

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 16, 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 Reilly, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin (via call-in), and Councilman Gross.

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

Clerk Brooks read the notice of publication.

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. 23-142 through NO. 23-150 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

NO. 23-142 GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE - FISCAL GRANT CYCLE 10-2020- 6-2025

NO. 23-143 GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE – YOUTH LEADERSHIP GRANT

NO. 23-144 PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS – CZOCH, LI, GREENHAUS

NO. 23-145 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND #589438S, BLOCK 161.04, LOT 20.08 – BAYSIDE AT SOUTH AMBOY LLC

NO. 23-146 RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR 2023 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – FOURTH ST., THOMPSON ST. AND POTTER ST.

NO. 23-147 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SEWER MAIN REPAIR AT MAIN ST. – B&W CONSTRUCTION CO.

NO. 23-148 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SEWER MAIN REPAIR AT FELTUS ST. – B&W CONSTRUCTION CO.

NO. 23-149 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF ONE 2025 KENWORTH T480 CONVENTIONAL CHASSIS AND LEACH 2RILL 29-YARD REAR LOADER PACKER BODY

NO. 23-150 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE THE NJ ALCOTEST 9510 EVIDENTIAL BREATH TEST SYSTEM THROUGH A NJ STATE CONTRACT

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-151
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 July 19, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-151 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, McLaughlin, Gross Abstain: Reilly**

RESOLUTION NO. 23-152
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 August 10, 2023, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-152 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly, Gross Absent: Conrad**

ORDINANCE

ADOPTION/SECOND 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

Mr. Reilly noted he was happy to see this completed and thanked the citizens Ann James and Amy Dundee for all their contributions.

OPEN PUBLIC Motion Ms. Dato, **Second** Mr. McLaughlin – No public Comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-11 is hereby adopted.

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

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.

OPEN PUBLIC Motion Ms. Dato, **Second** Mr. Reilly – No public comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-12 is hereby adopted.

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

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.

OPEN PUBLIC Motion Mr. McLaughlin, **Second** Ms. Dato
Greg Babilak, confirmed the project was completed Grant funded and would not raise the taxes.

CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-13 is hereby adopted.

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

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-14

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 –REMOVE 354 DAVID ST.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2023-14 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 6, 2023 meeting.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked everyone who had attended the meeting.
- Congratulated the First Aid Squad on its 90th year anniversary and thanked all the volunteers.
- Appreciates all the hard work that has gone into the ferry project and is excited to "get it built!"
- Wished everyone a Happy Labor Day – noted it was started by a carpenter.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the Food Pantry volunteers
- Noted the 90th Anniversary Event had been a success.
- Wished Fr. Dennis the best of luck in his retirement and welcomed Fr. Guy Sylvester as the new pastor.
- Wished all the students and teacher’s good luck as the new school year is beginning.
- Wished everyone a Happy Labor Day
- Thanked Mr. Kales, Ms. Kudelka and Ms. Kelly on the success of the summer arts & crafts program and is looking forward to a larger program next year.
- Noted National Night Out had been very successful.

- Thanked Mr. Conrad for his work on the successful summer internship program.
- Received an update on the payment of PILOT monies.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated the First Aid Squad on their 90th Anniversary.
- Noted the Arts Group is having a photo exhibit tomorrow, 7 to 9pm.
- The Arts Alliance is having a Arts Festival September 24th 11am to 4pm at the Art Gallery on Broadway.
- Reported National Night Out had been very successful and the PD, OEM, FD, Municipal Alliance, etc. had been well represented.
- Reported the summer concert series will continue tonight with two more concerts to follow in the upcoming weeks. Attendee as asked to donate non-perishable food items.
- Independence Fire Co. held a successful antique car event.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked Mr. Kales, Ms. Kudelka and all who participated in National Night Out – it was a superb event.
- Thanked the First Aid Squad for all their continued hard work and congratulated them on their 90th anniversary.
- Stated that looking into the Environmental Commission is going to take second place to getting the Ferry Project complete. The project is almost at the finished and he is looking forward to the first ride!

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the First Aid Squad for their 90 years of service.
- Noted the Independence Fire Co. had held a great event.
- Agree with the other Council Members that the National Night Out event had been a great success.
- Congratulated Fr. Dennis on his retirement, noting he will be missed.
- Reported there will be live 60's and 70's music at a concert at the library this evening.
- Congratulated everyone involved in the finalization of the Ferry Project Bond financing, especially Cong. Pallone and Assemblyman Coughlin for their help with the Grant funding. It has been a very long journey and we are almost at the end.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the staff and everyone that had volunteered to help make National Night Out such a success.
- Is happy the Bond was adopted this evening and is looking forward to awarding the contract as soon as the estoppel period has passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., noted that is the Council had established the Environmental Commission years earlier there would have been no clean up to do with the Ferry Site, it would have been taken care of. He did not understand why the decision about the Commission had to take a back seat to the forward progress of the Ferry Project.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., confirmed there is no current movement on the decision regarding the establishment of the Environment Commission. Mr. Gross reiterated the Ferry Project will come first. They Mayor noted he is in favor of the Environmental Commission, however, the Ferry Project will be the priority. Mr. Russell requested meetings be converted to real time, over a live platform. Mr. Kales once again stated it was a budgetary issue and would be looked into for a future budget. Mr. Russell noted he has been trying to volunteer

and is working with the Parade Committee and Green Team and doing some environmental projects on his own. He does not understand why he has not been appointed to the Municipal Alliance as he has interest and experience in helping the addicted. He has accepted the decision regarding the Alliance Committee and wants to know which other committees he can volunteer on.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., confirmed the Council is trying to move the park from near the old American Legion building to the Old DAV. Mr. Babilak also questioned when the Council realized there would be an increase to the Budget. Mayor and Council responded that the Pension and Health Care cost increases are the largest part of the tax increase and they had known about them fairly early on.

Sandy Reilly, 410 John St., requested blinking red lights on Pine and Feltus near where she is a crossing guard as there are many cars just flying right through. Mr. Kales will look into the installation of a 4-way blinking red light. Ms. Reilly also wanted to recognize crossing guard Loreen Cuesta, who is retiring after 26 years of service. Mr. Kales noted he would pass the well wishes on as Loreen is his mother-in-law.

Ann James, 330 S. Pine St., thanked Mr. Womack and Ms. Brooks for all their help and guidance in bringing forward the new animal safety ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Reilly and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved September 6, 2023