

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 20, 2022**

The Meeting held 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 McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred Henry, Glenn Skarzynski, Business Administrator, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, and Francis Womack, City Attorney.

Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification.

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**Introduction of new Superintendent** – Mr. Jorge Diaz addressed the Council, Board of Education members and public that were present regarding the successes of the South Amboy school system that had been achieved during his 5 year tenure as Superintendent. He thanked the Board of Education members, Council Members and the Chief of Police all for working so well together in order to move the City forward in it’s educational system.

Mr. Patrick Walsh, School Board President, on behalf of the BOE, thanked Mr. Diaz for his hard work over the past five years. He stated that he was sure the district would continue to improve under the guidance of Dr. Williams, the new Superintendent.

Dr. Frederick Williams stated he is looking forward to working in South Amboy and thanked Mr. Diaz for being a friend and mentor. He noted it is an honor and a privilege to be the incoming Superintendent and he is looking forward to working with the BOE, Council and South Amboy citizens to continue to improve the school district.

Mr. John Dragotta, Board of Education, thanked Mr. Diaz for a great five year run and is looking forward to working with Dr. Williams. The kids of South Amboy deserve the best education available.

Mayor Henry noted what a great example of the South Amboy school system we had in the presence of young Mr. Pat Walsh, Board of Education President, his having earned a bachelor’s degree and two Masters from Rutgers in so few years. He thanked Mr. Diaz and congratulated Dr. Williams noting he was sure progress will continue under his leadership.

Councilman Reilly noted that he would like to see the reinstatement of the CO-OP program and the Government Club and is looking forward to continue the good relationship between the Council and the Board of Education.

Councilman McLaughlin welcomed Dr. Williams and noted he would be happy to come speak with any students who are interested in going into the trades. He is looking forward to continuing to work with the Board of Education.

Councilwoman Noble thanked Mr. Diaz for a job well done and wished Dr. Williams good luck.

Councilwoman Dato thanked Mr. Diaz for touching so many lives in South Amboy as he will no doubt continue to do County wide at his new position. She welcomed Dr. Williams and is sure the BOE chose well.

Mr. Diaz finished up by noting what a gem of a school system we have in the tight knit community of South Amboy and feels the highlight of his tenure at the school was the

introduction of the Anti-Racism Resolution addressing the issue as a public health crisis. Going forward he is looking forward to the school continuing its work to produce equity of all kinds so any child looking to work hard for success will find it.

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**DISCUSSION:**

- 1) Sidewalk Dining - Returning to pre-Covid protocols. – Council President Gross tabled this discussion

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**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 NO. 22-105 through NO. 22-108 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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- NO. 22-105 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE PERSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1
- NO. 22-106 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR DHMAS GRANT - \$5000
- NO. 22-107 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FUNDS
- NO. 22-108 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR SOUTH BROADWAY ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-109  
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 April 6, 2022 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 22-109 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: McLaughlin, Noble, Reilly , Gross Abstain: Dato

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-110  
APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**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 13, 2022, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 22-110 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Noble. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Welcomed Dr. Williams and wished him best of luck.
- Thanked the food pantry and First Responder volunteers for their continued good work.
- Received confirmation that the ball field renovations are ahead of schedule and will be completed by July first at the latest.
- Noted he is in favor of continuing the COVID expanded outdoor dining to help promote local businesses.
- Reported that a few volunteers had arisen out of Government Week activities.
- Wanted to move forward with a Business Breakfast in June if there can be guaranteed attendance.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the public for coming out to the meeting
- Suggested highlighting a business each month on our electronic signs.
- Reported the American Legion is selling bricks for \$50 as a current fundraiser.
- Requested the pot holes in front of the Hole in the Wall Pub be filled.
- Requested the parking issues on Broadway be looked at.
- Wished Dr. Williams good luck in his new position.
- Requested status of speed bump installation and was told by Mr. Skarzynski that there were some Title 39 issues that had come up and he would follow up.
- Thanked the food pantry volunteers for their continued dedication.
- Asked if the Master Plan has a parking element – Mr. Skarzynski will follow up.
- Sent condolences to the family of Pat McCarthy.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated the Senior Center on their successful Lunch and Learn program that had been about Brain Health and Aging.
- Welcomed two new businesses to the City, Dog Grooming and a Tex Mex restaurant.
- Noted the ball fields look great!
- Reported the waterfront park lot was being repaved.

Ms. Noble:

- Received the status of the Ferry project from the Business Administrator – we are waiting on the NJDOT for one thing in order to proceed with the federal grant.
- Welcomed Dr. Williams.

Mr. Gross:

- Announced we are sending the current grievance to arbitration.
- Thanked the Fire Department Volunteers for their year round dedication.
- Welcomed Dr. Williams.
- Thanked the food pantry for their continued good work.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the County Commission for paving the waterfront parking lot.
- Reported the beach clean up went well and thanked Jay Elliot.
- Noted the Historical Society is having an open house on Saturday at noon.
- Noted the Lunch and Learn was a great success.

- Thanked Mr. Diaz for a job well done and welcomed Dr. Williams.
- Reported that a person having a medical issue at Sunday mass was dealt with quickly and professionally by our volunteers.

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Noted that he is aware that the City has a large parking issue and that while it is not an easy fix, they are ready to tackle the problem.
- Reported that on Friday there will be folk music at the art gallery – details are on our web site.
- Reported that there was an issue in getting out the sewer bills and the new deadline for payment is May 23, 2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., noted she is very glad the parking issue is going to be addressed and that since the 2017 Master Plan there have been noted insufficiencies in the City’s parking management strategy. She noted The 2017 Master Plan for the City of South Amboy states, "the current parking model is inefficient, and parking congestion continues throughout the city." On-street parking congestion along the city's residential streets was a major concern identified by the public. A recommendation was made in the Master Plan to develop a comprehensive parking management strategy. She recommends the following actions be taken: 1) A public meeting with residents to listen to ALL parking concerns. 2) A parking management strategy that includes residents in the planning and decision-making process. 3) Exploring future opportunities to utilize the three open lots on Broadway between Henry & John St. for a community parking lot.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-111**  
**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

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.

On motion of Ms. Noble, seconded by Ms. Dato and carried unanimously, the Council voted to go into an Executive session and the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved May 4, 2022