



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

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AS A ZOOM MEETING.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Keith Bennett at 5:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavalier, Betty Howell, Steve Light, Frank Phillips, Keith Bennett

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

98 Appointing a Part Time Regular Crossing Guard, namely Karen Dixon.
Jessica – this is to replace one that left

99 Renewing Alcoholic Beverage Licenses within the City of Absecon.
Jessica – these are done every year and there are 6

100 Authorizing the Chief of Police to advertise for the position of Full Time Patrol Officer.
Jessica – this is from the retirement and promotions, leaving a position open

101 Expressing opposition to any legislation that unconstitutionally infringes upon an individual's second amendment rights.
Keith – this has been going on throughout the County and State and a few other townships have passed resolutions like this and maybe the County Freeholders as well.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

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

Sandy Hickerson – the County Freeholders did pass a Resolution back in March and 5 other municipalities as well

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

Betty – asked if the problem with the students that go to Assumption School and crossing guards was addressed

Kim – she passed it on to Capt. Stoll and he was going to call the residents

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith – read the resolutions again.

Motion to move the consent agenda – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$2,001,134.26

Motion to approve – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 9/3/2020

Closed Session as to form and content only – 8/20/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Light - second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes, abstain on 8/20; Bennett, yes

Don Burroughs – he was recently at a local establishment and made a comment that offended numerous people in town. He'd like to apologize thoroughly for that.

REPORTS

Parks and Playground - Steve – he is continually speaking to Pete Higbee, the athletic director and he said that softball, tee ball and wee ball are playing and the Blue Devils have been practicing. He asked that we follow up on the Blue Devil and multi-purpose fields regarding the crab grass. The HSHS Father's Club is having a corn hole tournament on 9/24 and they are looking for sponsors.

Keith – brought up the food concessions stands and doesn't see why they can't be open. You could grab something to eat and take it. We try to keep the fees low and this brings money in to help out with costs. It would be similar to a restaurant offering take out and doesn't see why we can't.

Kim – she will contact the State and see what the rules are. We want to keep everyone safe.

Frank – does it say somewhere we have to ask the State?

Discussion about the stands at our fields was then held.

Economic Development - Betty – she will be having a zoom meeting with the Mayor and another party who is interested in our community. Hopefully we can bring them in. She thanked all those who assisted with the 9/11 memorial event. Next year will be the 20th anniversary and we will be starting to plan something for then.

Public Safety - Frank – he had a meeting on Monday and Barry, the Chief of the Ambulance Squad gave him a report. Their 2012 Dodge needed \$4,000 of work done to it. The 2011 is finally completed and once it's inspected in can get on the road and it will be used as a spare when needed. They did purchase some new stretchers at half price and a bio blaster. Membership is up to 30 participants now and they have received a \$10,000 grant. They have revenue losses due to COVID because the casinos and convention center being closed. They were able to get a \$150,000 loan for 30 years at 2.7% ear marked for operational expenses and they will be audited every time they go to spend some of it. The fire department had a fire Monday night and a member was taken to the hospital. The equipment was discussed again. The new truck they are looking into doesn't have to be a special order vehicle, so hopefully the cost will be lower. He suggests they deal with the finance committee now to work up the numbers for when it can get ordered.

Police Chief – regarding Assumption students, they are going full days and he has spoken to the principal. He is looking into the concession stands opening. He asked residents to keep looking out for each other. There are several different burglar rings going on in the area. Not so much in Absecon, but we ask to keep your cars and properties secure and to please call if there is anything suspicious.

Finance – Caleb Cavileer – we met today and handled some personnel issues. We reviewed our study that was done by a consulting firm prior to the construction of the new one regarding the vehicle condition and suggested replacement schedule. He would like to be able to get everyone together who should be involved before the budget process so we can discuss it.

Public Works – Don Burroughs – there was no meeting, but he went through some of the projects. The firehouse is going along schedule and the bay should be done by October 31st and they will continue to work on the rest of the building through November. The gas company is still ongoing throughout town and should be done by the end of the year. Bayview Drive starts September 21 and completed by November 20. The Pitney Road project should be completed soon. The bulkhead at City Hall has begun and should be done by October 26.

Community Affairs – Sandy Cain – she had a meeting on September 2 and they discussed the 9/11 ceremony, which was very well done and she thanked Betty for coordinating it. The annual Halloween decorating contest will still go on, even though we are still not sure about trick or treating. They are looking into possibly having a senior dinner this year if possible. The shredding will be held on October 10th at city hall. The Art Alliance is having their Art in the Park on October 17. Her next meeting is set for October 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Keith – asked if we could find out what the State guidelines are regarding trick or treating. He wants to try and get a handle on it before rumors are started.

Chief – he met with other chiefs and most of them are waiting to decide. We all should wait and see what happens before they start on social media.

Jessica – there was a meeting held for the bike walk and comments were put on the website as well. Reminded everyone do complete the census by 9/30; it's important to respond because it determines the funding that the city receives. The extra ACUA tipping fees came to \$12,000 and we are sending storm expenses to FEMA. The audit has been delayed and we should have it in a few weeks. The Mill Road & Rt. 30 intersection work is supposed to begin on 9/28.

Steve – thanked Jessica, the Mayor and fellow council for helping our city get through this last storm and this crazy year. It's been some unique circumstances.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS - Carie

Tax Collection - \$4,843,690.02
Municipal Clerk - \$3,326.00
Construction - \$10,409.00
Municipal Court - \$5,094.18

There was a question on the chat asking about the 6 six liquor licenses that are issued for our town. They are: White Horse Liquors; TJ's HiPoint Pub; Black Cat; American Legion; VFW and Rifici's.

Mayor – thanked Butch Stewart, Councilwoman Howell and Councilman Cavileer for doing such a great job planning our 9/11 ceremony and a special thank you to Lynn Caterson who secured a video about that day in our country and our community. She also thanked our police, fire, emt's, the American Legion and VFW who all helped out. She thanked the Bocelle's for adding patriotic music to our event. She thanked Capt. Patrick Snyder for being our master of ceremonies; it was his first time and hopefully not his last. She also thanked the clergy and our emergency management team. We read the prepared a general election information sheet, which will be put on our website and the link on the Legion board.

Steve – acknowledged the passing of Brigantine Mayor Andy Simpson and wished Vince Sera well in his new position

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell
All were in favor.

Carol Martinez – when they did the new sidewalks near the school, she feels they should have made a right turn lane onto Pitney Road coming out of Connecticut Avenue. It would have helped because the traffic gets backed up.

Frank – thought that might have been discussed to be made wider and if you only allowed right hand turns, it would create a problem somewhere else. It's been talked about for some time.

Keith – he thinks Ed had commented about the land that is on the corner and he will also ask about the turn lanes

Greg Seher – thanked Council President for looking into having the snack stands reopen to help the local athletic clubs raise funds

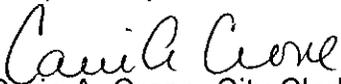
Sandy Hickerson – thanked council for passing the resolution on our second amendment. It's actually National Constitution Day, so it was appropriate.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 10-1-2020