

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 6, 2021

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

Councilman Reilly was sworn in by his son Tom Reilly, Esq. Councilman Reilly noted that it often gets lost in the whole election process the great amount of support from his wife and he thanked her for being his sounding board and noted he couldn't have done it without her. Councilman McLaughlin and Councilwoman Dato were sworn in by Mayor Henry .

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

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

**CITY CLERK ENTERTAINS A MOTION FOR TEMPORARY COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** On motion of Ms. Noble, seconded by Ms. Dato and carried unanimously, Mr. Gross was nominated for Temporary Council President.

**TEMPORARY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ENTERTAINS A MOTION FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** On motion of Ms. Dato, seconded by Ms. Noble and carried unanimously, Mr. Gross was voted in as Council President

Council President Gross read the following certification of publication:

**“The Notice requirements provided in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of this Meeting was published in The Home News Tribune on January 6, 2020, provided to The Star Ledger, filed with the City Clerk and posted in the Municipal Building on January 3, 2020”.**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ENTERTAINS A MOTION FOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:** On motion of Mr. Gross, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, Ms. Noble was voted in as Council Vice President

**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 #21-01 through #21-050, amending 21-048 and pulling 21-043 and 21-049, are hereby approved retroactive to January 1, 2021. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

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- Resolution 21-001 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Budget Appropriations for the 2021 Calendar Year
- Resolution 21-002 Resolution Adopting 2021 Cash Management Plan
- Resolution 21-003 Resolution establishing 2021 Meeting Dates
- Resolution 21-004 Resolution Adopting 2021 Holiday Schedule
- Resolution 21-005 Designating Official Newspapers
- Resolution 21-006 Designating Official Depositories
- Resolution 21-007 Resolution Filing Signature with Secretary of State
- Resolution 21-008 Appointment to Emergency Management Council
- Resolution 21-009 Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer
- Resolution 21-010 Appointment of Crossing Guards
- Resolution 21-011 Appointment Deputy Records Custodians
- Resolution 21-012 Approval of Towing City Tow Service Operators
- Resolution 21-013 Change Fund – Tax Collector
- Resolution 21-014 Change Fund – City Clerk
- Resolution 21-015 Petty Cash Fund – Administration
- Resolution 21-016 Re-establishing Change Fund – Municipal Court Administrator
- Resolution 21-017 Accepting EMAA-EMPG Subgrant
- Resolution 21-018 Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes
- Resolution 21-019 Appointing JIF Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner
- Resolution 21-020 Authorizing Purchase of Rock Salt – Morton Salt Inc.
- Resolution 21-021 Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Sewer Use Fees
- Resolution 21-022 Authorizing Prepayment of Middlesex County Taxes
- Resolution 21-023 Increase of Bid and Quote Threshold
- Resolution 21-024 Appointing Interim Qualified Purchasing Agent - Manion
- Resolution 21-025 Resolution Authorizing Tax Assessor to act as agent for the City of South Amboy for the purpose of filing and settling tax appeals on behalf of the taxing district for the tax year 2021
- Resolution 21-026 Authorizing the Award of Contract for IT Services – HBK IT
- Resolution 21-027 Authorizing Disbursement of Hospitalization and state Health Benefits
- Resolution 21-028 Authorizing 2021 Pay Schedule and Pension Benefits
- Resolution 21-029 Authorizing the CFO to Wire Transfer Funds
- Resolution 21-030 Payroll Agreement with Sadie-Pope-Dowdell Library
- Resolution 21-031 Payroll Agreement with SARA
- Resolution 21-032 EEOC Compliance-Hiring Practices
- Resolution 21-033 Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor
- Resolution 21-034 Appointment of Municipal Public Defender
- Resolution 21-035 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Planning Board Planner/Engineer
- Resolution 21-036 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Consulting Engineer Services
- Resolution 21-037 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Special Services Engineer
- Resolution 21-038 Authorizing the Award for Architectural Services
- Resolution 21-039 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Special Tax Counsel
- Resolution 21-040 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Planning Board Attorney
- Resolution 21-041 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Risk Management Consultant/Liability Insurance Broker of Record
- Resolution 21-042 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Auditor
- Resolution 21-043 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Bond Counsel (pulled for separate vote below)
- Resolution 21-044 Authorizing the Award of Contract for General Counsel
- Resolution 21-045 Appointing Housing Authority Commissioners – Attardi and Ust
- Resolution 21-046 Library Board Appointments – Rico Vazquez -Jorge Diaz
- Resolution 21-047 Appointing Planning Board members – Kelly, Corey, Kern

Resolution 21-048 Appointing Sustainable Green Team members  
Resolution 21-049 Appointing SARA – Dato – unexpired term (pulled for separate vote below)  
Resolution 21-050 Amending Policy and personnel manual

**MOVED by:** Mr. Gross of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-043 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dato, Noble, Gross  
Nays: McLaughlin, Reilly

**MOVED by:** Mr. Gross of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-048 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dato, Noble, Reilly, Gross  
Nay: McLaughlin

**ADJOURNMENT OF REORGANIZATION PORTION OF THE MEETING/BEGIN BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING**

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Resolution for Refund of Tax for veteran – John Jarosz – approved for the December 20, 2021 agenda
2. Resolution of Liquor licenses place to place transfer of South Stevens Pub. LLC to ANVITA LLC – approved for January 20, 2021 agenda pending receipt of all paperwork to the Clerk
3. Resolution for Refund of Tax for Veteran – Julius Ust – approved for the December 20, 2021 agenda.

**RESOLUTION:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-051**

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PEDESTRIANS TO TRANSIT: SAFETY AND MESSAGING PROJECT**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Council of City of South Amboy formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as TV-2021-Pedestrians to Transit: Safety and Messaging-00011 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the City of South Amboy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the City of South Amboy and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-051 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-052**  
**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 December 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:** Mr. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-052 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-053**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING AMENDED 2020 STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City Engineer has recommended an amendment to the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (STPP) to comply with DEP statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, said amendments plan is attached; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE, AND IT IS, HEREBY, RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the 2020 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is amended.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-053 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**COMMENTS**

Ms. Noble:

- Sent condolences to the family of Mary Ellen Bialoblocki, she was a member of the housing authority for 30 years, a great resident and will be missed.
- Thoughts and prayers going our to our family and friends who have been affected by the COVID virus
- Thoughts and prayers for the safety of the people in the Capitol building.
- Congratulations to Councilmen McLaughlin, Reilly and Councilwoman Dato on their reelection, thanks for all you do and I am lucky to work with you.

Ms. Dato:

- Stated she was extremely appreciative to the residents who had elected her to another term as Councilwoman. She will work hard to give serious consideration to all matters brought before her and considers it an honor and a privilege to be able to serve on the Council.

- Commended all the many South Amboy volunteers and the way the City's residents have stepped up to help whenever needed in whatever way they are needed. They are a kind and generous group of people.
- Thanked the Friends of South Amboy, First Aid members, Board of Education members, OEM members, YMCA workers and the members of the Arts Group for their continued efforts to make South Amboy such a great City.
- Sends condolences to Clerk Brooks and her family as well as to the family of Chris Mazaukas, the City's Grant Writer.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the First Responders, Food Pantries and churches as well as the workers who are putting themselves at risk to get food to the citizens of the City who are in need.
- Please register on the NJ COVID vaccination site.
- Stay safe during this second wave and maintain good social distancing practices.
- Received confirmation from BA Skarzynski that the 12/18 Council meeting recording was cleaned up as good as was possible and would be distributed to the Council members. It is probably not of good enough quality to have transcribed.
- Received status updates on the Venetian lawsuit, the illegal pallet business and illegal housing.
- Thanked his Councilmembers and supporters in the community and will work hard to do the right thing for the residents.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked his Ward residents for reelecting him to the Council
- Thanked his wife Amy and three children, noting he couldn't have gotten through it without them.
- Stated his no vote in the Resolution appointing Ms. Dato to SARA was not personal, he just wanted to be appointed to the Redevelopment Agency and felt he could bring a lot of experience to the agency.
- Thanked the emergency personnel for their services and noted it was good to see our little City come together to help feed people in need.
- Recommended that a Council member be assigned to each department as a liaison. Attorney Womack said this would not be possible in this form of government.
- Received confirmation from BA Skarzynski that the possibility of tax and sewer late fee relief will be discussed going forward.
- Congratulated Ms. Dato and Mr. Reilly on their reelections as well as the new Board of Education members. Cautioned everyone to represent the residents and not to promise things that couldn't be delivered.
- Asked that everyone remain vigilant in social distancing and safe COVID practices.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywoman Lopez and County Clerk Pinkin for joining in on the call. Stated he believes that South Amboy is the greatest little city in the world and there are no better people he could serve with than his Council men and women.
- Condolences on the loss of Chris Mazaukas, he did great work for the City and will be missed.
- Get vaccinated!

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated Mr. Gross and Ms. Noble for being elected President and Vice President of the Council and congratulated Councilmen McLaughlin and Reilly and Councilwoman Dato for their reelection.
- Happy New Year – may it be a healthier one for everyone.
- Sending wishes for a peaceful resolution to the situation in Washington D.C. and may God bless and save America.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Congratulations to Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato on their reelection. While there may not always be a consensus, everyone on the Council always works toward the best interests of the citizens.
- Condolences to the Mazaukas and Brooks families on their losses.
- Having Cadet McLaughlin and Tom Reilly, Esq. present at the swearing in of their fathers speaks volumes to their parents.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Condolences to the Mazaukas and Brooks families on their losses.
- Congratulations to Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato on their reelection.
- Happy New Year!

Mr. Womack:

- Congratulations to Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato on their reelection. It continues to be a privilege to work for the City.
- Tonight's running of the Reorganization Meeting highlights the competence of Clerk Brooks.
- Prays for a peaceful end to the situation in Washington D.C.

## **15. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Assemblyman Coughlin noted it was a pleasure to here but a sad and shameful night in American Democracy. This will have profound implications going forward. Asked for prayers for the safety of those in the Capitol and a quick resolution to the situation. Stated it is well known he is a big fan of South Amboy and the quality of its residents. Congratulated Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato on their reelection to the Council as well as Mr. Gross and Ms. Nobles election as Council President and Vice President. He is looking forward to having next year's Reorganization meeting in person and intends to continue to serve with dedication to the Greatest Little City in the World. He finished noting he is proud of his South Amboy roots and heritage and wished everyone good luck in the upcoming year.

Assemblywoman Lopez stated it is an honor to join in the reorganization meeting this year and wished everyone a safe and healthy 2021. Hearts out to those of us who have lost family and friends to the COVID virus this past year. Congratulations to Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato as well as to Mr. Gross and Ms. Noble. Happy New Year and hopefully we will meet in person next year!

Nancy Pinkin, County Clerk, congratulated the newly reelected Councilmen McLaughlin and Reilly and Councilwoman Dato as well as newly elected Council President and Vice President Gross and Noble. Stated she would be available to help in any way in the upcoming year. Noted it is a big day in Democracy and wished the state troopers and those in the Capitol to be safe and is looking forward to a peaceful transition of power.

Brian Murphy, 260 Henry St., congratulated the newly reelected Councilmen and woman as well as the newly appointed President and Vice President of the Council. Asked that the City look into the owner of 258 Henry St. who was blocking off 6 parking spots on the street with parking cones. BA Skarzynski will follow up. Mr. Murphy noted he is already registered for the vaccine and looking forward to getting it.

Dave Szatkowski, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Fire Chief thanked the Mayor for swearing in the three new Fire Chiefs and congratulated Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Reilly and Ms. Dato for their reelection. Sent his condolences to the family of Chris Mazaukas noting he had done a lot of work with the fire department. Wished everyone a happy and healthy 2021.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., once again noted he was available to work with the City on putting together more accurate minutes from the December 2018 meeting and wanted to know when he could expect an answer to the questions he had discussed with the Mayor regarding the PILOTS. Mayor Henry stated there should be a response soon after reviewing with the BA and CFO.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk

Approved January 20, 2021