

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 4, 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 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilman Conrad, Councilman Reilly, Councilwoman Dato, 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.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Henry presented Abdou and Caprice Kassem, of Stevens Avenue Deli and Subs, a Proclamation recognizing the 30th year anniversary of the business.

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. 23-165 through NO. 23-167 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor, Mr. McLaughlin Absent

NO. 23-165 RESOLUTION AWARDDING CARLIN, WARD ASH & HEIART, LLC
CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL TAX COUNSEL SERVICES

NO. 23-166 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE
PERFORMANCE BOND, BLOCK 95, LOT 12 - KOLAKOWSKI

NO. 23-167 RESOLUTION CANCELING GRANT BALANCE

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-168
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 20, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-168 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly . **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor, Mr. McLaughlin Absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-169
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 28, 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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-169 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor, Mr. McLaughlin absent.

ORDINANCE

ADOPTION/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-15

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 111 N. FELTUS ST., 251 GORDON ST. AND 355 MAIN ST.

OPEN PUBLIC - No comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-15 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food bank volunteers for their continued good work.
- Reminded everyone that the Business Breakfast meeting is October 21st at 9am at the Senior Center. There will be a speaker from the County.
- Congratulated Abdou and Caprice Kassem on the businesses' 30th anniversary and reminded everyone to shop locally.
- Noted he is putting together budget items and confirmed with Mr. Kales that an appointment would be set up so he can review them with him.
- Requested Mr. Herdman pick a date at which the food pantry volunteers can be acknowledged by proclamation.
- Noted there has been some clean up at the Rosewell property and confirmed with Mr. Kales that the property has been sold.
- Noted with Veterans Day upcoming, it would be appropriate to add Michael Nemeth's name to the Veteran's Charles Brown, Jr. and Robert Hughes who are already acknowledged on the Veteran's Memorial plaque.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Abdul and Caprice Kassem on their businesses' 30th anniversary and noted how Caprice had intimidated her when she first went there, but over time how it has become a warm, inviting place that felt like home. Ms. Dato thanked them for their years of service to the community and wished them continued success.

- Thanked Joan Conway and the Arts group for their work in putting on the Arts Festival.
- Reminded everyone that election day is November 7th, mail in ballots have been sent out. Applications for Mail in Ballot's can be found at the Clerk's office and the deadline is October 31st.
- The Fall Beach Sweep event with the help of the Clean Ocean Action people will be on October 21st from 9am to 12pm.

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Abdul and Caprice Kassem on their businesses' 30th anniversary and thanked them for their investment in South Amboy.
- Thanked the volunteers, noting we are forever indebted to them.
- Noted he would be happy to take any ideas from the public regarding thoughts on the upcoming 2024 budget to the administration.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated Abdul and Caprice Kassem on their businesses' 30th anniversary.
- Thanked OEM for all their hard work.
- Noted he would like to see money for the swimming lesson program in the 2024 Budget.
- Reported the St. Patrick's Parade will be on March 17th this year and received approval from the Council for the City to be an official sponsor of the Parade.

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the people who put on the Arts Festival – it was well done.
- Noted there will be a Grand Opening this Friday at the new "Just Like Home" adult day care center on lower Main Street.
- Reported there will be a ground breaking ceremony for the new Warehouse project on lower Main Street. This was a site that needed remediation and he thanked the owners for cleaning it up.
- Thanked the "We Love You Foundation" that recently supplied 180 back packs to South Amboy students.

Mr. Kales:

- Congratulated Abdul and Caprice Kassem on their businesses' 30th anniversary and personally thanked them for serving him everyday.
- Announced that starting October 6th, Mark Herdman returns as Director of OEM and thanked Larry McMahon and Steve Doyle for covering the department over the last months.
- Reported the property at 131 S. Broadway, the Pigeon Palace, is moving forward in the legal system.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Reported the Fourth and Potter project will begin in a few weeks – they are waiting on materials to be delivered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., requested information on the 1.7 million dollar road improvement grant from August, 2022. Mr. Kales noted Mr. Balka could not be present this evening and will follow up with Mr. Smiga. Asked how the \$180,000 transit grant had been spent and Mr. Rasimowicz replied that it had been the bikeway grant and that the project should be going out to bid shortly. He requested Mr. Gross give follow up information to the statement he had made at the last meeting regarding the increase in insurance costs that

will be in the upcoming budget. Mr. Gross replied that he will be attending the quarterly JIF meeting the third Wednesday of the month and would report back afterwards. Finally, he questioned why the Police Department did not publish a monthly blotter and requested they start one.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., received confirmation that there had been background noise at the last meeting. Ms. Brooks confirmed that one of the microphones was not working and had been removed until it could be fixed. He questioned the Council on whether or not they had difficulty listening to the recordings of the meetings and questioned Ms. Brooks on how she completed her minutes and Ms. Brooks stated she used her notes and the audio. Finally Mr. Babilak, once again, asked about the status of the girls softball field grant. Mr. Kales noted, once again, that it was no longer designated or used as the "girls" field and that the status had not changed because the City would have to match funds of 1.5 million dollars before they could apply for the grant.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved October 18, 2023