



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

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

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Rev. Terry O’Conner, St. Mark & All Saints Episcopal Church, Galloway

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Burroughs, Cain, Light, Phillips, Seher, Bennett

Absent: Howell

Also present: Mayor Horton, Attorney Mike Coskey, Jessica Thompson, Ed Dennis and Carie Crone

**STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW**

**NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED** – Keith Bennett

**PRESENTATION – Jim Rutala – Transit Village**

**Jim** – explained the progress he has made with our grant application for becoming a transit village. He has prepared an ordinance to implement the plan and hopefully will be introduced at the next meeting. The city has had a train station overlay district for years, but instead of being called an overlay district, it would just be zoned with the “overlay” distinction. It doesn’t change any of the requirements that are currently in place. One of the nuances with NJ Transit is that they don’t allow overlays. If there were a single family home in the zone, it can remain with no changes and other new developments would follow the city’s ordinance they have in place now. There is an interest from the State down in creating and improving transit villages in NJ and especially in Atlantic County. The city’s application timing was great, since it was right after the train was shut down for months and there was interest in improving access in this area. The next step for the city is to adopt the Transit Village Ordinance, which will then allow the application to be submitted.

There was discussion regarding changing the zone and the repercussions of eliminating the overlay distinction. Concerns are for more high density living being required in this new zone, so it needs to be looked into.

## REGULAR MEETING

### 2019 RESOLUTIONS

**156** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the 2019 Road Program.

**Eddie** – explained the changes as being: a scaling back of Crestview Avenue; adding stop bars along Highland Blvd. at all the cross streets that don't have them now; adding striping in at the intersection of Marlborough and Highland Avenues; adding slow 25mph symbols on Highland Blvd; adding post reflectors onto the new 4 way stop sign at Highland and Morton and Tenth Avenues; adding in slow 25mph and stop ahead symbols on Tenth and Morton; adding crosswalks in at Highland, Morton and Tenth Avenues so new curb ramps will be going in and reconstructing the curb ramps at Wyoming Avenue and Church Street.

**157** Approving the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2019 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$2,682.30 from the State of NJ Body Armor Fund

**Jessica** – this just came in and we will add it to the budget to purchase vests with the two grant funds

**158** Accepting a performance guarantee and engineer's escrow on property known as Block 203, Lots 1.01 and 1.02.

**Eddie** – this is for the Redevelopment project at the old baseball fields. They want to start soon.

### **PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda items only)**

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

All were in favor. No public comment

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

All were in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolutions 156 to 158 were read again for approval.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilman Light - second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$410,798.51**

Motion to accept the bill list – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 11/21/2019

Closed Meeting Minutes – 11/21/2019

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Light

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

### **REPORTS**

**Jessica** – we received approval for the 2020 road program for Bayview Drive at \$305,000, so we can do that next year. The ACUA rates for tipping and waste water are increasing next year.

**Eddie** – the road crew is in town working on Bayview Drive and on Monday he met with the gas company and they want to tear up multiple streets that were paved. They have a project that involves replacing 1300 valves, which will involve little patches everywhere they replace one. The work is spread throughout the city and it's significant and his office is looking into the mapping of the streets. This needs to be handled differently than a regular street opening permit. He's bringing it up now, because Spruce Street is on the 2020 road program and the gas company wants to start in January, so he talked to the contractor and they said they'd do it in the spring when the gas company is done. He also recommends putting off Meadowview Drive and Spartan Lane due to possible weather conditions and the residents having a street dug up and open for a while. It can be done when Spruce Street gets completed.

He is having a site meeting with the contractor at the firehouse site and a notice to proceed was issued, so the clock is running.

**Mayor** – thanked the ABCD group for the tree lighting. Thanked Kevin Sedlak the commander of the Legion and the members for extending an invitation to their annual Christmas celebration. The County will be working on sidewalks on Pitney Road around the school complex since it's a matter of public safety, so we will share the cost with them. They will also split the cost for Illinois Avenue work, but after the flooding problem is looked into. She thanked Russ Davis, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and his students for a community service project for the seniors. They raked leaves for some of older residents. In November, the police officers had "No shave November" at a cost of \$25 and all the proceeds to Shop with a Cop. They are now paying an additional \$25 for December and those proceeds will go to families in Absecon. The fire department also sponsors families. She reminded the residents to come see the train display in the lobby on Wednesday, Thursdays and Saturdays between 10:00 am. & 3:00 p.m.

**Kevin Sedlak, Commander of the Legion** – gave an update on the ramp. A plan was prepared by Harry Harper and the construction office has it now and we are waiting for the permit. The carpenters' union is going to build it for free and the materials will be at cost from a local lumber company. He's hoping to get it started soon; they have started the solar panels.

**Sandy** – announced some upcoming events in town. She also mentioned that a resident who lives on Webb Road, contacted her about construction being done at the school. Trees are being cleared and it looked like a road is being made for an entrance/exit for vehicles to use. They are very concerned and wanted to know if it's all being done legally.

**Frank** – said this is the school board doing this and not the city. There has been a path that has been there always with a gate off of Webb Road. The superintendent is trying to alleviate traffic out front of the school. He doesn't know why it's been kept quiet until now, but we have no control over what the school board does.

**Eddie** – from approvals being needed, if they are putting in a curb cut, then they would need a street opening permit. However, school boards have to go through the NJ Dept. of Education Office of School Facilities process if they're making improvements to the inside or outside. There is criteria on whether they need a submission to the State. If they do, part of the requirement is to make a submission to the local Planning Board. In most cases, that Board will write a letter that they are not interested. Even if our Planning Board wanted to see it, it would be an informal type of presentation, but it would be brought to the City's attention and for them to weigh in on it. The City's input gets put into the State's approval. He doesn't know anything about this project being done.

**Chris** – said there is a stone road that goes along the side and cars can drop off students and now they can keep driving out onto Webb Road. He feels the superintendent is doing a good thing to makes things safer.

**Kim** – we worked on a plan a couple of years ago similar to this, and Ed remembered it as a parent use in the back to work with the flow of traffic. We wanted to go for a grant to get it paved instead of using stones. There should have been more discussion before anything was done.

There was discussion regarding traffic and other ideas to alleviate traffic. Frank had mentioned it was discussed at the committee meeting, but the road off of Webb was never mentioned. Making no parking on one side of Connecticut Avenue was mentioned and even making it one way a possibility. A suggestion was to use a Class II officer to help with traffic. This concern will be brought to the Public Safety committee for review on 1/6.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Sandy Hickerson – 210 Upland Ave.** – she’s been before Council in the past about Absecon becoming a non-sanctuary city. She wanted to give a quick update on Resolution 659, which was listed on the Freeholder meeting agenda for November 12, 2019 and she read it. Since the County passing this Resolution, the City does not have to pass their own.

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Light  
All were in favor.

**Keith** – thanked all the officers involved with the Toys for Tots program

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 12-19-19