

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2023

The Meeting held at South Amboy City Hall, 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, New Jersey, was called to order by Council Vice President Dato at 7:00 P.M. The Clerk read the Opening Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Councilman Conrad, Councilwoman Dato, and Councilman Reilly

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred Henry, Dave Kales, BA, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, PPE, Dan Balka, CFO and Francis Womack, City Attorney.

Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification

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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 23-066 through NO. 23-067 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

NO. 23-066 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND – SCOTT

NO. 23-067 RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF TIME REQUEST FOR A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSIT VILLAGE GRANT, FY21

RESOLUTION NO. 23-068
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 1, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-068 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-069
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 February 9, 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. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-069 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

ORDINANCE:

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2023-03

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 - 138B AUGUSTA, REMOVE 215 JOHN ST. AND 144 SO. BROADWAY

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-02 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the March 15, 2023 meeting.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Welcomed Dave Kales as the new BA, noting he is the right man for the job and is looking forward to working together.

Tom:

- Welcomed Dave Kales noting they have worked together for many years for the Friends of South Amboy and wished Dave the best of luck.
- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued good work.
- Received an update from Mr. Balka, CFO on the status of the PILOT audit. Mr. Higgins, the Auditor will be presenting at the March 15th meeting.
- Received confirmation that Mr. Womack will be presenting the Ordinance regarding animal safety at the March 1st meeting for introduction.
- Requested the BA look into the status of illegal rental units in the City as well as the pop-up mechanics that have recently been spotted.
- Asked that the residents please use local businesses.
- Requested residents consider volunteering - First Aid and the Fire Department are in need.
- Reviewed the plans for Government Week coming up in April, which will consist of an open house at Independence Fire Station, a mock Council meeting, the Civic Duty essay, which upon request by Councilman Conrad, will be open to all high school seniors in South Amboy and acknowledging two volunteers at the April 19th meeting.

Ms. Dato:

- Welcomes Mr. Kales noting she thought he would do a great job for the City.
- Asked that we keep Mickey Gross in our thoughts as he is undergoing knee surgery.
- Reported she had attended the most recent Lunch & Learn which was about emotional wellness. The speaker was excellent and the event was very well attended. The next Lunch & Learn is February 22nd at 11:30 and will be "hands only" CPR instruction.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked Mr. Reilly for arranging the Government Week events, it is sure to be a success.
- Thanked Kathy Kudelka for stepping in as Interim BA, she has really showed her value to the City.
- Welcomed Dave Kales noting he has hit the ground running during his first few very busy days and is sure he is up to the task.
- Reported there will be a Blood Drive at St. Mary's this Sunday, February 19th.
- The Lunch & Learn was very successful and well attended.
- The Senior Center had a very well attended Valentine event, over 100 people in attendance – thank you to all involved in bringing the event together.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Welcomed Mr. Kales as the new BA
- Reported the Feltus Street Phase 2 project was moving along and work should begin in the spring. The contract was awarded to Z Bros.

Mr. Womack:

- Reported the Venetian litigation was still on track for a hearing next week and the 130 S. Broadway (Pidgeon Palace) site was still in progress.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the Mayor, Ms. Kudelka, the Council, Ms. Brooks and Mr. Rasimowicz for their support in these early days. People wondered why he came out of retirement for this job and it is because he feels this is the way he can serve his community best. He thanked his wife and children for their support and he will focus on accountability from the top down in the organization. He is honored to be trusted with this position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Greg Babilak wished everyone a belated Happy New Year. Received clarification on PILOT payments from Mr. Balka and shared his concern over rail safety emergency management plans. Wished Mr. Kales best of luck in his new position.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved March 1, 2023