



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

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

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**CITY COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 1, 2019**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

**INVOCATION** – Pastor Ed Stump, Emeritus of Lifepoint Church, Pleasantville

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent:

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

**STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW**

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

**CLOSED SESSION - #122-2019 – Contract Negotiations**

**Fred** – the reason for closed session is to discuss contract negotiations dealing with the fire department and the new facility and engineering of that facility. Action will be taken afterwards.

Motion to enter closed – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

**Fred** – in executive session Council discussed certain contract matters, specifically the construction of a new firehouse. Additional information will be made available in the next 60 days.

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 2018 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 11** Ordinance providing for a supplemental appropriation of \$4,000,000 for the acquisition of Block 200, Lots 12 and 13 on the tax map of the City of Absecon, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey and the construction of a new Firehouse Building thereof in and by the City, authorizing the issuance of \$4,000,000 bonds or notes of the City to finance cost thereof

Motion for introduction – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Phillips

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

Motion to add Resolution #123 and #124 to the consent agenda was made by Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Seher

All were in favor.

### 2019 RESOLUTIONS

- 114** Authorizing the City of Absecon through the Absecon Police Department to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program to enable the Absecon Police Department to request and acquire excess to Department of Defense equipment.

Jessica – this is to allow us in the future to acquire these types of items. It's just to be in the program.

- 115** Authorizing the continuance of an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for the administration of the Program Income from the Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Jessica – these are grant funds we've received for many years and have used them for the senior bus

- 116** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Rotary Club of Absecon.

- 117** Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for 2019 Final/2020 Preliminary and to refund the overpayment of taxes for the 2nd quarter of 2019 on the property located at 1 Mechanic St. #109 (Block 161, Lot 1).

- 118** Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel the remaining taxes for 2019 and over payment of taxes for the 2019 year for Holy Spirit High School (Block 290, Lot 2).

Jessica – the Atlantic County Board of Taxation approved this. It looks like a portion of it

- 119** Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel taxes for the 3rd and 4th Quarter of 2019 and the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2020 on the property located 544 New Jersey Ave. (Block 200, Lots 12 and 13).

- 120** Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property on Absecon Blvd. (Block 227, Lots 10 and 15).

- 121 Accepting a Volunteer Firefighter into the Absecon City Fire Department, namely Matthew Assad.
- 123 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 9F Oyster Bay Road (Block 289, Lot 1 C009F)
- 124 Authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 960 Traymore Avenue (Block 103, Lot 8)

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

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

All were in favor.

No public comment.

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

All were in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolutions #114 to #124 were read again for approval.

Motion to approve consent agenda – 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 - \$2,151,762.50**

Motion to accept the bill list – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Seher

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/18/2019

Closed session as to form and content – 7/18/2019

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

### **REPORTS**

**Jessica** – we received our note sale and it rolled over and received a good rate. The tax bills have been mailed out and they are due 8/23 to make payment without any interest, which does go back until August 1<sup>st</sup>. The transit village application ordinance is being drafted and it will be brought to council.

**Eddie** – had a long productive meeting with the firehouse representatives on Tuesday and are moving towards final bid documents. We are getting quotes to have the underground storage tank removed from the old firehouse site, which should be minor.

**Chris** – when do you think we will go to bid and what about the demolition of the building on the new site?

**Eddie** – hopefully in the next 30 days the bid will be ready and as to the demo, we could do it separately, so we could start sooner on that. The road program is going out to bid tomorrow. The streetscape project is moving along and it looks good. Highland Avenue will be restriped. He has talked to the County regarding the sidewalks by the school, but he has not heard back.

**Mayor** – received a letter from a resident thanking Officer April Kolakowski who handles the City's humane problems. She thanked the Community Affairs committee who helped with the Marin Drive clean up. The Chief met with the new principal of HSHS and he looks forward to working with them and the fire department.

**Chris** – wanted to thank the police chief for overtime being down 8% from two years ago and 7% for comp time.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Roy Talley – Fire Chief – 100 Howlett Lane** – he wanted it know that it wasn't their fault that the fire house is being done. We were asked by the City. He asked if they were still going to have a meeting regarding a new apparatus. Thanked Ed for everything he has done on this job.

**Chris** – there's also the complaint that it's the Taj Mahal and it's not. The confusion was it started in 2015 and the original concept was to transfer land and they'd build it their way, but plans then changed. It will be bigger than the other one and it will be nice.

**Kevin Iaconelli – 702 Ohio Avenue** – he lives on the corner of Cannon and Ohio and Cannon was repaved last November and his railroad ties were torn out on the Cannon Avenue side. He was told they would be replaced and that was in November. Nothing has been done since after 7 calls and 5 visits. The curbing needs to be looked at on the corner as well since there

**Eddie** – the contractor has been notified and from what he was told the contractor told him that they were told you didn't want to keep them since they were old and broken and they weren't replaced. We are trying to get this resolved and will try to compel them to do something.

**Sandy Hickerson – 210 Upland Avenue** – she had previously asked Council for Absecon to become a non-sanctuary city. She has also contacted other Mayors and County representatives. She was told to attend the Freeholder meeting and she did and they are to pass something soon. It's not just safety for our citizens, but for law enforcement officers. It's not about immigrants, but about illegal immigrants. If you come to America to better your life, that's great, but please go through the legal process. She doesn't want to see children torn from their families, but when the law is broken you usually get punished. So if you're here illegally, you broke the law. There are laws for a reason.

**Chris** – Little Egg Harbor Township passed a Resolution in March opposing NJ becoming a sanctuary state. He made a motion to form an ad hoc committee for us to come up with a similar resolution that has to be carefully worded. Frank seconded it.

**Kim** – has spoken to Trenton and we can have training for the department to work with ICE.

ROLL CALL to form the ad hoc committee: Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Seher, yes; Bennett, yes

The committee was approved and Frank, Betty and Chris volunteered to be on it.

**Ed Vincent – 905 Navajo Avenue** – he found out that the 9/11 Memorial Way “finding” signs won’t be put up on the State roads unless they’re directional ones. He was told to take a picture if he saw any other type of signs and to send it to the gentleman he spoke to at the State and they will be taken down. If there is any type of incident, the City could be sued. He doesn’t feel it’s worth chancing it and doesn’t feel it’s a big deal especially with GPS on the phones and Internet that people can use. There are five signs left we have and he feels they should go on the County roads. Lloyd is willing to work with us as well.

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

**Sandy** – announced National Night Out is 8/6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Absecon Community Center for Seniors has their new schedule out for August that will be posted on our website.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 8-15-19