

MINUTES FOR BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2021

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: 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 authorizing the City to submit a grant application for a senior bus through a NJ Transit Grant. The Council approved this for the next agenda.
2. Ordinance acknowledging South Amboy’s acceptance of the traffic control signal located at the intersection of Main Street and Broadway. The Council approved this for the next agenda
3. Resolution adjusting sewer bills – Hemesh Rama. The Council did not approve this.
4. Grievance- BA Skarzynski and Ofc. Noble will meet and see if they can come to an agreement or it will come back to the Council at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-061
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 December 19, 2018 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-061 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Gross. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Noble, Gross Nays: McLaughlin, Reilly**

RESOLUTION NO. 21-063
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 22, 2018 Council Meeting.

Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-063 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Noble, Gross Nays: McLaughlin, Reilly**

RESOLUTION NO. 21-064
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 January 20, 2021 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-064 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 21-065
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 January 28, 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. 21-065 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

COMMENTS

Ms. Noble:

- Thanked DPW on the great job they did cleaning up after the storm. Noted she had received many compliments from residents. Wished everyone to stay safe!

Ms. Dato:

- Echoed Ms. Nobles sentiments regarding the great job DPW did, noting the duration and depth of snow made it a difficult storm to deal with. Also thanked the Police Department and First Aid for their assistance during the storm.
- Received an update from BA Skarzynski on the status of getting senior citizens registered for the vaccine.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantries for their continued good work.
- Encouraged everyone to sign up for vaccination.
- Received confirmation that there has been no amended ordinance prepared regarding the code enforcement of bamboo growth.
- Received confirmation from attorney Womack that the council could pass a resolution to waive interest and penalties on tax and sewer fees.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked DPW, OEM, First Aid and the Police Department for their work during the snow storm, noting this was the most snow we had received since 1996.
- Received an update from BA Skarzynski confirming that forward motion on the field maintenance was on hold until the County let the City know how much money South Amboy would be getting for the fields.
- Received an update on the purchase status of the two Chief's vehicles and the ambulance. BA Skarzynski reported things are moving forward but no purchases can be made until the budget passes.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked DPW and First Responders who did a great job during and after the storm.
- Noted that regardless of how he and the rest of the Council had voted on the meeting minutes from 2018 he held the Council in the highest respect.
- Agreed with Councilman McLaughlin regarding the need to move forward with the fields upkeep and the purchase of the Fire Chief's vehicles and the ambulance, requested the BA did not let it slide.
- Updated the Council on the new vaccine sites and strongly urged everyone to register for their vaccination.
- Thanked Mr. Rasimowicz's assistant Shannon for all the great work she was doing to help at the County.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked DPW for a great clean up and the First Responders, Police and Fire Departments for their standbys during the storm.
- Assured the Council that the he and BA Skarzynski are working hard to move forward with the purchase of the two Fire Chiefs trucks and the ambulance.
- Reported that he had met with Assemblywoman Lopez and the City was on the verge of possibly receiving money to help residents who are having difficulty meeting mortgage payments, taxes, etc.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Assured Councilwoman Dato that the City was doing all it can to aid the seniors in getting registered for the vaccine. Supply and demand continue to be the largest set back in getting people vaccinated.
- Echoes Mayor Henry's report regarding the meeting with Assemblywoman Lopez and was anticipating about \$25,000 worth of aid.
- Reported that some of the new lights from the grant have been installed on Broadway and look great.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., was unhappy with the lack of transparency, thanked Mr. Reilly and Mr. McLaughlin for their no votes on the 2018 meeting minutes. Requested response to overdue OPRA's and noted he would consider moving ahead with legal action.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-066

AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

Litigation: Venetian
Land Acquisition/Lease – City Hall
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matters will be made public when the matters are concluded or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-066 is hereby approved and the public portion of the meeting is adjourned at 6:42 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks, RMC
City Clerk
Approved February 20, 2021