

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 21, 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. 20-293
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 October 15, 2020, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-293 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-294
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 16, 2020 Business Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-294 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution #20-295 through #20-306 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

- NO. 20-295 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS – NJ CARES ACT GRANT

- NO. 20-296 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS- FERRY PROJECT GRANT

- NO. 20-297 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY TO SELL SURPLUS CITY EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES THROUGH THE MUNICIBID WEBSITE FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY

- NO. 20-298 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 20-066 AWARDDING STATE CONTRACT #19-FLEET-00708

- NO. 20-299 VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION – ASTURIAS

- NO. 20-300 MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR THE ARTS INSTITUTE OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY DIVISION OF ART & HISTORY PROGRAM SUPPORT II GRANT PROGRAM

- NO. 20-301 RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR – TSUJ CORP.

- NO. 20-302 RESOLUTION RENEWING LIQUOR LICENSE 1220-44-003-010, SOUTH AMBOY LIQUOR & FOOD LLC FOR 2020-2021

- NO. 20-303 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT – KURZAWA

- NO. 20-304 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM OF THE NJDOT

- NO. 20-305 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR 2020 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

- NO. 20-306 RESOLUTION APPROVING GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FISCAL GRANT CYCLE – JULY 2020-JUNE 2025

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Best Practices – BA Skarzynski reported that the Best Practices questionnaire was complete and the City had met expectations in scoring.

- 2) Ordinance 15-2020 – amending Ordinance 7-1999 – BA Skarzynski reviewed the proposed ordinance which was designed to move the First Aid Squad under the umbrella of the Fire Department in order to allow the City to increase funding for them. Mr. Reilly requested and Attorney Womack confirmed that a red-lined version of the Ordinance would be provided before introduction at the next meeting.

- 3) New truck for 3rd Fire Chief – President Gross strongly expressed a desire to purchase a new vehicle for the 3rd Fire Chief. After some discussion, BA Skarzynski

stated he would get back to the Council after speaking with the CFO and that it isn't so much a matter of funding as the time it takes to order and receive the vehicle working through the state contracts.

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION/SECOND 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)

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms. Noble, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #13-2020 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Dato, **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

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #14-2020 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Ms. Dato:

- Reported that the YMCA has reopened with all safety precautions in place. There is no need to make an appointment for open gym areas. On-line classes will also be offered. People can join with no fee and no contract through November 10th.
- The Mayor's Wellness Challenge Run/Walk has begun. Participants can sign up to do 26.2, 50 or 100 miles over a four week period. Please call Jackie at the Senior Center for more information.
- Election day is November 3rd. Mail-In Ballots can be put in any regular mail box, or drop box (there is one at the train plaza on Broadway), or dropped at the High School on election day. Everyone should vote!

Ms. Noble:

- Wished everyone a good even and reminded people to drive carefully on Halloween night as there will be people out and about.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked everyone involved in keeping the Food Banks running and noted that St. Mary's is running low and encouraged anyone that could help to please donate to the Food Bank.
- Commended the South Amboy Fire Department on combatting the fire on Second St. – it was an outstanding job.
- Requested an update on the Pallet Operation. BA Skarzynski reported a second round of summons are in the works and when he had driven by it today there were only 3 pallets visible. He was hopeful things would trend in the right direction.
- Received an update from BA Skarzynski regarding the illegal multi family homes operating in the City. BA Skarzynski noted John Bartlinski had been working daily on the situation. There are about 60 homes on the list. 44 Certified letters had been sent out and 24 responses to those letters have been received. Mr. Reilly noted this is a quality of life issue for the residents of the City and hoped it stayed a high priority of Code Enforcement. BA Skarzynski assured him it will continue to be the top priority.
- Asked the residents of the City to please support local businesses which are having a difficult time during this pandemic.
- Noted he was in favor of keeping the two meeting per month schedule. The Council took a straw poll and agreed with maintaining the two meeting per month schedule with the exception of the summer months.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the South Amboy Fire Department as well as the Perth Amboy and Sayreville Fire Departments for the response to the Second Street fire.
- Wondered why the Council had not been notified of the Public Hearing for the Ferry Project. BA Skarzynski apologized for the oversight and would insure proper notice was given in the future.
- Received an update on the status of the Lower Main paving project from Mark Rasimowicz.
- Confirmed that the order for the two new Fire Trucks was almost complete and delivery should be in August.
- Noted his concern about the fact that the December 19, 2018 meeting was not properly recorded and did not have appropriate minutes to reflect the importance of the meeting. He also stated he was not out to get anyone in City Hall fired. After lengthy discussion between the Council, BA and Law Director, it was determined that a more complete set of minutes would be prepared and reviewed by the Council and then put on the agenda and additionally the BA would reach out to a electronic forensic specialist to see if the audio file of the meeting could be returned. Mr. Reilly added that he wouldn't be able to approve the minutes in the form they are currently in. He would like to see minutes that reflected the view of the many people who came to the meeting and had concerns with the project and the council members views reflected in the minutes)
- Received an update on the violation status of the properties on Catherine and Fourth Streets – As per the BA, the owner of the Catherine Street property was in foreclosure and has no intention of correcting any of the violations. There was a second summons issued to the property on Fourth and Potter.
- Reported the school is offering a free lunch program.
- Received confirmation that the City put out a request for quotes for the Diesel gas sales. BA Skarzynski would follow up with him about the details.
- Confirmed with Attorney Womack that neither a stenographer or audio tape of a meeting are required by law.

Mr. Gross:

- Confirmed the Council was in agreement with returning to two meetings per month and also reiterated that meetings would continue on the GoTo Meeting platform until at least January.
- Reiterated the need to provide the 3rd Fire Chief with a new vehicle.
- Thanked the Fire Department for their great response to the Second Street fire.
- Received confirmation of the process that will be followed if an illegal multi family home remains non-compliant, ie. Further summons, etc.
- South Amboy is hosting a Drive-Thru Flu Clinic on October 28th at Snorkel Fire House. Paperwork should be filled out on-line prior to going to the clinic. There is no charge. Mr. Gross thanked Kathy Kudelka for doing a great job in getting the Flu Clinic organized and he hopes this format may be an example of how the Covid Vaccine can be distributed once we have one.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the Fire Department for their excellent work on the Second Street fire. Particularly saving the adjoining homes as one of them was the home of his parents.
- Thanked everyone involved in the Mayor's Wellness Run/Walk, reminded people to stay safe while participating and noted that the Run/Walk helped local businesses by putting them on the event tee shirts.
- Reminded everyone to exercise their right to vote on November 3rd!
- Thanked Mark Rasimowicz for his good work in overseeing the multiple road projects going on around the City.
- Noted that this Saturday at 3:30pm the Historical Society was having its annual cemetery tour. Get outside, wear your mask and keep social distancing.
- Invited everyone out to the November 11th, 6pm Veteran's day ceremony at the train station plaza.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Reported the November Business Meeting would have updates on several of the quality of life issues the City was dealing with such as the property on Rosewell, truck traffic on Bertram/Conlogue and truck traffic on Main St.
- Reported Code Enforcement is working on getting 3" numbers on all homes in the City to help emergency services more quickly identify addresses.
- Noted the Library is having a Veteran Storytime program in November.
- Noted that the City is working with the Food Pantries to determine more ways the City can be of help to its citizens with grant opportunities.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Updated the Council on various road projects statuses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Janine Longobardi, 395 Raritan St. requested a decrease in volume and frequency of use of the emergency sirens.
2. Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St. confirmed the best form of contact with each Council member and received clarification about the emergency services becoming part of the Fire Department. He also asked if there are plans in place for the empty First Aid space. As per BA Skarzynski, not as of yet. Stated he believed the December 19, 2020 minutes were not legal. Asked who the new owner of the Woodmont properties was. BA Skarzynski said he would find out and get back to Mr. Russell.
3. Bill DeMasi, 146 John St inquired as to whether or not illegal multi family homes would be forced to return to single family homes. BA Skarzynski stated he believed that if they are in a zone which did not allow multi family homes then they would

have to be returned to single family homes, but if zoning allowed they could just meet compliance issues and remain a multi family home.

4. Greg Babulak, 125 Henry St. spoke about the lack of accurate minutes for the December 19, 2018 meeting, wondered why the Council didn't realize earlier that there was an issue with the recording and asked Ms. Dato why she didn't want to come back to in person meetings until the new year. Ms. Dato replied that she was following the recommendation of Council President Gross and Ms. Noble added that the entire Council, although they would prefer to be holding in person meetings, understood the need to keep going with the GoTo Meeting platform for the time being.
5. Brian Murphy, 260 Henry St. confirmed that the drive thru Flu clinic was free. He also agreed that the minutes of the December 19, 2018 should more accurately reflect the public turn out and sentiment. Lastly he noted that the free lunch program would be on Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2 pm and on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm.
6. Larry Parsons, 46 Pupek Rd., questioned the status of the roads near the Hole In The Wall. Mr. Rasimowicz answered that water company had done some road work without permits which had been stopped. Permits had been applied for and he would get back to Mr. Parsons regarding the restoration timeline. Councilman McLaughlin mentioned the road had been in rough shape in front of his wife's busines at 125 Broadway due to the water company, but they had been repaired.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Ms. Noble and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved November 4, 2020