

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 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: Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Conrad, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, David Kales, BA, Dan Balka CEO, and Francis Womack, Esq.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

Mr. Gross apologized for raising his voice at the last meeting.

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**POLICE OFFICER SWEARING IN:**

Mayor Henry swore in officers Marcus Nunez and Kyle Gasiewski in the presence of friends and family. There was a ten minute break after the swearing in for photographs and congratulations. The meeting resumed at 7:15pm

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**RESOLUTION NO. 24-067**

**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 February 7, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-067 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-068**

**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 15 ( amended to February 15), 2024, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-068 is hereby approved as amended. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

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**ORDINANCE**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-05**

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 –ADDITION OF HANDICAP SPACE – 12 BERTRAM AVE.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2024-05 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the March 20, 2024 meeting.

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

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Congratulated the new police officers, Nunez and Gasiewski.
- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Encouraged residents to attend the Black History Month event at the high school on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.
- Congratulated the following: Dave Szatkowski for receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the ELKS Organization: Gavin Pelke for having scored 1000 points for the boys basketball team and Mike Coman for becoming a paid firefighter at Woodbridge Township.
- Received an update of the budgeting status from Mr. Kales – it is coming along on schedule.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked all the volunteers and congratulated DPW on handling the last snowstorm so efficiently.
- Congratulated the newly sworn-in and newly promoted officers.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their kindness during this time of loss for his family.
- Congratulated the newly appointed officers Nunez and Gasiewski.
- Thanked the volunteer firefighters and first aid workers and their families for their continued sacrifices.
- Gave a shoutout to Mark Herdman for the long hours he continues to commit to the food pantry.
- Reiterated Mr. Reilly's recommendation to attend the Black History Month event at the high school.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated and wished good luck to the new officers.
- Commented that the DPW had done a great job with the recent snowstorm.
- Noted she had attended an impressive and informative Lunch & Learn about heart health.
- Announced the Historical Society is having a breakfast and speaker event on Saturday 10 am to 12pm. Tickets are \$5.00.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated the new officers.
- Reported that there had been a meeting this afternoon on the TNR program and it is moving forward as is the live-streaming project.
- Reported he had attended a Municipal Alliance meeting and congratulated Ms. Kudelka on doing a great job.
- Thanked the first responders and firefighters.
- Reminded the Council members that they will be meeting with Mr. Kales and Mr. Balka in the upcoming weeks to discuss the budget.
- Reminded everyone that the St. Pat's Parade is coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and that 20 bands have already signed up.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated the new officers noting the Police Department is a great bunch of people keeping us safe.
- Sent his condolences to the Conrad family, noting a loss of family member is never easy.
- Restated the information about the Historical Society's event this Saturday.
- Congratulated Chief LaVigne on his retirement.
- Thanked the DPW for doing a great job on the storm clean-up.
- Reported that the Library has free tax services for qualified individuals.
- Reported the Lunch & Learn events continue to be great.

David Kales:

- Thanked the Council for approving the late addition on the Bill List for the purchase of the 131 S. Broadway property.
- Congratulated the new officers and noted that over the next few meetings there will be some promotions as well.
- Thanked the DPW for the good job on the storm clean-up and noted there will be upcoming changes to personnel in that department.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., thanked the Council for sharing the information on the upcoming Historical Society Event noting tickets are only \$5 and that in addition to the breakfast , the American Legion will be selling soup. Finally, she stated that sales for the American Legion 50/50 raffle have begun – the event is May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., inquired as to whether the 2023 financial statements have been posted yet, as per Mr. Balka, not yet. He confirmed there will be a public hearing before the budget is adopted and was concerned with the lack of ridership on the Ferry so far. He questioned who is the Ferry for?

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved March 6, 2024