

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 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 7:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Skarzynski, Business Administrator, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Francis Womack, Director of Law and Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer

The City Clerk 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.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-285
APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Amboy does hereby receive and approve the payment of the bill list dated September 10, 2020, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bills list be appended to the official minutes.

MOVED by: Ms. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-285 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-286
APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Amboy does hereby approve and release the Council Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Business Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-286 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Noble, Reilly, Gross Abstain: McLaughlin**

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the Agenda.

MOVED by: Ms. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution #20-287 through #20-292 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

- NO. 20-287 RESOLUTION APPROVING 2020 COUNTY BOARD OF TAX APPEALS LIST
- NO. 20-288 AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE AND THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FOR MUTUAL AID EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- NO. 20-289 RESOLUTION APPROVING 2020-2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS
- NO. 20-290 RESOLUTION APPOINTING COURT ADMINISTRATOR
- NO. 20-291 RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF RESCUE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000.
- NO. 20-292 AWARD OF CONTRACT – COUUMUNITY CENTER WATERPROOFING REPAIRS GEOCON INDUSTRIES

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 13-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1036 ENTITLED "PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS" FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY (REMOVAL OF EXPIRED SPOTS)

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #13-2020 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 21, 2020 meeting.

SECONDED by: Ms. Noble, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE NO. 14-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 1036 ENTITLED "PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY" IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY – 228 CHURCH ST. - MULLIN

MOVED by: Ms. Noble, that Ordinance #14-2020 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 21, 2020 meeting.

SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ADOPTION/SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 9-2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF AN EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF CITY PROPERTY LOCATED ON BLOCK 47, LOT 8.02, NEAR 141 NORTH BROADWAY, IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HANDICAP ACCESS RAMP

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms.Noble, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #09-2020 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE NO. 10-2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY LIMITING AND PROHIBITING THE SALE OF VAPING PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES IN CERTAIN PLACES WITHIN THE B-1 GENERAL BUSINESS ZONE OF THE CITY

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #10-2020 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE NO. 11-2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY LIMITING AND PROHIBITING THE SALE OF VAPING PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES IN CERTAIN PLACES WITHIN THE B-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL ZONE OF THE CITY

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms. Noble, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #11-2020 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS:

Ms. Noble:

- Sent wishes for a speedy recovery to Jimmy Kehoe.
- Confirmed with Councilwoman Dato that the Mail In Ballots will be sent to every registered voter starting around September 23rd. These Ballots may be put in the regular mail, dropped at a local drop box, brought to the Middle-High School polling location on election day or brought to the Board of Elections.

Ms. Dato:

- Please come out for the Classic Car Parade this Sunday at 1pm. Information is on the City website. Please donate non-perishable foods and vote for the best car!

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Sent condolences to the Gasiewski and Bouchard families.
- Received confirmation that there has been no movement on the Pallet production summonses.
- Received confirmation that the field dirt has been ordered and all other field work has been completed.
- Discussed various issues regarding the Manhattan Beach project including the number of local hire, local businesses being contacted for work on the project, workers for the Parking garage and disappointment with the number of local hires. Suggested the public keep this in mind as the City moves forward with additional possible PILOTs.

- Requested the time line for the new Fire Chief vehicle be moved up as quickly as possible.
- Requested clarification of the October 22 and December 19 2018 minute situation. Mr. Womack reported that there had been audio difficulties with the December 19, 2018 meeting and that the minutes were therefor of a most basic nature. In the past few years, the minutes had not been put before the Council for approval. Clerk Brooks reported that the Clerk's office was currently gathering the missing meetings and would bring them in front of the Council for approval over the next few months. Mr. McLaughlin asked if the votes from the meetings with the inaudible recording would be null and void and Mr. Womack replied that the votes would not be null and void.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the Food Pantries for their continued good work, especially Janet Kern who has been a great volunteer.
- Received confirmation that Mr. Demasi's bamboo issue was still being addressed by the code enforcement officer and BA Skarzynski said he would follow up with Mr. Reilly regarding the status.
- Sent condolences to the Gasiewski family.
- Noted he agreed with Mr. McLaughlin's comments regarding the illegal pallet business. He has been speaking out about this for over a year, the site is hazardous and needs to be addressed immediately.
- Received confirmation from BA Skarsynski that Jay Elliot is moving forward working with the state to set up a process for boarding house inspections and that Code is moving forward with the first batch of letters to the approximately 200 illegal multi unit dwellings in the City. This will be a lengthy process as each has to be dealt with individually. BA Skarzynski will keep the Council apprised of the progress.
- Received confirmation that there has been no movement on the purchase of the new ambulance.
- Received confirmation from Mr. Skarzynski that there has been no update on the development of the Wische property. Mr. Reilly voiced his concern that the project would be more rentals units with additional PILOTS and the Council should be cautious going down that road.
- Confirmed with President Gross that the Council would continue it's electronic meeting until at least January. Voiced his preference to keep to two meetings a month in order to maximize public participation.

Mr. Gross:

- Agreed with Mr. Reilly and Mr. McLaughlin that the Pallet house issue is serious and needs immediate attention – requested the police department act on the open warrants immediately.
- Stated he was alarmed at the number of illegal rental units and realizes the process of sorting them out will be time consuming.
- Noted that the City has "lost a good one" in the death of Mr. Gasiewski.
- Admonished the COVID pandemic is not over and it is important that everyone remains vigilant in their health practices and also reminded everyone to go out and get a Flu shot!

Mayor Henry:

- Was happy the City has entered into a shared services agreement with the Woodbridge Emergency Services personnel. Woodbridge will cover calls when the City emergency responders cannot and will only charge what the insurance companies will cover.
- Support the resolution approving the purchase of Air Bags for the Independence Fire Department.

- Thanked City Engineer Rasimowicz for his continued good work on the various road improvements going on around the City and cautioned the residents to drive carefully around the work sites.
- Was happy to see the Ordinance approving the easement so a handicap ramp can be installed on 141 Broadway offering equal access to all.
- Encouraged people to come and participate in the Classic Car Parade this Sunday and to donate non-perishable food items. He also encouraged businesses to get involved in the local Rotary Club.
- Thanked Congressman Pallone for efforts in supporting the City in its grant application which resulted in the City receiving 5.4 million dollars for the Ferry Project.
- Enjoyed a successful ribbon cutting with Governor Murphy in launching the ground breaking of the \$595 million train bridge project.
- Stated that he understood not everyone likes the idea of PILOT programs but the State encourages them for sites that would otherwise sit empty and untended. He feels that the current PILOTS have done well by the City of South Amboy and believes they will continue to do so in the future.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Reported that the new owner of the market on Roswell has pulled a demolition permit and is moving toward presenting his plans to the Planning Board. This is one less blighted area in the City!
- Stated that addressing the issue of the illegal apartments is a lengthy, involved process and it will take a long time to get through the entire list. Each unit has to be treated individually and must be done in a way that doesn't cause a glut in the courts, which are already backed up.
- The City will be installing a Ballot Drop Box so after completing their ballots, voters can drop them in the Drop Box, in the regular mail, or bring them to the County Board of elections or on election day bring them to the Middle-High School.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Reported the Bid for the new generator at the DPW is out and bid opening October 7th and will be awarded at the October 21st meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Bill Demasi, 146 John St., thanked Councilman Reilly and President Gross for their continued assistance with his bamboo issue. Going forward he was looking for help as to the next step in the process, specifically the legal ramifications. Attorney Womack will follow up with him.
- Mr. Babulak, 125 Henry St., questioned the lack of agendas and minutes posted on the website and specifically the 12-19-18 meeting minutes and missing audio. The City is in the process of putting all back minutes and agendas on the website. There was a technical issue on the 12-19-18 meeting. The Council reiterated that they are always acting in a transparent manner.
- Brandon Russell asked and received confirmation that the BOE is not directly involved in the negotiations of PILOTS and that the purchase of the Chrome Books by the City was after the PILOTS had been put in place. He suggested the BOE be involved in the PILOT negotiation at the new Manhattan Beach project. Mayor Henry noted he is in contact often with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss their needs.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Ms. Noble and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved October 21, 2020