



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

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

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 7, 2019**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Rev. Glenn Englehardt, Reformation Lutheran Church, Galloway

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Cain; Cavileer, Howell; Light; Bennett

Absent: Phillips, Seher

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

**STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW**

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**2019 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

- 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 introduction – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer  
Jessica – explained this is done every year to establish the ability to get a cap bank for the appropriations side of the budget, whether we use it or not.

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

## **2019 RESOLUTIONS (Discussion only)**

- 56 Authorizing to advertise for a Full-time Police Officer and a Full-time Dispatcher.
- 57 Consenting to the salary of the Emergency Management Coordinator.
- 58 Appointing a Full-time Technical Assistant to the Construction Official, namely Kimberly Kollman
- 59 Appointing a Part-time Deputy City Clerk, namely Julianne Cannuscio.
- 60 Appointing a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, namely Julianne Cannuscio.
- 61 Authorizing the introduction of the 2019 Budget.

The budget will be \$10,000,000.00 with no city tax increase. We don't have the school rate yet and the County is rumored to be going down. We are using \$790,000 of our fund balance and the remaining balance will be \$1,337,000.00, which is the same spot we were in last year. The final adoption of the budget will be 4/4/19. Kim heard that Absecon is getting a substantial increase in aid, so the school should have no increase.

62 A Resolution urging full funding of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. Keith – Somers Point has done this and we thought it would be a good idea as well.

63 Granting a Bingo License to Holy Spirit High School.

64 Granting several Raffle Licenses to Holy Spirit High School.

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

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

All were in favor.

**Charles Sabatini – 100 Highland Blvd.** – wanted to know the cap proposed in Ord. #5

Jessica – there are caps for exceeding the appropriations from the year before to the current year. Every year the State will determine an amount that can be raised and this year was 2.5%. There is a law that a municipality can go to 3.5% if we want and this ordinance allows that if needed. It deals with the size of the budget.

Motion to close public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolutions #56 to #64 were read again for approval.

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$338,383.21**

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Budget Meeting Minutes – 2/7/2019

Closed session as to form and content only – 2/7/19

Budget Meeting minutes – 2/20/19

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes, until 9:00 p.m. on 2/20; Howell, yes, abstain 2/20; Light, yes; Bennett, yes

## **REPORTS**

**Caleb – Public Works** – has not met since our last meeting. The County is at Pitney and Mill Road and fixing some of the pot holes and it has improved. His next meeting is 3/19 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Sandy – Community Affairs** – they met tonight and she announced all the upcoming events in the area. The board of education budget meeting is 3/12 at 7:00 p.m. Her next meeting is 4/4 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Frank – Public Safety – Chief DeRitis** – thanked council for increasing the size of our police dept. and the dispatch dept. The County has been out at five corners multiple times and the police dept. sent a letter to the state and we did get answer back. There is going to be a project coming through in the next two years, but they realized the road can't wait that long, so they do plan on coming out to fill holes at five corners as well. One of our officers got a hit off the license plate reader as a stolen vehicle out of West Virginia and located the person and recovered the vehicle. They also got a hit of a suicidal male out of NY and located him and got him help. He explained that car 9 has two cameras on the top of it and as it drives around, it catches tags in both directions and any tag that has been entered into the system can be caught by this reader.

**Roy Talley** – reminded everyone to advance their clocks Saturday and to check their smoke detectors and make sure they work. Home Depot has donated 200 battery operated smoke detectors, so give him a call if you need one.

**Keith** – questioned the hard wired ones and people having problems with them. Is there a service you provide to residents?

**Roy** – yes we can come out and look at them, but if they're past 10 years old, they should be replaced.

**Betty – Economic Development** – they met tonight and they have received the proposal from Rotella Associates for \$10,000 to assist in the economic development and marketing of Absecon. They will be at our 3/21 meeting to give a presentation. The next ABCD meeting is 4/4. She reported as council rep to the Planning Board about her concerns on the Royal Farms project. According to the Redevelopment Agreement and after looking at the plan, there are several discrepancies and they will be discussed at the PB meeting on 3/13. She then asked a few questions that she had after reading the redevelopment agreement. There is a cost estimate for the firehouse by the city that is a big discrepancy with what others have come up with. She feels blueprints should be drawn up and sent out for RFP's to see what it is going to cost us.

**Eddie** – explained the process and the fire department will be included in the process. The estimate is a preliminary one based on square footage. It will get refined before going out to bid once we know specifically what will go into the firehouse.

**Fred** – he did not work on this project, but he explained how redevelopment works

**Steve – Parks & Playground** – his next meeting is 3/19 @ 7:00 p.m. Several residents have asked if we could look into a field management system, so we can look at multi-use fields and check the overall conditions and maybe do some enhancements.

**Keith** – during the budget discussions we have discussed hiring an outside company to help with the fertilizing and herbicides that need to go down. Our public works does a great job and they will still cut the lawns and maintain them in that way. We just did a new football field and baseball before that. We have great fields and agrees we should maintain them.

**Steve** – he thinks they were specifically thinking Franklin Field and potentially the multi-purpose field at the school if we could get approval to use it.

**Jessica** – the budget was the topic of discussion

**Eddie** – we are wrapping up the work for the new firehouse location. The 2019 road program is being surveyed and designed for a May bid and June award. The generator project for city hall is in design and he hopes to be out to bid in a month or so. The work being done today at the intersection of Mill Rd. and NJ Avenue was part of the contract work for the traffic cameras.

**Mayor** – she congratulated the Stattlemeirs on their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Helen Riso. She is asking council to consider hiring a qualified professional who designs firehouses. We should have a better idea of the costs.

**Eddie** – explained the timeline and process for the new firehouse and the need for an architect to be chosen and everyone who'll be involved.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

Motion to open to public – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Cavileer

All were in favor.

**Robert Preston – 601 Sooy Lane** – Chairman, Planning Board – we will be considering the application for the phase 1 of the redevelopment area next week. There was a comment made out a time frame that was very sensitive and after reading through all the material, he doesn't know of any time frame being made and the Planning Board should know about it.

**Eddie** – explained there are two time frames. There is a time frame dealing with the Redevelopment Agreement, which dictates the pace at which the firehouse situation needs to happen. The other timeline is possibly that the Redeveloper has a milestone in their agreement with Royal Farms. His understanding is that they are supposed to have their land use approvals in hand by May 10<sup>th</sup> and if not, then Royal Farms has an opt-out clause in the deal. He believes it includes all approvals: city, county & State. The City sent out letters urging them to expedite their answers. This has to include the appeal periods as well so it all has to line up with that deadline.

**Roy Talley – 100 Howlett Lane** – thanked them for clarifying the architect, it was a major concern. He submitted three names Eddie will work with whoever the City chooses.

**Keith** – will appoint a small committee to review the architects

**Alex Corkhill – 236A Upland Ave.** – thanked Steve and Keith for acknowledging that the city has field issues. He's part of an organization that truly needs the fields and thanked everyone for supporting athletics in Absecon. We are in a crisis and in a bad state of affairs with our fields. We have three major fields being used that are unsafe. The all-purpose field is horrible and doesn't really want to use them, but we have no choice. Referees are threatening to sue the organizations. The football field is getting worked on three times now. He's a part of the lacrosse organization and they really needed that field this year because we thought it would be fixed and it didn't happen. We had to practice on our game field and we have 6 teams that need a place to practice. They are in talks with HS to use theirs, but he hasn't heard back yet, but he thanked the Mayor for speaking to them on their behalf. He went to check out the football field and he deemed it unsafe for the kids to play on. What are we going to do in a year from now?

**Eddie** – the contractor has taken responsibility for the field and has been out there a couple of times. The efforts that he has made since the field was finished was at his cost. The sample we sent out came back with high sand content, so he has done some aeration and will be back to do more. The spray they use is used in golf courses to be used for drainage and a commonly used method. We do have a performance bond on this project and if he can't resolve this issue, we can call in that bond to recover the costs if needed. He can't do it now due to the weather but he hopes to do it in the spring.

**Alex** – thinks we should start addressing the problems we have with the current fields before we put more money into other recreation projects and maybe not build the basketball court and pickle ball court.

**Keith** – we've allocated part of the operating budget this year for Public works for some more maintenance of the fields. We are in the process of getting bids in from outside agencies to come in and help with the maintenance of the fields.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-21-19