

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 5, 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 Councilman Gross

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

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**DISCUSSION:**

- 1. Borough of Sayreville, Letter of No Interest Request** – The Council instructed Mr. Rasimowicz to review the plans and report back any concerns that should be addressed before the City can issue a Letter of No Interest for the Sayreville project. Of particular concern are traffic and stormwater issues.

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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:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 23-083 through NO. 23-085 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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NO. 23-083 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1, Z BROS, FELTUS & SIXTH ST.

NO. 23-084 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #2, LIMA CHARLIE, SOUTH BROADWAY ROADWAY & PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS.

NO. 23-085 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR GORDON STREET DEMOLITION TO MCKEON'S MATERIALS LLC

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-086**  
**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 15, 2023 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-086 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-087**  
**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 30, 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. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-087 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**BUDGET INTRODUCTION:**

Mr. Reilly noted he is happy with the budget and that 90% of our budget are costs that are out of the City's control. He was happy to see that particular groups such as First Aid and the Summer Arts Program have been addressed. He is pleased to see the surplus was not touched and thinks this is the best budget in the last four years.

Mr. Gross noted the City is committed to the Green Team funding and that the City is playing catch up with true numbers now. He is proud of the team that put together this year's budget and appreciates all the Council member and department head input.

Mayor Henry thanked all the good people who worked with him on preparing this year's budget, noting it is a good budget considering all the fixed costs involved and he is happy to note there is no cut in services.

Mr. Conrad commended Mr. Kales, Mr. Balka and the entire team for putting together such a viable budget, one which kept its priorities while respecting everyone's hard earned dollars.

Mr. McLaughlin thanked Mr. Kales for a job well done.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23- 088**

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE READING IN FULL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-088 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly, Gross

**RESOLUTION NO. 23- 089**

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-089 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly, Gross

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**ORDINANCE**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2023-04**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 124 SECTION 6 [124-6] OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY CODE TO AMEND THE FEE FOR INSPECTION REQUIRED TO ISSUE OR RENEW A CERTIFICATE OF RENTAL HOUSING COMPLIANCE

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-04 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the May 3, 2023 meeting.

**SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2023-05 On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Dato and approved unanimously, this Ordinance was pulled form the agenda.**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 130-4 OF THE CITY CODE TO REMOVING LICENSE RENEWAL FEES FOR SIDEWALK CAFES

**MOVED by:** \_\_\_\_\_, that Ordinance #2023-05 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the May 3, 2023 meeting.

**SECONDED by:** \_\_\_\_\_, **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Reminded everyone that April 19<sup>th</sup> would be the celebration of Government Week, this will include the Mock Council Meeting by the fifth grade Government Club (6pm), awarding prizes to the "Civic Duty" essay contest winners and acknowledging Jamie Norek and Francis Mulvey.
- Sent condolences to the Gay family and Vona family.
- Confirmed that Mr. Womack was still working on the Dog Ordinance.
- Noted the Small Business Breakfast was moved to June 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am, and requested Clerk Brooks send out a save the date notice.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the volunteers for their continued work.
- Confirmed the City was listing for a Confidential Secretary position.

Mr. Conrad:

- Commended the First Aid, Fire Department for serving so tirelessly.
- Congratulated everyone involved in the St. Patrick's Parade – and was pleased to note the diversity of participants. Moving forward he would like to see more diversity milestones be celebrated.

Ms. Dato:

- Reported she had attended the "living Museum" held by the fourth graders and it was a well done and enjoyable event.
- Noted the "Hands Only CPR" training will take place on April 27 at the Middle School

- Reported free COVID boosters will be available at the Senior Center on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Thanked the budget team for a job well done.
- Wished all a Happy Easter and Passover.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked the first responders and everyone else that helped out at the parade event.

Mayor Henry:

- Wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.
- Thanked the Council for introducing the budget, noting it had taken a lot of hard work by many people to get it completed.
- Send well wishes to Code Official Tom Kelly as he continues his recovery.
- Condolences to the Vona family and the Felice family.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the Council and department heads for all their hard work, time and effort in putting together this year's budget.
- Wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Szaro, on behalf of the Historical Society, noted the budget for the Historical Society had been cut in half and requested perhaps a 25% cut be considered. She commended the budget committee and thanked them for the budget of past years.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., requested a hybrid option of recordings/live platform of the meetings be considered. Received an explanation of why a Draft report of the PILOT report but only a FINAL report would be issued to the public. He also wondered why it had taken so many years to address the issue of getting the audit completed. Lastly, he noted work has begun on the retaining wall at the YMCA, a project that will allow for the installation of a community garden. He noted volunteers are needed.

Mr. Hill Wiggins, received confirmation that the next meeting, April 19<sup>th</sup> will begin at 7pm, with the Mock Council meeting by the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Government club starting at 6pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Mr. Conrad, seconded by Dato and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved April 19, 2023