

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 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 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilman Conrad, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly and Council President Gross (arrived at 6:05)

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

Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification

RESOLUTION NO. 23-077
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.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 23-077 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin Reilly Mr. Gross arrived at 6:05pm.**

PUBLIC SESSION – Council returned from Closed session to Public session at 7:15pm

1. OPENING PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRESENTATION:

Gary Higgins reviewed the Application of Agreed Upon Procedures of the PILOT programs noting there are only a few minor discrepancies in numbers and the corrective work needed was more about SOPs for the administration of the PILOT programs themselves. He answered general questions from the public: Greg Babilak, Brandon Russell and Chris Smiga. Mr. Higgins will be submitting the final report in the upcoming weeks.

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. 23-078 through NO. 23-080 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

NO. 23-078 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZING
AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20

NO. 23-079 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO USE THE
EAST BRUNSWICK POLICE TRAINING FACILITY

NO. 23-080 EEOC COMPLIANCE-HIRING PRACTICES

RESOLUTION NO. 23-081
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 March 1, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-081 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-082
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 March 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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-082 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

ORDINANCE

ADOPTION/SECOND 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 S. Bdwy.

OPEN PUBLIC – no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-03 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked everyone that had come to the meeting.
- Thanked the volunteers and business owners for their work on the Parade.
- Requested Council President Gross not say the "Council Agreed" to something without checking with all the other Council members. Mr. Gross agreed to refrain from doing that going forward.
- Requested a Business Directory sign be installed at the train plaza.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the food pantry volunteers and first responders for their continued excellent work.
- Requested Mr. Kales look into the illegal pallet operation on Feltus St. noting he has been asking for this to be taken care of for several years.
- Reminded everyone that Government week was in April and the fifth grade government club would be holding a mock council meeting at 6pm on the 19th before the 7pm regular meeting. No entries for the high school senior Civic Duty essay contest have been received as of yet.
- Noted the Elks, AOH and Knights of Columbus are all offering the Friday night fish fry.
- Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and congratulated all those involved in putting together such a great event. It is a great boost for local businesses.
- Requested an amended Ordinance to allow the expanded areas of outside dining. Mr. Womack will put together the Ordinance.
- Requested to move forward with the June 10th Business Breakfast and confirmed that Mr. Gross will procure a speaker from the County. Ms. Brooks will reach out with a Save-The-Date invitation.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the first responders and volunteers whose efforts are clearly on display as the St. Patrick's Day Parade event moves forward.
- Gave a shout out to the Green Team, noting many good projects are underway.
- Sent kudos to Mr. Kales, Ms. Kudelka and Mr. Balka for working with Mr. Higgins to get the draft Application of Agreed Upon Procedures report completed.

Ms. Dato:

- Free COVID vaccines and boosters are being offered from 1 to 4 p.m. on the following dates:
 - Monday, March 27th, 2023
 - Monday, April 3rd, 2023

- Monday, April 10th, 2023
- Wednesday, April 26th, 2023
- No appointments needed. ID documentation and health insurance not required.
- Reported she had attended another successful Lunch & Learn about preparing for an emergency. She thanked Mark Herdman and John Ferguson for their presentation.
- There will be an Irish Concert at St. Mary's 7pm, March 18th.

Mr. Gross:

- Noted the Animal Protection Ordinance will be on the next agenda.
- Thanked Mary Szaro and Brandon Russell for their work on the Parade Committee. Their will be a flag raising at the AOH at 10am as well as a breakfast on Friday, March 17th.
- Don't forget there will be road closings on Sunday starting at noon.
- Reminded everyone that this is a family friendly event and no disorderly behavior will be tolerated.
- Announced that representatives from the Green Team will be making a presentation to request the formation of an Environmental Commission at the next meeting.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked Mr. Herdman and Mr. Ferguson for an excellent presentation at the Lunch & Learn.
- Announced that there will be a ribbon cutting at 5pm Thursday for SA Kitchens.
- Sent Condolences to the Waller and Zulin families.

Mr. Kales:

- Noted that the March Company received a gold star rating and is completing 100% of the Rosewell St. environmental clean up with no charge to the City. He acknowledged the minimal discrepancies in the receipts of the PILOT programs and is looking forward to establishing new SOPs so there will be more up to date data on the PILOTS in the future.
- Thanked the St. Patrick's Parade Committee for all their hard work and noted his sister and niece are in the audience this evening. He is appreciative of all the support he has received so far and is moving forward with organizational accountability.

Ms. Kudelka:

- Noted the "Report a Concern Tab" has been installed on the website.
- Stated Dr. Gonzalez will be beginning a program to install the hands-free AED devices at various locations around the City.
- Thanked Jackie Kelly for her fabulous flyer design work for the Government Week program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Szaro, on behalf of the Historical Society noted there will be a fundraiser to help the rebuild of the Luke A. Lovely Post 62 new center. It will be a spaghetti dinner with sauce made by our very own Gerry Pizzillo. Advanced ticket sales will go quickly! May 20th at the Senior Center. Adults \$20, Under 18 years \$10.

Mark Herdman, 149 Stockton, reminded everyone that that March 19th was St. Joseph's Day for the Polish. He also received confirmation that the lot with Terry's Garage had been foreclosed on.

Greg Babilak questioned the Council on the posting of minutes for Closed Sessions and whether or not those sessions are recorded. Minutes will be posted when all items on the closed agenda have been settled. There are no recordings of closed sessions. He also spoke on how he not only voted for the Mayor during his 2010 run but spent time convincing others to support him as well.

Larry Parsons, 46 Pupek Rd., noted he had been surprised to hear that the City had 30 year old PILOTS in existence and was disappointed it had taken this long to implement SOPs for the administration of the programs.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved April 5, 2023