



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 17, 2019

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Tom Douglass (retired) Highland Community Church

ROLL CALL

Present: Cain, yes; Horton, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes
Also present: Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED – Keith Bennett

Nomination to fill the vacancy of the Mayor

Motion for Kim Horton made by Councilwoman Howell - second – Councilwoman Cain
No other nominations so nominations were closed

Roll Call: Cain, yes; Horton, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

Administration of Oath of Office

Keith Bennett administered the oath of office and Kim said a few words

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Nomination for Councilwoman Howell was made by Council President Bennett – second – Councilwoman Cain

No other nominations.

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

Administration of Oath of Office

Keith Bennett administered the oath of office

CONSENT AGENDA

- 24 Authorizing the submission of the City of Absecon's Tonnage Grant application for the year 2018 to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 25 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Charles A. Hammell Post 28 American Legion.
- 26 Authorizing the Tax Collector to participate in an Electronic Tax Sale.
- 27 Authorizing a fee for the creation, printing and mailing of tax sale notices for an electronic tax sale.
- 28 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Ed & Gene's King Tire, LLC for the provision of fleet maintenance services.
- 29 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Local 107, International Brotherhood of Teamsters for a 5-year Labor Agreement.
- 30 Authorizing the release of a Maintenance Guarantee posted by One Mechanic Street, LLC (Absecon Gardens) and the release of Engineering Escrow Funds.
- 31 Releasing the Performance Guarantee from Absecon-Pleasant, LLC on property known as Range 129, Block 259, Lot 5.
- 32 Authorizing the City Engineer, Remington & Vernick, to design and coordinate bids for the 2019 Road Program.
- 33 Authorizing the City Engineer to provide Professional Services for the Municipal Building Emergency Generator Replacement.

Chris – explained what is happening with recycling now and that certain items are not being accepted anymore and there is less that ACUA can pick up. ACUA will be doing an educational program soon to inform people. Most containers for food will not be recyclable. Our amounts are based on the previous year tonnage.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items Only)

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

All were in favor.

Bob Middlesworth – 413 S. Shore Road – asked if there are any businesses or industries that take things before they go into recycling and give incentives to residents to be more thorough in sorting their trash.

Frank – there are some outfits that are working on solutions to help with our recycling problem.

Bob Borroughs – 22 Summit Ave. – do we have anyone checking on people who are not recycling properly? I know several people who don't recycle.

Keith – Bob Battista works for us part time and even he has received notices. Bob does a great job for us.

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

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to accept agenda – Councilman Phillips – second - Councilman Light

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 1,697,746.19

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/20/2018

Closed Session as to form and content only – 12/20/18

Re-Organization Meeting Minutes – 1/3/19

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes for 12/20 & abstain on 1/3; Bennett, yes

REPORTS

Steve – Parks & Playground – they did not have a meeting on January 15th and he's been in contact with Pete Higbee who asked him to follow up on the pickle ball court and potential striping at one of our existing facilities. He has discussed this with the Administrator and engineer and are getting estimates. His next meeting is Feb. 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Keith – asked if the estimate is for restriping a tennis court or putting a new one somewhere

Steve – primarily we would like to see developing a new area but will wait to see what the costs are

Keith – we've been talking about locating a basketball court somewhere, so maybe we could combine them somewhere. ASAC signups started for baseball and softball

Chris – the last he heard we were going to get a cost for restriping multiple use of one of the tennis courts ASAP, but now I hear we are moving on to find a location and constructing a new court. He's not in construction, but he thinks that would be a big difference in cost and as Keith said, we couldn't find a place for a basketball court, but we are going to find a place for a pickle ball court. Do we even have any kind of estimate?

Keith – Eddie didn't have any estimates yet, but at the Public Works meeting he brought up a number from Margate who did theirs on flat land of sand on an existing recreation field with no site work at \$25,000. He's hoping for a couple of estimates from Eddie.

Betty – Economic Development – February 7th will be her first meeting. The yoga and art studios are now open on New Jersey Avenue. She encouraged everyone to shop our local businesses.

Frank – Public Safety – we met on Jan. 7th and the ambulance squad's budget was discussed as well as the fire department's budget. He will save some reports for the budget meetings. He asked the police chief to come up and give a report on some happenings in town.

Keith – commended John and the entire department for the job that they did in securing and making sure the children of our schools were safe during the lockdown. There are always some that aren't happy with what happened, but the most important part is that the kids were safe.

Chief DeRitis – we were busy right before Christmas. Unfortunately, we had a fatality on Pitney Road and then the same night two of our officers pulled over a vehicle and found a 44 magnum, some drugs and \$33,000 in cash. That was a big arrest for them. In a forfeiture, the police department can use that money to purchase things outside of their budget, but get approval from the prosecutor's office. We have done that before with other items acquired through a forfeiture. He explained what he could about the lockdown. We were doing our best to make it go as quickly as possible. That night the person was taken into custody and we had parents and children show up at the police department to say thank you. The following week his phone did not stop ringing with people thanking us for the job we did. We met with the school on Tuesday and when we walked in the school, we were greeted with a huge sign signed by everyone in the school. We were provided lunch and handmade cards as well. He thanked the community and city and the neighboring police departments that helped out, Pleasantville and Galloway. We are still monitoring the speeds around town and hopes to have his report soon.

Kim – we all felt we were in good hands that day and Steve thanked everyone as well

Chris – Finance – we met tonight, we reviewed the bills for tonight; we discussed the budget plans for the month of February and we will discuss dates at our Feb. 7th meeting. Asked Jessica about the other contract to be settled. He hopes at the next council meeting we will have a resolution for our communications director for an increase in her salary for her additional duties that she took over. We received an update on our net for the Crabsecon event and it led to \$25,000 being left in that account. He knows John Armstrong was the strong guidance in that event, so if there is any plans for a second one, some volunteer committee needs to be created and step forward.

Kim – Public Works – we met on Tuesday and discussed the 2019 road program and talked about roads to be looked at and we agreed on a list. Steve wanted to know when Atlantic City Electric lines from Mill Road to Highland Boulevard were going to be completed. Turner and Faunce Landing punch lists should be completed in the spring. Public Works did an excellent job in our last snow storm. The FEMA grant for the new generator was discussed and it was asked again to have the no right hand turn off of Pitney Road onto Woodcrest Avenue sign be removed. Most of the people doing it were people who live on those blocks. It will be looked into again. The next meeting is 2/19 @ 3:30 p.m.

Sandy – Community Affairs – had no meeting in January. She announced the senior center's events are on their website. They will be having another meeting on Monday to discuss the Absecon Sports Expo to be held on May 4th. Her next meeting is 2/7 at 6:00 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORTS (December) – CARIE

Tax Collection - \$928,747.03

Municipal Court - \$10,049.28

Construction - \$11,431.00

Clerk's Office - \$2,658.00

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All were in favor.

Jeanine Wescoat – 116 Kesler Lane & April Elias – 201 Wynnewood Drive – they are both with the Absecon Arts & Cultural Alliance group. They received notification of the sale of the old Girl Scout Lodge property and they would like council to reconsider selling these parcels which adjoin other city lands and she thinks the city should build a community center. Maybe we could find grants to help build it, if you feel it's in our best interests.

Keith – agrees it's a nice thing and knows other towns have them, but the cost is significant and the timing is really off. Have you researched any grants out there?

Chris - these are not the only city owned lands, so even if we do get them sold, if there is a need and council wanted to spend the kind of money to build one, there could be places.

Everyone agreed it is a good idea, but the expense of building it is the main factor and then someone would be needed to run the building.

Motion to close public – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Light
All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION - #34-2019 – Contract Negotiations

Fred – explained the reason being contract negotiations related to Block 203. A summary will be provided at the end of the session.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell
All were in favor.

It's now 9:19 p.m. and we discussed contract matters dealing with preparations of a Redevelopment Agreement including Block 203. Additional information may be available 2/7 when a special meeting with special counsel may be held.

Chris – handed out flyers for a group called “Help Us Bury Heroes”. It's a local group and they are a non-profit who provides proper military burial ceremonies for all eligible veterans. They don't want money, but they'd like resolutions passed because they can receive more grants or donations. We might consider passing a similar resolution as Galloways and acknowledge this group.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 2-7-19