



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 15, 2019

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – a moment of silence was held

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Light

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

PRESENTATION – GIRLS 8U SOFTBALL TEAM

Mayor – on behalf of everyone here we are so proud of you and exciting for her since some were her students. She then introduced the Coach Jim Grimley who introduced the team and his co-coaches, Joe Lovullo, Pat Applegate and Emily Gorman. Kim then read a proclamation.

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 second reading – Councilman Seher – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

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

All were in favor. No public comment

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

All were in favor.

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

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

Chris – he reported since Eddie is not at this meeting. We're moving ahead now and closing on the old firehouse is scheduled for August 28th. We have already received a deposit from the developer and upon settlement we will receive another \$1,050,000.00 and we will have the right to use the old firehouse until the new one is completed. The balance will be given to us once we vacate the old one.

2019 RESOLUTIONS

125 Accepting the 2018 Municipal Audit

Jessica – this was done a while ago, but information was needed by the State to go on the reports regarding pensions. There were no findings this year and we are in good financial condition.

126 Authorizing a contract for the 2019 Road Program

Jessica – there were two bidders on Tuesday and the low bid was Asphalt Paving Systems. There will be a pre-construction meeting before they begin.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda items only)

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilwoman Howell – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions # 125 and 126 were read again for approval.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Councilman Phillips - second – Councilman Cavileer

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,746,926.04

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 8/1/2019

Closed Meeting Minutes – 8/1/19

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Cavileer

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

REPORTS

Frank – Public Safety – the fire tower truck is in for repair since the under carriage is rotting away. The rescue truck cost \$10,000 to repair and that's a 1985. The tires are out of date on all of the trucks. \$30,000 of their budget goes to repairs. There was a fatal accident on Route 30 and Fire Road and the police were busy that night. His next meeting will be cancelled for September. Chief DeRitis – thanked the fire department and ambulance squad for helping out that night.

Betty – Economic Development – we met on August 1st and there's not much to report. We invited the owner of the gas station near Turner Cove to discuss the proposal of expansion of his site, but he didn't attend. She met with ABCD and she announced some of their events.

Chris – he had mentioned some concerns about the Planning Board's process at a previous meeting and he went over a letter from Rob Reid and made some clarifications. In addition, he stated some numbers from other towns for developments in other towns.

Chris – Finance – the major discussion was the audit and he thanked Jessica for how she handles our finances. He also pointed out the charts that are in the back of the report that we should look at.

Sandy – Community Affairs – National Night out was a wonderful event and she thanked the police department for a great job. She then announced upcoming events in the area. She congratulated Chief Roy Talley who will be honored as Absecon Citizen of the Year.

Chris – Public Works – his next meeting is 8/20 @ 3:30 p.m. The streetscape project is winding down. The generator work is scheduled to start in September. He also congratulated Roy. There will be a special board of education meeting on 8/19 @ 7:00 p.m. to vote on the high school sending/receiving situation.

Chris – he pointed out that a major consideration was to add a second option while maintaining the current situation with Pleasantville. He thinks this petition is to terminate Pleasantville and add Absegami. He intends to go to the meeting. He hopes the board is considering the new Sweeny bill which would force all school districts to consolidate some of the schools. If not done voluntary, the State will come in and do it. We have to see if the bill passes and the language in it.

Jessica – Jim Rutala reported back to her with the proposed zoning changes, so she sent it to Ed Dennis first to get his thoughts and opinions.

MONTHLY REPORTS for July - Carie

Tax Collection - \$1,606,950.43

Construction - \$10,360.00

Municipal Court - \$13,914.44

Clerk - \$4,660.07

Mayor – a concerned resident on Ohio Avenue is concerned about speeding, so she wrote a letter to the County Executive and a speed study was done 3-4 years ago, but another one will be done they said. She contacted Kevin regarding the railroad ties and told him the steps the city is taking to rectify it. It should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Thanked Jessica for her work she does.

Chris – asked Kim if she got an updated status regarding the handling of immigrants and police training if needed.

Kim – she contacted the police chief and found out that all of our force have been trained and would be able to assist ICE if needed.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Harry Hartman – 632 Woodland Avenue – after having some meetings some of the higher ups, he said at the school board meeting next Monday, they do plan on voting this through. He just received the real report today. There is not any reference to the cost of tuition anywhere. We aren't going to be able to stop this. The city is going to have to pick up the pieces. He had some costs for sending the students to different high schools. He is not against getting out the contract with Pleasantville and he understands the blending of the K-12 grades. Council works hard to keep the taxes in line; he's concerned the school board has no concern about that. They tell you they do, but he's not sure they get it. It's comes to about an 8% increase a year and if more choose to go to Absegami, you could be looking at a 14% increase. He asked if the developer of the old firehouse site is going to get a tax abatement.

Keith – they are in a PILOT program for the improvements on the land, 95% of the improvements would come to the city and 5% would go to the county. The land is taxed the same way it is and it would get divided into the three portions.

Chris – developers use the PILOT program to get a type of tax cut. That's why this was a great opportunity for the city.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 9-5-19