

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 21, 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 5:04 P.M.

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

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

Clerk Brooks read the notice of publication.

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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:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 23-115 through NO. 23-132 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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- NO. 23-115 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT - LAWRENCE
- NO. 23-116 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2022
- NO. 23-117 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2022
- NO. 23-118 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS FOR THE 2023-2024 LICENSING PERIOD
- NO. 23-119 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT – CORELOGIC
- NO. 23-120 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX CANCELLATION – CONRAIL LEASE
- NO. 23-121 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS
- NO. 23-122 RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BROADWAY, PHASE 2- ROADWAY AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

- NO. 23-123 RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SOUTH PINE AVENUE - ROADWAY AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
- NO. 23-124 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND, BLOCK 161.04, LOT 20.8 – BAYSIDE AT SOUTH AMBOY LLC
- NO. 23-125 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ZUSETTE DATO TO SARA
- NO. 23-126 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR DONATIONS FOR THE FERRY IMPROVEMENTS TRUST FUND N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29
- NO. 23-127 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTING OF ESTIMATED TAXES FOR THIRD QUARTER 2023
- NO. 23-128 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR GORDON STREET DEMOLITION- MCKEON'S MATERIALS LLC
- NO. 23-129 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CASH BOND TO PT BUILDER NJ LLC – BA21-1027 – 114 DAVID ST.
- NO. 23-130 REFUND PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION FEE – 8 SANDPIPER DR.
- NO. 23-131 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO EXTEND THE THIRD QUARTER 2023 DUE DATE
- NO. 23-132 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-133**

**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 May 17, 2023 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-133 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-134**

**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 lists dated June 1, 2023 and June 15, 2023, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-134 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**ORDINANCE**

**ADOPTION/SECOND 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.

**OPEN PUBLIC**

**CLOSE PUBLIC On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Dato and passed unanimously, the public session is closed**

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-06 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-07**

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

**OPEN PUBLIC**

**CLOSE PUBLIC On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and passed unanimously, the public session is closed**

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-07 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-08**

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FIX UNION SALARIES

**OPEN PUBLIC**

**CLOSE PUBLIC On motion by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, the public session is closed**

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-08 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-09**

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 328 FOURTH ST.

**OPEN PUBLIC**

**CLOSE PUBLIC On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, the public session is closed**

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-09 is hereby adopted.

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

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2023-05**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 130-4 OF THE CITY CODE TO REMOVE LICENSE RENEWAL FEES FOR SIDEWALK CAFES AND TO EXTEND DATES AND HOURS OF PERMITTED OPERATION

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-05 be introduced on first reading as amended and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the July 19, 2023 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-10**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,433,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,818,217 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-10 be introduced as amended on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the July 19, 2023 meeting.

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

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Thanked all those, especially Jackie Kelly, involved in establishing a summer arts program.
- Noted he had attended the Police Memorial service which was very nice.
- Congratulated all South Amboy students who graduated this year.
- Received confirmation the Pidgeon Palace project was moving forward.
- Sent condolences to the Dragotta family.
- Requested attorney Womack to look into prohibiting pop-up flower sales which are competing with our local florists.
- Congratulated the First Aid Squad on their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Stated he was happy to see the outdoor dining ordinance moving forward – we need to support our local businesses.
- Requested the administration consider some form of local signage, ie. For the train station, post office, parks etc.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Reminded everyone that summer is approaching and the children will be playing outside so drive carefully.

- Thanked the volunteers for their work as always, and noted the emergency workers had been busy as of late.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the first aid, fire department, police department and their families for going the extra mile.
- Congratulated the 2023 graduates.

Ms. Dato:

- Sent her condolences to the Dragotta family.
- Reported the second graders had successfully completed the water safety course and thanked Mr. Gross for his support of the program.
- The summer concert series starts next Wednesday, 7:30pm – it will be the NJ Symphony Orchestra.
- A “Walk to End Hunger” will be at the Raritan Waterfront Park this Saturday, Registration at 10am, walk at 11am.
- Congratulated the graduating class of 2023.

Mr. Gross:

- Reported the Council is still weighing the option of establishing an Environmental Commission.
- Requested Mr. Womack ensure the Ordinance regarding animal care be introduced at the next agenda.
- Reminded everyone that the Irish Festival is September 9, 2023.
- Noted he is working on a fall swimming program in addition to the spring program.
- Congratulated the Business Administrator Kales and the staff on their continued dedication and hard work.

Mr. Kales:

- Noted if the concert is rained out it will be moved to the Sayreville High School, not South Amboy Middle-High School.
- Reported South Amboy will not be participating in the fire works this year, however the park will be open for viewing the fire works being presented by Perth Amboy.
- Thanked the staff for all the hard work they have been doing.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Reported there will be paving on Feltus St. between Bordentown and Main St., please drive carefully.

Mr. Balka:

- Noted the Bond Ordinance title on the agenda needed to be updated with the amended amount. The body of the Ordinance is fine.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Beverly Samuelson received confirmation that the agendas, in full, are posted in the Calendar on the City website. She also confirmed there would be extra patrols out during fireworks.

Owen Johnson, spoke at length of his frustration in dealing with the City’s Public Defender and Prosecutor. No one will return his calls and he has had to deal with Internal Affairs and the Mayor regarding a situation with Ofc. Murray, who subsequently apologized. He also spoke of his frustration with having to deal with the PD for some of his OPRA requests. In most other places he noted, he would only have to go through the Clerk’s office. He plans to

attend every meeting until something is done regarding the City Public Prosecutor and Public Defender. Mr. Womack agreed to speak with him after the meeting.

Mr. Owens also mentioned that the Blue Line and Blue flag showing support of the PD did not represent all citizens views and should be removed. To many, they are a sign similar to a swastika or burning cross and represent oppression. Our country has one flag and this is the only one that should be in use. He noted the installation of the blue line did not follow federal mandates and guidelines. His final request was for the installation of Pickle Ball courts as this is the number one fastest growing sport. Mr. Kales confirmed the purchase of the nets and noted the installation of the courts will begin shortly.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., requested that when the Professionals, such as Mr. Rasimowicz and Mr. Balka answer questions, they should go to the mic to ensure their answers are picked up on the recording. Ms. Brooks agreed wholeheartedly. He received confirmation that the issue at the roundabout by the park is being dealt with and should reopen shortly. Questioned Mr. Rasimowicz and Mr. Kales about the exclusion of the girls softball field from the new field installation. Mr. Rasimowicz noted that field will be included in the grant application for the next part of the project.

Councilman Conrad left the meeting at 5:48.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Dato and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved July 19, 2023