

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 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 7:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Henry, David Kales, BA, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer 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. 23-161 through NO. 23-162 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

NO. 23-161 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A FORD INTERCEPTOR FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NO. 23-162 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITH SOUTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY –VAN METER

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-163
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 September 6, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-163 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-164
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 September 14, 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. 23-164 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued good work and noted September is Hunger Anchor Month and to please donate to the food pantries if you are able.
- Reported there will be a Business Breakfast on October 21st, 9am at the Senior Center. There will be speakers present to discuss small business loans and other opportunities for the small businesses.
- Congratulated the SAFD on their good showing at Wildwood, earning 1st Place in Marching Unit.
- Noted he had received a note from the BA regarding the upcoming budget discussions and is pleased to see the Administration starting the process so early and being open to the input of the Council members.
- Received confirmation that the City is taking over the Pidgeon Palace property is moving forward and that it may be used for additional parking.
- Reminded everyone that the FOSA fundraiser is December 12th this year and that a 6th game has been added.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Congratulations to the SAFD, it was a job well done representing the City at the Wildwood Convention.
- Thanked everyone who came to the meeting and thanked the volunteers for their continued good work.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated the SAFD, noting they made us proud and thanking them for their unending service and dedication.
- Reminded everyone that the general election is November 7th, Vote-By-Mail applications have gone out and early voting will go from October 28 to November 5th.
- Reported the Arts Festival will take place on Broadway on Sunday. There will be music, food trucks and family activities.
- Reported that she had attended another successful Lunch and Learn that had focused on meditation and breathing exercises. An excellent program!

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated the SAFD for it's large trophy haul noting they are a great representative of the City's volunteers.
- Noted September 15th to October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month and moving forward would like to have greater recognition of the diversity that exists in South Amboy.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated the best Fire Department in the world and thanked all the volunteers.
- Reported that while rainy, the Irish Festival was a success. He thanked all involved including Jackie Kelly, Kathryn Kudelka, OEM, FD, PD, Dave Kales and Mayor Henry.
- Noted the City will be putting on a small Memorial Day Parade next year and asked everyone to come out in support of the event.
- Stated that all the people on the dais this evening are good, hard working, dedicated people who deserve to be spoken to respectfully by the public. No disrespectful talk will be tolerated.

- Reported he had attended the quarterly JIF meeting and noted there is going to be a large increase in that bill.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the SAFD Volunteers for representing the City so well.
- Noted that while the weather was not the best, the Irish Festival went smoothly and thanked the many people who committed so much time to putting the event together.
- Thanked everyone who attended the 9/11 Ceremony.
- Sent condolences to the Chubenko family.
- Thanked Mr. Rasimowicz for his work on the Feltus Street project which included curbing and sidewalks.
- Congratulated Police Chief LaVigne for his successful completion of an FBI Academy course he attended in DC and thanked him for his good work.

Mr. Kales:

- Reported a flashing speed limit sign has been ordered and will be installed to prevent speeding of truck traffic off of Route 9.
- Reported a blinking stop sign has been purchased and will be installed on Pine Street in response to the request of Ms. Sandy Reilly, crossing guard.
- Congratulated the SAFD on a job well done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Tom Kross, 36 Second St., discussed concerns about the condition of the alley on Potter St. between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Mr. Kales will follow up. Mr. Rasimowicz added that the Fourth and Potter Street project which will include new drainage will be starting next week.

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., questioned how the 2022 Transit Village Grant monies had been spent. Mr. Kales will follow up as this was before he started as BA with the City.

Fire Chief Dragotta, 433 John St., thanked the Mayor and Council for their kind words in support of the SAFD and their results in Wildwood. He noted the new Progressive firetruck won first place for best new apparatus and it had been a proud day for him and he is thankful for the continued support.

Sandy Reilly, 410 John St., thanked BA Kales for the rapid response to her request for a blinking stop sign noting it is sure to make a big difference. She had counted 65 cars that blew through the stop sign and will be happy to have the new blinking light installed.

Michael Reilly received confirmation that the installation of the Ferry will not affect traffic on Broadway; traffic will be diverted to Radford Ferry Road. In answer to his question of parking spaces to be located at the terminal, Mr. Kales noted there are 500 spaces approved for the temporary lot and 750 permanent spaces for the permanent lot.

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Reilly and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved October 4, 2023