

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 17, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by City Clerk, Deborah Brooks at 7:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Councilman Reilly, Councilman Conrad, and Council President Gross (via phone-in).

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer and Francis Womack, Director of Law

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 24-054 through NO. 24-056 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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NO. 24-054 MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4536/SENATE BILL NO. S304 TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE STAFFING STANDARDS

NO. 24-055 APPOINTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL AND SUBCODE OFFICIALS

NO. 24-056 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALEXIS KORSAK TO THE GREEN TEAM AS YMCA REPRESENTATIVE

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**RESOLUTION NO. 24-057**

**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 January 3, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-057 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-058**

**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 January 10, 2024, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-058 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**ORDINANCE**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-01**

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 230 B JOHN ST. AND 138 B AUGUSTA ST.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2024-01 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the February 7, 2024 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-02**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 119 AND 131 SOUTH BROADWAY FOR PUBLIC USE

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance NO. 2024-02 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the February 7, 2024 meeting.

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

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Conrad:

- Noted he was happy to have passed the Resolution supporting the nurses and that he had heard the resolution had been reintroduced in Trenton. Hopefully there is a light at the end of the tunnel.
- Thanked the Fire Department and First Aid volunteers and their families for their continued support.
- Reported that the reports from the food pantries are indicating a growing need for services. First Presbyterian has done an excellent job serving the needs of the community. If you know anyone that is in need please direct them to the food pantries.
- Reported that legislation was signed by the Governor and Assemblyman Coughlin to increase access to school provided breakfasts.
- Noted that we just celebrated Martin Luther King on the 15<sup>th</sup> – a somber but important legacy. We should all emulate his non-violent methods.
- Stated he was happy with the upcoming purchase of the Pidgeon Palace as it has been an ongoing eyesore. He is looking forward to the purchase helping with parking issues.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued work and noted Mr. Herdman's report indicated that the number of families participating in the food bank is very large and the City still needs the continued generosity of its citizens and thanked Wakefern, Stop & Shop, Aldi and FedEx for their donations. He thanked Mary Porcello and Rocky Cusack for their continued support and hard work.
- Sent his condolences to the families of Gerard Pizzillo, Kathy Vigilante and Raymond "Butch" Tomaszewski
- Agreed with the comments Mary Szaro had made at the last meeting that it is important for there to be monthly feedback from SARA and the Planning Board.
- Stated he was happy that the Council had supported the nurses in passing the Resolution in support of staffing limits – "We heard you."
- Noted he is extremely happy we introduced Ordinance 24-02 to purchase the two properties which have been such an eyesore and is looking forward to putting the space to good use – perhaps for parking.

Mayor Henry:

- Stated that in introducing Ordinance 24-02 the City was solving a longtime problem, after working with the owner for some time the two properties were bundled and an offer was accepted. This will mean big progress for the Downtown area.
- Sent his condolences to the families of Gerard Pizzillo, Kathy Vigilante and Raymond "Butch" Tomaszewski noting he had taught with Mr. Tomaszewski and know Mr. Pizzillo since grade school. Additionally, he sent his condolences to the families of Fire Chief Timothy Gay and Library Director Elaine Gaber.
- Welcomed new police officers Marcus Nunez and Kyle Gasiewski noting they are sure to be fine additions to the department.
- Reported that South Amboy was mentioned in an article in the News Tribune as an up and coming transit village.
- Reported that the Governor and Assemblyman Coughlin signed new anti-hunger legislation into effect yesterday and that the Governor had commended the DPW on doing such a good job clearing the roads after the snow storm enabling them to safely get to the City.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth Street sent her condolences to the Pizzillo family noting that Jerry had been diligent in his effort to get the Veteran plaque designed and made for the Veteran's Park.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth Street, asked for follow up on the OPRA he had sent regarding the Executive Session minutes from March 13, 2023 regarding the PILOT audit report by Gary Higgins. Ms. Brooks apologized for misunderstanding his request noting she thought he wanted the minutes of that date regarding the Venetian litigation. In either case the subject is still open so Executive minutes have not been issued. Asked if there were any updates on the establishment of the Environmental Commission? There are no updates.

Nurse Imie Lupdag thanked the Council and Clerk Brooks for passing the Resolution in support of legislation setting new staffing limits and sent her condolences to the families whose love ones had passed.

John Hsu, Edison, thanked the Council for passing the resolution in support of staffing limits and discussed the current action in the State regarding the legislation noting the new Bill number is S1941.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved February 7, 2024