

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 4, 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, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross

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

Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification.

BUDGET ADOPTION/PUBLIC HEARING:

Gary Higgins, Auditor, gave a brief overview of the budget and answered questions posed by the Council. Mr. Reilly questioned Mr. Higgins regarding budget handling of SARA and the rate increase of the sewer bills. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed there was money in the budget for retro salary payments and raises and asked if Mr. Higgins had been the auditor in 2014. Ms. Dato noted she had met with our CFO and Business Administrator and they had answered all her questions. Mr. Gross echoed Ms. Dato.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Babilak, 125 Henry St., questioned the auditor and confirmed there would be no municipal tax rate increase.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

The Council made comments regarding the budget. Mr. Reilly noted he hopes we continue to see SARA get good funding from grants and the American Rescue Plan and that we continue to see sustained revenue. He noted he was unhappy about the sewer rate increase and as always has concerns with the tracking of the revenue from the PILOT programs. Mr. Skarzynski noted Mr. Higgins will be auditing the City's PILOT plan revenues moving forward. Mr. McLaughlin agree with MR. Reilly's thoughts on the SARA revenues and was happy to note the budget had room for raises in it. Ms. Dato was pleased to see a 0% municipal rate increase and no lessening of services to the residents. Mr. Gross noted the City will be seeing increased revenue from the new building projects for years to come and hopes this will enable the City to keep the Budget at a 0% increase without cutting municipal services or cutting the workforce. The Mayor stated he was pleased with the zero increase in the municipal budget and thanked all the people involved in putting it together for their hard work and for addressing the citizens concerns in doing so.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-116

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2022 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$19,998,074.01 for municipal purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the summary of revenues and appropriations are approved as attached.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 22-116 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, McLaughlin, Riley, Gross Absent: Noble**

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: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 22-112 through NO. 22-115 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

- NO. 22-112 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF HOMESTEAD OVERPAYMENT – GORMAN

- NO. 22-113 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE BOND AND RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND AND CASH BOND – MAIN STREET APARTMENTS LLC.

- NO. 22-114 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITH SOUTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY – KOESTER AND MARCANO

- NO. 22-115 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AMBOY APPROVING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AMBOY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-117
APPOINTMENT OF BRANDON RUSSELL TO THE GREEN TEAM

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 22-117 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brandon Russell is appointed to the City of South Amboy Sustainable Jersey Green Team for an unexpired one year term to expire December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-118
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 20, 2022 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 22-118 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-119
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 27, 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. 22-119 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

ORDINANCES:

SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04

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 – 421 PORTIA ST. - SZATKOWSKI

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2022-04 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT BY THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FROM SAMBOY PARTNERS URBAN RENEWAL, LLC

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2022-05 is hereby adopted.

SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the food pantry and first responders for their continued good work.
- Reported Independent Fire House was having a flower sale on May 7th and 8th from 8am to 5pm
- Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring their Aging in Place Program.
- Confirmed with the Business Administrator that the information regarding Aging in Place had been posted on the web site.

- Urged the public to participate in the Luke A. Lovely Brick Sale fundraiser. Information and order forms are on the web site.
- Noted that he is still interested in getting a small business breakfast meeting together in June, probably the 11th.
- Requested that the Council addresses Ordinance 1036, the City's traffic ordinance.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Reported a blast email had been sent out with false information about him and his Facebook page had been hacked.
- Thanked the public that had come out for the meeting and wished all the Moms a Happy Mother's Day.

Ms. Dato:

- Reported that the second graders had started the Water Safety Program co-sponsored by the YMCA and SA Public Schools.
- Noted that there will be a "Stand With Ukraine" concert fundraiser Friday from 7pm to 8:30 pm at the Middle-High School. Tickets are \$20.
- Reported that the beach clean up sponsored by "We Love You" and Amazon had been a great success with Amazon donating equipment and doing some plantings.
- Reminded everyone to call or hug their mothers for Mother's Day – mothering is the most important job of all!

Mr. Gross:

- Asked everyone to please come out to the Friday concert and help support Ukraine.
- Is excited to see the Water Safety Program kick off and is hoping to have it available for 2nd and 3rd graders next year.
- Wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Henry:

- Noted the ball fields look great!
- Stated there will be a Police Memorial Ceremony on May 16th.
- Reported there will be a free health screening at the senior center on May 18th.
- Reported there will be a Grand Opening at Woodmont Warehouse on May 18th.
- On May 29th come out to the Memorial Cemetery Tour.
- Noted the Mayor Walk has been postponed until May 14th.
- Thanked everyone who came out for the beach clean up.
- Congratulated the Council on passing the budget.
- Sent best wishes to Ms. Noble's mom.
- Wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day!

Mr. Skarzynski:

- Acknowledged citizen Chris Smiga who has been invaluable as an environmental resource and advocate.

Mr. Womack:

- Reported the court date for the Venetian litigation has been rescheduled to June 13th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Szaro confirmed her full statement at the last meeting had been added to the minutes.

Larry Parson confirmed that the SAFD is a tax exempt organization and reminded everyone of the May 22, 11am Memorial Day Service.

Vicki Grass of the Broadway Diner would like the Council to address parking concerns on Broadway and asked that if the road had to be closed for an event, it was not closed so early in the day because it was caused a loss of business. Additionally, she requested the garbage bin that used to be out front be returned as people are just leaving their bags of dog waste on the sidewalk.

Greg Babilak questioned the Council on how much money SARA received and the guidelines for what they get to keep. He also noted the April 20th meeting video had not been posted. Ms. Brooks will post.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved May 18, 2022