and parking availability. He feels the contract should be recrafted a bit as to the goals.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2019 ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

05 An Ordinance of the City of Absecon, to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14).

Motion for second reading – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Jessica - explained the budget cap, the amount you're allowed to exceed in your budget

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

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Seher

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

2019 RESOLUTIONS (Discussion only)

65 Authorizing the release of Planning Escrow posted by Auto Zone.

66 Certifying the Governing Body is in compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell

All were in favor.

No public comment

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Cavileer

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions #65 & 66 were read again for approval.

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Light

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,344,615.04

Motion to accept – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 2/21/2019

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/28/2019

Regular Meeting Minutes – 3/7/2019

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes on 2/21, 2/28 and abstain on 3/7; Seher, yes on 2/21, 2/28 and abstain on 3/7; Bennett, yes

REPORTS

Caleb – Public Works – met on Tuesday and the majority of the meeting was the engineer presenting information on flooding that a resident had. His next meeting is 4/16 @ 3:30 p.m.

Lighting work that is being done on NJ & Highland Avenue was discussed. They're doing some upgrading and new poles. Dr. Rupert Drive was also discussed where the County is responsible for the work that is needed to be done. Five corners has been patched up and is a little better for now.

Sandy – Community Affairs – no meeting since last council meeting, but she announced the upcoming events. Her next meeting is 4/4 @ 6:00 p.m.

Steve – mentioned a program for Flags for Forgotten Soldiers that he attended in Northfield and feels it would be nice for Absecon to look into it. We'd need a 100 x 100 sq. plot of land to do it.

Caleb – announced tomorrow the Absecon Education Foundation's pride committee is hosting a scavenger hunt around town from 6 to 7 p.m. 22 families are signed up to participate.

Chris – Finance – we met tonight and we signed all the vouchers. The second meeting has a larger bill payout each month due to paying the school. We have increased some fees with the police department that have not been in years and some are imposed for things that have been free in the past.

Jessica – explained a cost proposal for video arraignment for the court, but more information is needed.

Chris – this would have multiple other functions as well, where we could remotely televise other meetings.

Frank – Public Safety – his next meeting is 4/1 at 6:00 p.m.

Betty – Economic Development – thanked Jim Rutala for tonight's presentation. A new dog groomer called Salty Dog opened on NJ Ave. & Rt. 9. The Planning Board approved an application for a Royal Farms and a Firestone auto store. Her next meeting will be 4/4 at 6:30 p.m.

Steve – Parks & Playground – met on the 19th and they discussed the sports expo and laying out the setup. They talked about the pickle ball courts and converting a tennis court to a pickle court only and are waiting to see the costs for everything. The coaches' background checks were discussed. Public Works are doing a great job working on the baseball fields and doing some work on the batting cages. The first concert will be June 23 and end August 11th. Some signs in the park need some updating before the expo is held. His next meeting is 4/16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Keith – looked over the map for the expo and didn't realize how big it was going to be. Sounds like it will be a great event. It will be held on May 4th from 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's a fundraiser for a special needs children program.

Chris – questioned Jessica regarding the forms for using the fields that she has received so far.

Jessica – the Green Day event will be held on 4/27 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and we will have the shredding truck and the clean-up crews for around town, if you want to volunteer. The spring leaf pick up will start around mid-April and go on for about a month.

MONTHLY REPORTS - Carie

Tax Collection - \$3,545,923.10

Court - \$17,324.17

Construction - \$8,804

Clerk - \$6,816.25

Mayor – she acknowledged John Thomas who served on the Planning Board for 19 years and has served the community well. She met with the Emergency Management Coordinator and others on the team on 3/15. Many ideas were given and discussed possible grants to be had. They will have future team meetings as well. She attended the senior dinner with her mother and it was a great night and a delicious dinner. She also went to the Holy Spirit HS play, Hello Dolly and it was wonderful. Everyone did a great job.

Caleb - at the ladies league dinner as well, Roy Talley was named their citizen of the year.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to public – Councilman Seher – second – Councilwoman Howell

All were in favor.

Maggie Matrlicardi – 604 Sooy Lane – she’s here tonight because Bill Gianetti, the pickle ball master was unable to attend tonight. He said he would be willing to help out with anything to make this happen. She asked if one of the tennis courts will be dedicated for pickle ball use and make one tennis court into 4 pickle ball courts.

Steve – we are not 100% sure yet to what we are committing to. We can either have 4 four courts or 2 courts. We are trying to be respectful to the tennis players as well. We haven’t stopped thinking about it for a year and are working on it.

Chris – it’s his understanding that Eddie is supposed to come back to us with a configuration showing us two courts nose to nose on court #4. There have been many conflicting comments from the pickle ball players. We are waiting for the costs to come in soon. If we find there is a bigger need we can make restripe another one.

Keith – at the meeting, it was decided to at least get the two courts done and then add more if needed.

Chris – in our plan later in the year, we are constructing a basketball court and two new pickle ball courts that will stand alone at Pitney Park.

Sandy – thanked the police, fire and ambulance squad who responded quickly on March 11th when the recycling truck on her street cut an electric pole in half and a fire had started. Emergency utility trucks had to work late as well. There is a resolution #133 from the Atlantic County Board of Freeholders and she’d like us to act on it as well. It prohibits the release of helium balloons and some cities already have that rule. It is not good for the animals or the environment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Seher – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Keith – took a consensus of council to see who was willing to put this ordinance on our next meeting. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Seher

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-18-19