

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 19, 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, and Councilman Gross via call-in.

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:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 23-135 through NO. 23-139 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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NO. 23-135 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT – RAILROAD AVE.

NO. 23-136 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL SERVICES RESOLUTION

NO. 23-137 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SEWER MAIN REPAIR AT MAIN ST. – B&W CONSTRUCTION CO.

NO. 23-138 A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH POLICEMENS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL 63

NO. 23-139 A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 63

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-140**  
**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 June 21, 2023 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-140 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-141**  
**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 July 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. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-141 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**ORDINANCE**

**ADOPTION/SECOND 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

**OPEN PUBLIC – On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, Public Session was opened.**

**No Comments.**

**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Mr. Gross, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-05 is hereby adopted.

**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.

**OPEN PUBLIC – On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, Public Session was opened.**

**No Comments.**

**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-10 is hereby adopted.

**SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad, **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Gross, Absent - Reilly**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 23-11**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 58, ARTICLE 3 OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS OF PROTECTION AND SHELTER FOR DOGS, SERVICE ANIMALS AND PETS

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2023-11 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the August 16, 2023 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-12**

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 315 N. FELTUS ST. AND 422 WILMONT ST.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2023-12 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the August 16, 2023 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-13**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR FERRY TERMINAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$35,378,993 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,000,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2023-13 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the August 16, 2023 meeting.

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

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked everyone who came to the meeting.
- Thanked the first responders and volunteers.
- Wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated the Administration and team that put together the Ferry Project Bond Ordinance, this project has been in the works for quite a while and he is happy to see it moving forward.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked all the emergency service volunteers and Police Department and their families for their continued good work.
- Noted the hard work completed by the Recreation and Administration Departments in putting together the summer Arts Program and is looking forward to the development of an expanded program of both summer sports and arts in the future.
- Congratulated Recreation and DPW on the installation of the pickleball courts noting it was a pleasure to see the rapid response to community interests.

- Noted he was pleased to see the new Animal Safety Ordinance introduced, another example of the South Amboy Administration demonstrating responsiveness to its citizens.
- Reported as of July 11, there are 20 active local paid internships in progress throughout the City, a successful joint effort between the City and Middlesex County.
- Stated he is encouraged and excited that the Ferry Bond has been introduced, thanking both past and present administrations for their dedication and hard work in seeing this project to its completion.

Ms. Dato:

- Thanked the local police presence for the fireworks.
- Stated she was impressed with the speed the tennis courts were converted to pickle ball courts and had received positive feedback from some residents.
- Reported the Summer Concert series is continuing and Seussical the Musical is this Friday and Saturday at the high school.
- Thanked the Police Department officers that had shown up at tonight's meeting and is pleased the Administration and Police Department had come to an agreement for a new rotation schedule.
- Thanked everyone involved in the creation of the new Animal Safety Ordinance that had been introduced this evening.
- Stated it was great news regarding the Ferry project moving forward with the new Bond.

Mr. Kales:

- Stated he appreciated all the hard work his team had done on the ferry project.
- Noted the completion of the installation of the pickle ball courts and that when the administration says it will do something, it does it.
- Noted he had been BA for five months and thanked everyone for their support, noting there has been a lot of progress made.

Mr. Womack:

- Requested an executive session at the next meeting so he can update the Council on current litigation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Brian Noble, Pres. Of the SAYAA spoke about the field project and its interchangeability for use for both girls and boys. The SAYAA uses a computer program that randomly assigns schedules so there is no bias. He thanked Mark Rasimowicz for his work on the project.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., confirmed there was no movement in the Council's decision regarding the formation of an Environmental Commission.

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., discussed the ball field capacity's and confirmed it was the intention of the City to at some point redo all the fields. He was happy to see the Animal Safety Ordinance and hoped in the future the City would increase its animal services - he has noticed that the City has not been spending the allotted budget.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St. questioned if the recreation budget was broken out into line items. Mr. Kales stated it was not. Confirmed, once again, that the girls field will be redone, but matching grant funds have not yet been secured.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved August 16, 2023