

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 3, 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. 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(via call in)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred Henry, David 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

Gary Higgins gave a brief synopsis of the budget and answered questions from the Council. ON motion of Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, the matter was opened to the public. Mr. Babilak, 125 Henry, questioned the origination of the Surplus monies. With no further comments, a motion from Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, the public hearing was closed.

BUDGET ADOPTION:

RESOLUTION 23-096
ADOPTION OF 2023 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 \$21,113,700.63 for municipal purposes.

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

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 23-096 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly and Gross. Mr. Gross left the meeting at this point.

GARY HIGGINS – Mr. Higgins reviewed the final outcome of the PILOT report and answered questions from the Council confirming that new SOP standards that are being put in motion, that the monies had been received in a timely manner and the main issue had a been a lack of receiving the annual audits from the developers. Now, having received the audits the report reflects the trued-up numbers. On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad, this portion of the meeting was opened for public hearing. Brandon Russell, 437 Fourth St., had concerns about the lack of SOP’s and why it took the Council so long to address the issue. He was also concerned about the taxpayers having to cover the cost of Mr. Higgins’ fees. Greg Babilak, 125 Henry, confirmed Mr. Higgins had been doing the city Budget for a long time. Mr. Womack clarified the difference between the Annual Audit of the City and the PILOT Report that had been put together to address the issues of PILOT payments. Mr. Babilak stated someone has dropped the ball. On Motion of Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried unanimously, the public hearing was closed.

PRESENTATION: Mary Szaro and Chris Smiga gave a presentation requesting the implementation of an Environmental Commission. They answered some follow up questions

from the Council members. The Council thanked Ms. Szaro and Mr. Smiga for their presentation and reported the Council would consider the request moving forward.

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 Resolutions NO. 23-097 through NO. 23-104 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor. Gross - absent

NO. 23-097 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION - FELICIANO

NO. 23-098 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VETERAN TAX REFUND - GAVIN

NO. 23-099 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITHOUT PUBLIC ADVERTISING DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR AT MEACHAM DR. AND SOUTH FELTUS ST. - OSWALD ENTERPRISES INC.

NO. 23-100 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION - FUCHS

NO. 23-101 RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR STORMWATER PROGRAM UPGRADES TO MEET THE 2023 TIER A MS4 PERMIT, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING

NO. 23-102 RESOLUTION APPROVING JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2024 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES UNION OF SOUTH AMBOY (MEUSA) AGREEMENT

NO. 23-103 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF SUPERCAB AND REGCAB BOXES FOR DPW THROUGH STATE CONTRACT

NO. 23-104 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF ONE KENWORTH CONVENTIONAL CHASSIS AND ONE LEACH REAR LOADER PACKER BODY FOR DPW THROUGH STATE CONTRACT

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-105
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 5, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-105 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor. Gross - absent

RESOLUTION NO. 23-106
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 13, 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. 23-106 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Laughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor. Gross-absent

ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2023-06

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 240 HENRY ST.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-06 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the June 7, 2023 meeting.

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

ORDINANCE 2023-07

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FIX NON-UNION MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-07 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the June 7, 2023 meeting.

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

ORDINANCE 2023-08

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FIX UNION SALARIES

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-08 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the June 7, 2023 meeting.

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

ADOPTION/SECOND 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

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and approved unanimously, the public portion of the meeting was opened. Mr. Babilak questioned the lost portion of the video meeting. On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously, the public portion is closed

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-04 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Noted what a good job Ms. Dato did running this evening's meeting.
- Thanked Ms. Szaro and Mr. Smiga for their presentation.
- Thanked the first responders and emergency service volunteers.
- Congratulated Mr. Reilly on a successful government week – a good collaboration with the school system.
- Acknowledged the efforts put in to see if an Arts & Crafts program would be viable for this year and noted the work required to set up a full program is substantive.
- Noted the PILOT report was timely, overdo but timely, and is happy to see SOP's being put in place.
- Gave a quick update on the Ferry Project status.

Mr. Reilly:

- Urged Mr. Conrad to be an essay contest judge next year.
- Thanked Ms. Szaro and Mr. Smiga for their presentation.
- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued good work.
- Noted May is small business month – urges everyone to please support our local businesses and noted the small business meeting will be moved to the fall.
- Wished good luck to the softball and baseball teams.
- Received an update on the pigeon palace situation and the Venetian litigation. Mr. Womack will update with specifics in an upcoming closed session.
- Reported the open house during government week has produced a new volunteer.
- Received an update from Mr. Womack that the animal ordinance amendments are still in progress.
- Requested Mr. Kales look into increasing the penalty for the theft of catalytic converters.
- Requested Mr. Kales look into the specific requirements of training/certification for camp counselors for the Arts Camp.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked this evening's meeting attendees.
- Thanked Ms. Szaro for her presentation.
- Thanked the volunteers for their continued efforts.

Mr. McLaughlin left the meeting.

Mayor Henry:

- Gave an update on the ferry project regarding temporary docking services.
- Thanked Mr. Kales for his research into a summer Arts program.

- Thanked Ms. Szaro and Mr. Smiga for the presentation.
- Sent condolences to the Frank Campbell family.
- Reminded everyone that the Touch-A-Truck was this Sunday.
- Thanked the Council for passing the Budget.
- Noted the new pump station grinder has been installed.
- Thanked Mary Porcella for hosting a volunteer luncheon.
- Thanked the volunteers and noted they are constantly taking new training to keep up with the times.

Ms. Dato:

- Thanked Ms. Szaro and Mr. Smiga for their presentation.
- Thanked Mr. Higgins for his presentation of the budget and final report of the PILOT Audits.

Mr. Kales:

- Discussed the research he had completed regarding the implementation of an Arts Camp. A full program would not be ready for this summer, however, a shorter program may be doable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Szaro, 370 Fifth St., thanked the Council for being open to the idea of establishing an Environmental Commission and noted that May is military appreciation month!

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., received confirmation that no programs were removed from the budget and noted \$120,000 in discrepancies for the PILOT audit was more than a "glitch" as the Mayor had said earlier. Mr. Kales noted that amount was 3% of the total monies received from the PILOT fees.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved May 17, 2023