

MINUTES FOR BUSINESS MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2020

The Meeting held 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: Councilman Reilly, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilwoman Noble, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Fred A. Henry, Mayor, Glenn Skarzynski, Business Administrator, and Francis Womack, Director of Law

The City Clerk read the notice of publication statement.

DISCUSSION:

1. Resolution for Chapter 159 – Homeland Security Subgrant- Council approved the resolution to be on the November 23rd agenda.
2. Resolution for Refund of tax overpayment – Silva -Council approved the resolution to be on the November 23rd agenda.
3. Resolution for Tax Lien – 104 S. Rosewell – After a brief discussion on the progress of the market and apartment planning board application on Rosewell, the Council approved the resolution for the November 23rd agenda.
4. Resolution for Budget Transfer – Council approved the resolution for the November 23rd agenda.
5. Resolution to cancel taxes – 331 Bordentown/Applegate Estate – The Council approved the resolution for the November 23rd agenda.
6. Resolution to refund tax over payment – Estate of Lillian Applegate – the Council approved the resolution for the November 23rd agenda and discussed the installation of a veterans park at the location.
7. Resolution to establish the City of South Amboy Nutritional Support Program – The Council authorized the resolution to be put on the November 23rd agenda with the amendment adding language to have no end date to the program and language giving the program the ability to work with additional agencies, private and public in picking up donated supplies.
8. Resolution Authorizing the City of South Amboy to enter into a cooperative pricing system. Council approved the resolution to be put on the November 23rd agenda
9. Ordinance amending truck weight restrictions on certain city streets. Council approved for introduction at the November 23rd meeting
10. Ordinance regulating vehicle repair on public streets – approved for introduction at the November 23rd agenda.
11. Ordinance regarding Fire Department and First Aid Squad – Approved for introduction on the November 23rd agenda.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-307
APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Amboy does hereby receive and file the bills list dated October 29, 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. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-307 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-308
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 October 21, 2020 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-308 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-309
AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE OWEN FORENSIC AUDIO SERVICES

RESOLUTION 20-309

Resolution Authorizing the Mayor or his designee to engage the services of Owen Forensic Services for the City of South Amboy

Whereas, The City of South Amboy is organized and exists pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40:63-68 et seq., and constitutes a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey; and

Whereas, the recording of the City Council meeting of December 19, 2018 is inaudible: and

Whereas, the City of South Amboy is committed to local government transparency: and

Whereas, the services of a Forensic Sound Engineer may improve the quality of the existing digital recording to the extent that it will be audible to the general public and allow for the production of more accurate minutes of the meeting; and

Whereas, Owen Forensic Services from Colonia, NJ has the requisite skill, experience and equipment to enhance the quality of the original recording, and

Whereas, execution of the contract to deliver these goods and services requires the authorization of the South Amboy City Council;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City of South Amboy as follows:

The City Council hereby authorizes the City Administration to disburse an amount not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for this purpose; and

Be it further resolved that the Mayor or his designee is authorized to execute any necessary agreements with Owen Forensic Services to provide the services described to the City of South Amboy.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 20-309 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

COMMENTS:

Ms. Noble:

- Congratulated Ms. Dato, Mr. Reilly and Mr. McLaughlin on their re-election.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated her fellow Councilmembers successful campaigns – she is looking forward to continuing to work together
- Thanked the residents for their support.
- Noted that she will continue to consider all residents request, big or small, with an open mind.
- Congratulated the winners and candidates who ran for the Board of Education.
- Thanked the City Clerk and Poll Workers for their work on election day.

Mr. Reilly:

- Congratulated Ms. Dato and Mr. McLaughlin on their win and is looking forward to working together for another four years.
- Thanked all his supporters and will continue to ask questions and do right by his constituents.
- Thanked the Food pantries for their continued good work.
- Requested the City Clerk send him a list of any Board vacancies.
- Received updates from the BA regarding illegal housing and the pallet operation.
- Confirmed that restaurants are still able to stay open until 2am.
- Reported on legislation Bill Number A-3696 which is addressing the requirements of background and fingerprint checks on all volunteer firefighters. The BA will look into the Bill and see if there will be a grandfather clause for existing firefighters.
- Congratulated the Board of Education winners.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, First Aid Squad and residents who were attending the meeting.
- Stated he was happy with the Resolution authorizing the City to help with the food pantries and noted there would probably be an increasing need as the holidays got closer. BA Skarzynski noted that the staff does a great deal of work in soliciting donations, purchasing and wrapping gifts for the holiday season to help those in need.
- Congratulated his fellow Council members and Board of Education members who ran a successful election.
- Received an update from BA Skarzynski on B&E Builders and inspection coverage for the parking deck. BA Skarzynski will have Building Official Tom Kelly reach out to Mr. McLaughlin to answer any further questions.
- Received an update that the process for providing a vehicle for the Fire Chief was still moving forward. Mr. McLaughlin suggested keeping a couple of vehicles on standby in the future just in case one of the main vehicles broke down or needed to go in for maintenance.
- Received confirmation that Phase III negotiations with Manhattan Beach had not yet begun. BA Skarzynski noted that the next meeting would probably have the warehouse project resolution on it.
- Received confirmation that the Ferry Terminal project was moving forward and the BA was not concerned with it being slowed by the current economic conditions.
- Received confirmation that there was salt in the salt shed and BA Skarzynski would find out whether this year's order had been placed.
- Discussed the possibility of establishing a recreation facility for South Amboy. BA Skarzynski discussed the economic issues confronting the idea as the only areas available to construct a recreational facility would cost millions to clean as they are environmental brown sites and the largest grant monies available are only about 1.5 million.

Mr. Gross:

- Received confirmation that the City's grant writer has procured approximately \$14,000,000.00 for the City this year with an additional \$3,000,000.00 in the pipe line.
- Congratulated the winning Council and Board of Education members on their successful election.

- Requested BA Skarzynski email the Council with status of the order for the Fire Chief's new truck.
- Requested the City's Code Enforcement Officials be given ID cards. BA Skarzynski will follow up.
- Reminded everyone to be safe!
- Reported that the City would be receiving a \$54,000 refund check from the JIF.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Reminded the Council that they have 30 days to fulfill the NJDEP requirement of viewing the video regarding stormwater management.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated Council Members Dato, McLaughlin and Reilly.
- Thanked the Council for adopting the Resolution accepting the donation from the Applegate Estate and is looking forward to establishing a veteran's park area.
- Reminded everyone to attend the Veteran's Day Memorial at 11 am on Wednesday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bill DeMasi: received an update on the status of the abandoned building on John St. BA Skarzynski reported it was waiting on court action. Received confirmation that the construction equipment being stored at the boat entry belonged to the Middlesex Water Company. Voiced concerns about cars that are racing in the street near Rosewell and was concerned about the safety of the residents especially as the number of residents would be increasing with the new building project. BA Skarzynski reported the City was in the process of bringing on three additional police officers and that the new video security system that was coming would also help the police to deter criminal activity.

Mark Herdman, 149 Stockton, asked whether the monument in front of City Hall would be moved to the new Veteran's memorial park to be established on the Applegate property? Mayor Henry said there are no firm plans in place for the memorial as of yet. Thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the local food banks.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Dato and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks, RMC
City Clerk
Approved November 23, 2020