

MINUTES FOR BUSINESS MEETING APRIL 7, 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, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilwoman Noble, and Council President Gross.

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

The City Clerk read the notice of publication statement.

DISCUSSION:

1. RESOLUTION APPROVING INDEPENDENCE FIRE COMPANY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION – This was pulled form the agenda and will be reviewed for liability language before being put back on the agenda.
2. RESOLUTION APPROVING VETERAN PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION – LAWRENCE – Approved for next agenda.
3. RESOLUTION APPROVING VETERAN PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION – DEAK- Approved for next agenda.
4. RESOLUTION APPROVING VETERAN PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION – IDYK – Approved for next agenda.
5. RESOLUTION APPROVING VETERAN WIDOW PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION – GASIEWSKI- Approved for next agenda.
6. RESOLUTION APPROVING FIREMEN MICHAEL KEATING AND BRUCE MILLER – Approved for next agenda.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION:

RESOLUTION NO. 21- 087

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE READING IN FULL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

MOVED by: Ms. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-087 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTION NO. 21- 088

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

MOVED by: McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-088 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-089

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 February 17, 2021 Business Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-089 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTION NO. 21-090
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 April 1, 2021, 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. 21-090 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTION NO. 21-091

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY 2021 RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Whereas, the City of South Amboy advocates for a clean community; and

Whereas, the City of South Amboy participates in and adheres to the recycling program as established by Middlesex County; and

Whereas, the Middlesex County 2021 Recycling Enhancement Grant program is focused this year on programs providing security cameras to provide illegal dumping; and

Whereas, the City of South Amboy has identified the Department of Public Works facility as a site in need of enhanced surveillance to deter illegal dumping; and

Whereas, the City would commit to utilization of the grant to acquire and maintain security cameras in this environmentally sensitive area; and

Whereas, the proposed project will be beneficial to the residents of the City of South Amboy and enhance efforts to deter and prosecute illegal dumpers;

Now, therefore be it resolved, by the Council of the City of South Amboy, that it hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to submit an application for this grant program.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-091 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly Abstain: Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTION NO. 21-092

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A PLAN FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The City Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the South Amboy Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$6,288
Cash Match	\$1,572
In-Kind	\$4,716
2. The City Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
Mayor Fred Henry

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-092 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

RESOLUTION NO. 21-093

A resolution authorizing the execution of an Indemnification Agreement with the Township of East Brunswick regarding the use of their Firearms Training Facility

Whereas, the City of South Amboy is required to provide ongoing firearms training for the members of the South Amboy Police Department; and

Whereas, the City of South Amboy utilizes the municipal firearms training facility owned by the Township of East Brunswick; and

Whereas, the use of the Township of East Brunswick requires the execution of an annual indemnification agreement; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, by the Council of the City of South Amboy, that it hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to execute the required indemnification agreement.

MOVED by: Ms. Noble of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-093 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

ORDINANCES:
FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND STORMWATER ORDINANCE 21-01

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2021-05 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the May 5, 2021 meeting.

SECONDED by: Ms. Noble, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

SECOND READING/ADOPTION

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-03
AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms. Noble, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2021-03 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04
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 – 122 SOUTH FELTUS – SLINGERLAND

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2021-04 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Noble, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

COMMENTS:

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the emergency services workers and food bank and asked for people to continue to donate as there are still residents in need.
- Requested the Council was notified of events such as Police promotions, food donations by local families, etc.
- Received confirmation from the BA that the SAYA fields would be ready for opening day.
- Received confirmation that the new Fire Chief vehicles cannot be ordered until the new budget is adopted. The BA will look into doing a letter of intent.
- Reported that the Manhattan Beach developer held a public meeting about the new project but the Council hadn't been invited. BA Skarzynski noted this was a private event, not one sponsored by the City.
- Requested more be done to get funding for recreational site development as opposed to the housing development and PILOTS. BA Skaryznski noted that Grant Writer is working on exploring possible recreation grants.

Mr. Reilly:

- Reported he would be leaving after his comments and requested that any responses to his comments be held until he finished speaking.
- Thanked the food pantries and first responders for their continued good work.
- Received an update from Mr. Womack about moving forward with a resolution regarding sewer/tax late fee waivers. (Mr. Womack apologized for not having the resolution and will get in touch with Mr. Reilly to work on the details and have the resolution ready for the next agenda)
- Sent condolences to the O'Leary family on the loss of John (Jack) O'Leary.
- Received an update on the Fasano property. Mr. Womack reported that they owners had submitted a statement of current occupants and none were in contravention to the agreement. BA Skarzynski will send our code enforcer to check to see if there are new undocumented occupants.
- Received an update on the Pigeon Palace demolition and Venetian litigation from Mr. Womack. Both are still progressing in the court.
- Noted that the illegal pallet operation is still alive and well. Mr. Gross noted that several summonses had been issued but the courts at this time were not issuing warrants because of Covid.
- Agreed with Mr. McLaughlin's statements about being included in the Manhattan Beach developers meetings. He had attended the meeting and urge residents to speak up about the project. Residents of lower David, George, John and Henry Streets will lose their view, the 485 units will stress our schools and police department.

Mr. McLaughlin asked BA Skarzynski if other towns were entering into POLIT programs and Mr. Skarzysnki responded that several towns including Woodbridge used PILOTS regularly. Mr. Reilly asked that we reach out to the Mayor of Jersey City regarding the downside of PILOTS. He feels that if South Amboy continues to use PILOTS in twenty years the City will be run down. They are not sustainable and the financial burden will then fall on the taxpayers. Mr. McLaughlin added that he has spoken with the Jersey City Mayor and the City regrets all the PILOTS that were entered into. Mr. Reilly left the meeting.

Ms. Noble:

- Sent her condolences to the O’Leary family.
- Received confirmation from Mr. Rasimowicz that the Counties paving of lower Main St is scheduled for this summer.
- Received confirmation that Sayreville would handle non-emergency police calls regarding the County waterfront park.

Mr. Gross:

- Sent his condolences to the O’Leary family.
- Reported the newest contact information to help seniors over 65 get vaccinated will be posted on the City’s website and social media platforms.
- Please get vaccinated!

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Apologized to the Historical Society for pulling the resolution regarding Independence Fire Company but he wanted to look over the language and make sure it didn’t put the City in a liable position. It will be on the next agenda.
- Reiterated that the new vaccine information will be up on the Web site and media platforms tomorrow.
- Noted that earlier this week Madura’s pharmacy had received vaccines.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- 1) Holly Hughes, 15 Raritan Reach. As Chairman of the Historical Preservation Commission she would be happy to answer any questions Mr. Skarzynski might have regarding the resolution to add Independence Fire Company to the Historic Preservation list.
- 2) Mary Czaro noted that people had put a lot of work into getting this first designation of historic significance and thanked everyone for their work and looked for to the resolution being passed at the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 21-094

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: Senape v. City of South Amboy

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: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 21-094 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

The public session of the meeting was concluded at 6:49p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks, RMC
City Clerk
Approved April 21, 2021