

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 13, 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 (arrived 6:09), Councilwoman Dato, and Councilman Gross, and Mr. Reilly. Councilman McLaughlin was absent

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Henry, David Kales, BA, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Dan Balka, CFO, Mr. Rasimowicz, City Engineer and Francis Womack, City Attorney (arrived at 6:05pm).

Clerk Brooks read the notice of publication.

ANNUAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

TOM SIKORSKI – gave a quick presentation of his back ground in the Health Services and discussed the implementation of a full time inspector for the City, as well as pool in sections, and ground water contamination.

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. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 23-190 through NO. 23-198 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

- NO. 23-190 RESOLUTION RESCINDING LIQUOR LICENSE 1220-33-011-006 FOR THE LICENSING PERIOD 2023-2024.
- NO. 23-191 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND - DALA
- NO. 23-192 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS RARITAN STREET PUMP STATION AND FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT
- NO. 23-193 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS
- NO. 23-194 GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE – FISCAL GRANT CYCLE OCTOBER 2020-JUNE 2025
- NO. 23-195 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND – CORELOGIC
- NO. 23-196 VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION - LOVE
- NO. 23-197 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND – PATURZO
- NO. 23-198 RESOLUTION APPOINTING KELLY WOLFF AS MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Gross proposed moving all meetings to 6pm in the upcoming year. Ms. Dato was not opposed, Mr. Reilly was opposed, Mr. Conrad was not opposed. Ms. Brooks was directed to send an email out to all Council members and pending results, change the time or keep the schedule as is.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-199

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 November 20, 2023 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-199 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Gross** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Gross**
Abstain: Reilly

Arrival of Mr. Conrad

RESOLUTION NO. 23-200

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 November 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: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 23-200 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE

ADOPTION/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18

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 371 FOURTH ST.

OPEN PUBLIC - no comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2023-18 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.
- Thanked the food pantry volunteers and first responders, commending John Dragotta on his stint as Fire Chief.
- Encourage everyone to come out and support the FOSA event on Saturday.
- Reported Kathy Guzman, the County small business liaison will be reaching out to the small business in the City to continue the dialogue that was started at the Small Business Breakfast Meeting.
- Reported "Get Covered NJ" is a state health care insurance program. Call 1-833-677-1010. Open enrollment ends January 21st.

Mr. Conrad:

- Apologized for being late to the meeting.
- Thanked the Fire Department and emergency personnel volunteers.
- Wished the Council, Mayor and his colleagues Happy Holidays and thanked them for having such a good working relationship.
- Thanked the nurses for their service.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays, Hannukah, Kwanza and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Kelly Wolff on her appointment as Court Administrator, noting she is already an asset to the City as the SARA secretary and is talented and hardworking.
- Hoped people will attend the FOSA fundraiser as it is so important to help organizations that do such important work.
- Thanked the volunteers who work so hard throughout the year.
- Thanked the nurses for coming out.
- Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Gross:

- Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and noted he thanked God everyday that he was lucky to live in South Amboy, the "Greatest Little City in the World"

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked everyone who attended this evening's meeting.
- Stated he had great feedback from the tree-lighting ceremony.
- Recognized the library for being voted Top Nonprofit Charity Organization in Central Jersey and acknowledged the Board and especially retired Board members Rosemary Zera and Fr. Dennis for their contributions.
- Congratulated Larry Parsons and Tom Szatkowski on their 50 years of service and thanked the outgoing Chiefs for their hard work.
- Wished everyone a Happy Celebration for whatever they celebrated and a Happy New Year!

Mr. Kales:

- Encouraged people to turn out for the FOSA fundraiser and reported the group had raised between seven and eight hundred thousand over the years.
- Remarked that as his first year came to an end, he couldn't have been as successful as he was without his team. He stated that the Council had accomplished a lot over the past year.

- Noted the Ferry ridership is increasing as expected and the construction of the ferry building is moving forward.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded everyone to spend time with your families.
- Stated to the nurses that he is on their side.

Mr. Womack:

- Reported South Amboy will be joining the JIF defense litigation.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday and stated it was an honor working with the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Rasimowicz:

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Noted that everyone involved in the Ferry Project deserved a round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Imimar Gay Lupdag, Collin Kerwin, and John Hsu all spoke to Council regarding litigation by the state to decrease nurse/patient ratio's and increase staffing. They discussed increasing mortality rates and infection rates; how the work load made the job more difficult for the nurses to educate their patients on their medications, etc.; how those nurses that work in trauma units have the sickest patients that require the most care and have some of the worst nurse/patient ratios. They discussed how many nurses, all of whom love their work are thinking of leaving the industry or have left the industry due to the increased stress levels from the staffing shortages. They discussed how current legislation stood and requested the support of the Municipality by passing a resolution in support of increased staffing. They want to put patient care in front of corporate profits!

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., stated that she was previously in the nursing field and is in full support of the legislation moving forward and urged the Council to do the same.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., requested an update on the meeting format issue – there have been no decisions made. He confirmed with Mr. Kales that no PILOT funds have been received from Woodmont and the case is ongoing.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He asked about audio issues at the last meeting in November and asked about the difference between matching and non-matching grants. Mr. Kales stated matching grants required the City to match funds in order to receive the grant money and non-matching grants did not. Ms. Brooks stated they are working on the audio issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Ms. Dato seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved January 3, 2024

