

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 25, 2020

The Meeting held electronically at South Amboy City Hall, 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, New Jersey, was called to order by Council President Gross at 6:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilwoman Noble, Councilman Reilly, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Fred A. Henry, Mayor, Glenn Skarzynski, Business Administrator, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Francis Womack, Director of Law, OEM Director Mark Herdman, City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, Auditor Gary Higgins, CFO Dan Balka and Mayor Fred Henry

Council President Gross read the Notice of Publication Certification and noted this meeting was being held electronically because of the current Covid19 Virus Pandemic. The public has been notified of the telephone number to call to access the teleconferenced meeting. Mr. Gross thanked all the First Responders and Council and BA for their work in keeping everyone safe and informed.

BUDGET HEARING/ADOPTION:

President Gross stated there had been technical issues with the previous meeting’s call in platform that had prevented Councilman McLaughlin and Reilly as well as the public from being able to get access to the March 18th meeting at which the 2020 Budget was adopted. To rectify the situation, a Special Meeting was properly noticed, a new teleconference platform found and tested before tonight’s meeting and the public hearing for the adoption of the budget will be held again this evening. Gary Higgins, Auditor, recapped the City’s budget discussing, the DGLS giving their approval to move forward with the hearing, appropriations, CAP Bank, the City’s excellent tax collection rate and the fact that most of the City’s \$47 annual increase for a \$250,000 home was due to the increase in garbage collection fees. He reminded the Council that there was \$105,718 in the Storm Reserve Trust and that money can be used for costs incurred during the pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-105 RESCINDING RESOLUTION 20-104 2020 BUDGET ADOPTION

WHEREAS due to electronic difficulties which prevented Council Members and the Public being heard at the Public Hearing to adopt the Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, that Resolution 20-104 Adopting the 2020 Budget is hereby rescinded.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-105 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor**

President Gross asked for comments from the Council members on the budget before the vote was taken. Mr. McLaughlin was very unhappy on being excluded from the March 18th meeting and stated he was upset that as the BA and Mayor had realized there was a problem with the teleconference they should have cancelled the meeting. He would not be voting for the budget over concerns about the purchase of a new ambulance, funds for hiring high school students for summer work, salary increases and the possible affects of PILOT money due to the COVID pandemic. Mr. Reilly stated:

I will be voting against the budget. We cannot be giving huge raises to employees who have been working for the city for less than one year. In one case a part time employee will be making more than some DPW workers. So this sends the wrong message to many of the fine employees the city has that have been dedicated and committed workers for many years. In addition, I raised a concern a few months back concerning the Woodmont PILOT, in the agreement the land tax act as a credit, we over estimated the revenue because this credit was not factored in, based on that I will be voting no on the budget.

PUBLIC HEARING
OPEN PUBLIC – no comment

CLOSE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION NO. 20-106 2020 BUDGET ADOPTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$18,835,746.00 for municipal purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the summary of revenues and appropriations are approved as attached.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-106 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Gross Nays: Noble, Reilly, McLaughlin. The Budget is not adopted.**

On motion of Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, Resolution 20-108 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #108-2020

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZING
AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20**

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen due to the anticipated delay in the adoption of the 2020 budget, and adequate provision has not been made in the 2020 temporary budget for the appropriations specified on the attached page; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in 2020 pursuant to the provision of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$10,948,907.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE, AND IT IS, HEREBY, RESOLVED by the Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, (not less than two thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made as specified on the attached page in the amount of \$3,887,677.00, and;
2. That said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided in the 2020 budget under the headings as specified on the attached page.
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

City of South Amboy		Emergency Temporary Appropriations		
		2020	2020	2020
<i>Dept #</i>	<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<u>SALARIES</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
20-100	Administration	64,288.00	18,500.00	82,788.00
20-110	Mayor and Council	7,750.00	1,950.00	9,700.00
20-120	Clerk	43,893.00	13,250.00	57,143.00
20-130	Financial Administration	36,268.00	12,500.00	48,768.00
20-135	Audit	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
20-145	Revenue Administration	20,000.00	4,000.00	24,000.00
20-150	Tax Assessor	6,503.00	1,400.00	7,903.00
20-155	Legal Services	-	57,500.00	57,500.00
20-165	Engineering Services	-	81,500.00	81,500.00
21-180	Planning Board		15,000.00	15,000.00
22-195	Code Enforcement	60,182.00	1,050.00	61,232.00
23-210	Liability Insurance	-	71,337.00	71,337.00
23-212	Disability Insurance	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
23-215	Workers Comp	-	82,251.00	82,251.00
23-220	Employee Group Insurance	-	577,500.00	577,500.00

23-221	Health Benefit Waiver	-	7,000.00	7,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Insurance	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
25-240	Police	802,349.00	38,000.00	840,349.00
25-252	Emergency Management	2,750.00	2,500.00	5,250.00
25-255	Aid to Volunterr Fire Co.s	-	23,000.00	23,000.00
25-260	Aid to Volunteer Ambulance	-	16,000.00	16,000.00
25-265	Fire Department Other	-	13,500.00	13,500.00
25-267	LOSAP	-	11,000.00	11,000.00
26-290	Streets and Roads	110,270.00	26,000.00	136,270.00
26-305	Solid Waste	75,541.00	197,104.00	272,645.00
26-307	Sewer	21,899.00	38,000.00	59,899.00
26-308	MCUA Sewer Fees	-	183,000.00	183,000.00
26-310	Building and Grounds		43,500.00	43,500.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance	25,139.00	26,000.00	51,139.00
28-379	Shade Tree	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
27-330	Public Health Services	442.00	15,500.00	15,942.00
27-331	Vital Statistics	1,562.00		1,562.00
27-340	Animal Control Services	-	3,750.00	3,750.00
28-370	Recreation	10,390.00	8,500.00	18,890.00
28-370	Historical Society of S Amboy	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
28-370	S Amboy Arts District	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
28-371	Senior Citizens	29,220.00	3,150.00	32,370.00
29-390	Library	-	77,000.00	77,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events	-	14,000.00	14,000.00
31-430	Utilities	-	147,500.00	147,500.00
36-472	Social Security	-	74,000.00	74,000.00
36-473	DCRP	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
43-275	Municipal Prosecutor	2,615.00	-	2,615.00
43-490	Municipal Court	30,870.00	3,750.00	34,620.00
43-495	Public Defender	589.00	-	589.00
		1,352,520.00	2,535,157.00	3,887,677.00

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-108 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor**

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-107

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PASSENGER FERRY GRANT PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF ONGOING EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT THE RADFORD FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT .

WHEREAS, the City of South Amboy desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the Federal Transit Administration Passenger Ferry Grant to carry out a project to construct the Radford Ferry Terminal Project

NOW, THEREFORE, BE, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,

1. That the Council of the City of South Amboy, Middlesex County, State of New Jersey, does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

2. The Council authorizes the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Federal Transit Administration, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the City of South Amboy, Middlesex County and the Federal Transit Administration

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Fred A. Henry, Mayor, and Glenn Skarzynski, Business Administrator, are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-107 is hereby approved. Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS:

- Mr. McLaughlin thanked all the First Responders for their continued good work.
- Mr. Reilly stated he was troubled by the travesty of the March 18th meeting and stated that the City was better than that and must do better.
- Ms. Noble stated she believed the technical issues at the March 18th meeting were unintentional and she hoped the Council could work together to adopt a budget. She did not have any issues with the salaries but did hope money for the high school student work program could be found.
- Ms. Dato stated no one felt good about the difficulties in the March 18th meeting but is sure the Council will work together to pass the budget shortly. She reminded everyone to be kind to one another and that everything will eventually get back to normal. She also reminded everyone to fill out the census and be counted!
- Mr. Gross said that he was continuing to do the best he could in this busy time and that he was available at any time to answer questions so people could be dealing in fact not fiction.
- Chief LaVigne noted they are doing everything possible to keep our First Responders safe.
- Mayor Henry thanked everyone for coming out to this meeting and stated he was sure the council will work out the issues with the budget.
- Mr. Skarzynski thanked everyone for their cooperation in keeping local government working.
- Mr. Womack had no comment.
- Mr. Rasimowicz thanked the First Responders

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tim Walczak, First Aid Captain thanked the Council for their continued support and will continue to keep the lines of communication open.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Ms. Noble and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks, Municipal Clerk
Approved April 1, 2020