



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

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

**CITY COUNCIL**

**JULY 16, 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.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Cavileer

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

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW**

**NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**PRESENTATION – BOND COUNSEL – TONY SOLIMINE**

**Tony** – reported great news to everyone. The bond sale was held on July 14<sup>th</sup> and it was a competitive one. The winning bidder TCI gave us a 2.14475% rate, which is outstanding. It was estimated that we would have to pay \$5.3 million of interest over the 25 years, but we will only be paying \$3.8 million over the life of the loan. You locked this in for 25 years now and it was a great result.

**Keith** – that certainly is good news and the savings of interest in the amount of \$1.8 million over all those years is great too.

**Jessica** –in the beginning, we thought that it would be necessary for the whole property to be developed to see a savings, but we are going to be close with the savings we are having and having only the two developments. We still want to have phase 3 would help our revenue stream and future tax increases. A report can now be done with more information since we have our loan rate in.

## 2020 RESOLUTIONS

- 82 Authorizing Change Order No. 3 for the construction of a new Fire Department Facility.
- 83 Authorizing Change Order No. 4 for the construction of a new Fire Department Facility.
- 84 Authorizing Remington & Vernick, City Engineers to administer additional construction management and professional services for the Fire Department Facility.
- 85 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the Pitney Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements (Re-bid).
- 86 Authorizing the City of Absecon to award the contract for the City Hall retaining wall replacement.
- 87 Authorizing an agreement between the City of Absecon and Absecon Urban Renewal, LLC.

**Eddie** – commented on all of them since they all had to do with city projects.

**#82** deals with the flooring of the firehouse that was in the contract;

**#83** deals with a new deadline of completion due to our times right now and everyone is in agreement so there will be no repercussions;

**#84** goes along with the updated time frame. When it was awarded the construction management contract got us through 250 days into the contract, \$45,000 was budgeted in the 2020 budget as well, but with the new contract going until October 16<sup>th</sup>, additional monies are needed until the end of October, which is about half of what was budgeted. The costs for the extension will be a per diem.

**Keith** – asked Jessica if she will try to recoup some of the extra costs since they are due to the pandemic

**Jessica** – she definitely will try.

**Steve** – asked Ed about an update on the completion and percentage of the project that we are at. It does look great and progress looks like it's moving along

**Ed** - we are about halfway paid out on it and are 6-7 months in, with about 3 more to go. There is no change since we last spoke and business is usual and he will keep giving updates.

**#85** – the Pitney Road project went out to bid again and we did get 5 or 6 compared to the 2 originally. He is happy to report that the lowest bid was \$279,000 and some change and what we wanted to spend was \$271,000. Work should be started soon so they can get away from the school as quick as possible.

**#86** – we received 5 bids and they were opened yesterday. The lowest one came in around our costs, at \$440,000 and some change and the contractor is the one who built the one at Faunce Landing Road. They want to start as soon as possible and will move on this quickly. This project was budgeted in 2019 to be done.

**#87** - this is related to the firehouse and it's really a housekeeping item. When the Redevelopment Agreement was agreed on, the redeveloper wanted to have an official capacity during the construction of the firehouse. That agreement was never signed and that is what we are doing now. They have been helpful and cooperative during the whole process already, so it's just a formality. It was agreed they would be paid \$25,000 for this role.

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

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

All were in favor. No comments.

Frank said he received some texts that people can't get on to the meeting.

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

All were in favor.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Keith read the Consent Agenda Resolutions again.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell

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

## **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$2,477,463.41**

Motion to approve – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes – 7/2/2020

Closed Session - 7/2/2020 – will be on the 8/6 Agenda for approval

Motion to approve – Councilman Light - second – Councilwoman Cain

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

## **REPORTS**

**Parks & Playgrounds – Light** – the first concert was held and it was a nice turnout. He announced the upcoming bands. The American Legion still wants to try to have their clam bake at the end of the summer.

A discussion about the food stand being open during the concerts was held.

**Economic Development – Howell** – mentioned there are two possible developments coming to town, but she couldn't mention anything until an application is turned into the Planning Board. Keith mentioned to keep patronizing our local businesses. There was a meeting on Wednesday and it was decided to postpone the Creek Fest until 2021. It is disappointing to many. She thanked Debbie Reilly and Councilman Cavileer for all their hard work on planning the event. All the bands have rescheduled and we won't lose any deposits, so we won't lose any money moving the event.

**Community Affairs – Cain** – hasn't had a meeting, but she announced that the flower pot contest is still going to happen on 7/29 and the rain date is the 30<sup>th</sup>. The cultural arts group has a jam session each Thursday on their Facebook page at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Works - Burroughs** – hasn't had a meeting, but Lloyd and his team are keeping the town looking nice.

**Public Safety – Phillips** – had no report and the fire house was talked about  
**Chief Laughlin** – asked everyone to keep looking out for one another. There are a high number of car burglaries, so you need to lock them. Exterior lighting around the house is a good idea too. There have been no issues at the boat ramp and the June date for the Creek Fest would not be a good idea. His officers were commended for all the good work and representing our city, especially with all that is going on around the country.

**Jessica** – we received our certified tax rate and the bills will go out in the next couple of weeks. It will be going up 2.4 cents this year. The due date will be extended 25 days after the mailing. In the mailing, there will be a newsletter as well.

**Keith** – liked the idea of sending a newsletter every once in a while.

**Eddie** – the Press of AC will be running a story on the new firehouse tomorrow or the next day. Anyone interested in a tour should just contact him.

**MONTHLY REPORTS for June - Carie**

Clerk's Office - \$8,312.00  
Tax Collection - \$464,908.90  
Construction - \$10,452.00  
Municipal Court - \$7,155.81

**Mayor** – recognized Officer O'Connell for going the extra mile to a young resident of the city who wanted a tour of the building and his car; she thanked Jessica for her work dealing with our finances and allowing us to get a low rate on our bond; she thanked Officer Max Lorenzo who assisted two of our seniors at one of our concerts; thanked Officers Matthew Hood for assisting our residents in the past election. She attended a school meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> as they outlined the issue that need to be addressed before the children can go back to school. A survey is being formulated to go out to the parents. She asked Council for a consensus about sending a letter to the County requesting a wayfinding sign at the corner of Pleasant and Mill Roads. The consensus was to try. Steve thinks it's good to promote our Industrial Park as well.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Greg Seher** – is council able to discuss the law suit that was previously discussed in closed session?

**Fred** – there was an agreement between the parties, but the final signatures have not been completed and still open with the Court. He will try to lock it down by next meeting.

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

**Steve** – apparently we have a shortage of homes here. People want to move here and they are finding it hard to find a home. Our inventory is low. They are looking at the \$150,000 range and \$350,000 as well. He stressed to our residents to swim in a guarded area and be safe. He was able to help someone who got caught in a rip current recently.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_