



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

REGULAR MEETING - 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Pro Tem Betty Howell at 5:00pm.

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Barry Ross, Word of Life Christian Fellowship, Cologne

STATEMENT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Burroughs, Cain, Cavileer, Howell, Light, Phillips

ABSENT: Bennett

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Mike Cosky, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Ryan McGowan

2020 RESOLUTIONS

- 31** Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Atlantic County Utilities Authority for Solid Waste, Bulky Waste, Recycling, Roll-Off Pull Services and Yard Waste Collection.

Jessica – we do this agreement every five years, so this is a continued service

- 32** Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the VFW Post 9462 Auxiliary.

- 33** Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits to local Marinas.

Jessica – we have done this each year and we give them to three marinas

- 34** Authorizing the Mayor and other City Officials to execute a 2020 Safety Contract with the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

Jessica – this is a contract we've done each year with JIF.

- 35** Amending Resolution #21-2020, hiring a Full Time Patrol Officer.

Jessica – we didn't have this new information until after our last meeting when we hired him, so since this officer had prior experience, he should have started at step 3 and not 1. This corrects the starting salary to \$51,975.00.

- 36** Appointing a Part-Time Tele-Communicator.

Jessica – this was a full time employee, but she will now stay on as a part time on call if needed.

- 37** Authorizing the execution of a Declaration of Clear Sight Triangle Covenants and Restrictions dealing with roadway intersections of City and County Roadways relating to the Firehouse Construction Project.

Ryan – when we went to the County Planning Board, they look at all of the driveways entrances and exits and you have to draw out site triangles and you can't block that access. We are working on that now.

PUBLIC PORTION (for agenda items only)

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

All were in favor. No public comment.

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

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions were read again.

Motion to move Consent Agenda – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,658,850.00

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilwoman Cain

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 1/16/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Cavileer

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

REPORTS

Jessica – the budget meetings have been scheduled for 2/13 & 2/27 at 5:00 p.m.

Ryan – Eddie now has a second child, a boy born yesterday morning. The fire house is moving along fairly well and ran into some bumps. An old septic field was found buried in the woods and we have tried to locate a conduit that connects the cell tower site with the City Hall and the City's records don't have the location. We had AC Electric come out to help us, but unfortunately the contractor found it with his backhoe. Other than those things, it's going along ahead of schedule.

Mayor – she attended the school board meeting on Jan. 28th and was updated on the Absegami/Absecon School merger. The board is continuing the process and should know more by the end of March they said. We will monitor it and report back. The school board honored our Sgt. Huenke for Officer Appreciation Day on 1/9. Our officers do an outstanding job participating in activities with students when they can. She also attended the first National Honor Society ceremony in the history of our middle school and she stated the qualifications and requirements to be in it. She congratulated the 34 students that made it and one of them is Councilman Cavileer's daughter. Bob announced the shredding date as Earth Day on May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Greg Seher – 625 Yarmouth Avenue – he's a Planning and Zoning Board member and he commented on the meetings being changed to 5:00 p.m. It was mentioned in our minutes when it was being discussed that most meetings are not at 7:00 p.m. There are 23 municipalities in Atlantic County, 7 have 7:00 p.m.; 1 a 7:30; 6 at 6:30 p.m.; 3 at 6:00 p.m. and AC has 5:00 p.m. and now us. He feels it's hard for people to make the 5:00 time and hopefully Council considers changing it back a little later at least.

Roger Dutch – 315 Pennsylvania Avenue – he agrees about the meeting times as well and that they should be a little later. A lot of people are here tonight to ask for support and to hear and come up with a resolution dealing with the second amendment. He was in the military for 11 years and he fought for our rights and freedom. Our second amendment rights are now being stripped away little by little. There are many people that feel the same way as him and they are willing to help with this Resolution if needed. They want Council to support it and he hopes they look at it.

Sandy Hickerson – 210 Upland Avenue – she agrees with the meetings being moved back a little due to work schedules of many people. She also asked for Council's support on the 2nd amendment sanctuary resolution that is going across the State and County. We are law abiding gun owners and we feel that our rights being infringed upon and slowly chipped at over the years. This resolution is our voice on paper stating that we don't agree with the gun laws that the legislators are trying to put in place. Criminals don't abide by the law and these bills only hurt us. We hope you consider adopting this resolution and stand up for the second amendment. EHT is the first township to adopt this last night.

Jean Maker - Egg Harbor Township – she spoke on the resolution and highlighted some points in the Declaration of Independence and the rights of people. She feels most of the gun violence is gang related and the rules aren't going to affect them.

Rose Hickerson – 210 Upland Avenue – she spoke in favor of the 2nd amendment and we should preserve it.

John Fish – 25 E. Lee Avenue – law abiding gun owners are not the problem and laws keep getting changed and our rights are going away. The laws being made aren't going to affect crime, but only the law abiding citizens.

Roger Dutch - 315 Pennsylvania Avenue. - He wanted to emphasize that the resolutions that you all received in the mail have been scrutinized by attorneys and was copied by someone else's.

Rose Hickerson – asked how many own guns in this room that's registered and we are all good citizens and work hard. You don't want your rights infringed upon. It's not us to go after.

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

Mike – this matter should go to a subcommittee first and you can ask questions of the public.

Betty – we will have it reviewed and brought to our attorney and come back. Council does listen to what people ask.

Mike – when a matter is set to become before the full body that matter has already been through a relative subcommittee that way all the interested parties can be heard.

Frank – suggested this go to the Public Safety committee, so we can involve the Police Chief. They are the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Betty – agreed it should

Steve – thanked everyone for coming and their input. It's a different world we live in now.

Mayor – she thinks that's the appropriate committee as well

Betty – congratulated Eddie and his wife and welcomed Calvin. Wednesday she was able to take her great nephew to our City library and they have a great program for preschoolers on every Wednesday. It's a wonderful thing.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 2/20/2020