

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2023

The Meeting held 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 Clerk read the Opening Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred Henry, Kathy Kudelka, Interim Business Administrator, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, PPE, and Francis Womack, City Attorney.

Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Sayreville Association for Brain Injured Children – Council approved full page ad
- 2) Protection Engine Company, NO. 1 – Ex-Chief Dave Szatkowski Testimonial Dinner – Council approved full page ad

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. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 23-059 through NO. 23-063 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL**

VOTE: All in favor.

- NO. 23-059 RESOLUTION APPOINTING RACHEL DRAUDT - SARA
- NO. 23-060 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR ALLIE CLARK BASEBALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS – SA 20-007-03 THE LAND TEK GROUP
- NO. 23-061 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF LIQUOR LICENSE OVERPAYMENT FOR LICENSE 1220-44-001-008
- NO. 23-062 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF SEWER BILL – 155 SECOND ST.
- NO. 23-063 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF A DOG LICENSE FEE

RESOLUTION NO. 23-064
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 18, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-064 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Reilly, Gross Abstain: McLaughlin

RESOLUTION NO. 23-065
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 January 26, 2023, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-065 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

ORDINANCE

ADOPTION/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2023-01

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 -ADD - 323 and 365 Fourth St.- 128 S. Stevens Ave. - 511 Augusta St.

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-01 is hereby adopted.

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

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2023-02

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, that Ordinance #2023-02 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the March 1, 2023 meeting.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the volunteers and first responders for their continued excellent efforts at the Food Pantry.
- Reported Independence Fire House will be having its Rose Sale on February 13th and 14th.
- Sent condolences to the families of Clarice "Sis" McCabe and Edward A. Marczak.
- Stated he had reviewed the environmental report Mr. Smiga had spoken about at the January 18th meeting and requested the report be posted on the website and that the Council arrange for the County to send people to speak on the various topics within the report. It was suggested the Lunch & Learn program would be a good idea to present the information.
- Reported that Government Week is April 16th through April 22nd. Requested running the essay contest on Civic Duty again, as well as having the Mock Council Meeting and honoring two volunteers.
- Noted that the owner of South Amboy Kitchens suggested the possibility of a Farmer's Market. Mr. Reilly said he would have someone contact Ms. Kudelka.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the people who had come out to attend this evening's meeting and the volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Wanted to know why it took so long from the initial request to install speed bumps to find out a traffic study completed by the Police Department would be required first.
- Received confirmation that the Ferry Bids would be reviewed and a Contract awarded within 60 days.
- Inquired why there are still no PILOT numbers being presented to the Council. Ms. Kudelka noted that the CFO and Mr. Higgins are working on the PILOT audits.

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Ms. Draudt on her appointment to SARA noting she is a good fit for the Agency.
- Thanked the first responders noting that their efforts are particularly hitting home as the City prepares its budget.
- Reported the Middle-High School has a new Principle, James Brown Jr.
- Stated that on this February 1st it is a good time to acknowledge Black History Month, that it is important to consider the immigration story of Black America is not the same as other cultures and hopes moving forward we can bridge some of the divides still present.

Ms. Dato:

- Reported the next Lunch and Learn is on February 15th – it will be given by Rutgers University and the subject is Emotional Wellness. Ms. Dato stated she agrees with Mr. Reilly's idea on having the County speak at one of the Lunch and Learn events.
- Reported there will be a Blood Drive event at St. Mary's on February 19th, 8am to 2pm.
- Acknowledged Black History Month and asked to keep in mind the death of Tyre Nichols and to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Gross:

- Noted he had misspoken at a previous meeting when he said the Council had never adjusted a water bill. The Council had approved an adjusted water bill but at the time he had thought the Council was approving a refund on an overpayment, not an adjustment.

- Acknowledged Black History Month.
- Thanked the Veterans.
- Noted the St. Patrick's Parade will be on March 19th and will be family friendly.
- Reported he will look into getting a County Health representative to come and speak on idling environmental issues.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the Fire Department for a job well done at the car fires on Lower Main St.
- Sends his condolences to the McCabe family.

Ms. Kudelka:

- Updated Mr. Reilly on his request for a "Citizens Concern" Tab on the website – it is in progress and should be up shortly.

Mr. Womack:

- Updated the Council on upcoming hearing dates regarding the Venetian and Laurel Property litigation cases.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Reported a great turn-out for the Ferry Bid and stated after a lengthy review, the contract should be awarded within 60 days.
- Noted with the approved Allie Clark Fields change order, which reduced costs from the original contract, this project can be closed out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., inquired as to the status of the establishment of an Environmental Commission. There has been no discussion amongst the Council as of yet.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved February 15, 2023