

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 15, 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, Mayor Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, and Attorney Womack

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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**PROCLAMATION:**

Betty Leveille – In the presence of friends and family, the Mayor read the proclamation and spoke of Ms. Leveille’s dedication and service. Ms. Leveille stated there is no “I” in team and she did not get here alone. She said she could see no other way to spend her life than in dedication to the South Amboy First Aid Squad. There was a 10 minute pause for pictures and congratulations.

Hyperbaric Awareness Month – The Mayor read the proclamation.

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. McLaughlin asked that Resolution 24-101 be pulled from the 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 Resolutions NO. 24-098, 24-099, 24-101 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

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- NO. 24-098                RESOLUTION TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND LERETA LLC
- NO. 24-099                TAX REFUND – CORELOGIC
- NO. 24-101                RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(e)

On motion by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Resolution 24-100 was approved. Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Reilly , Gross   Nays: McLaughlin

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-102**  
**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 April 17, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-102 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-103**  
**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 May 9, 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. 24-103 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**ORDINANCE**

**ADOPTION/SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-07**

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 – HANDICAP PARKING SPACE - 208 GEORGE ST.

**OPEN PUBLIC – no comment**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-07 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-08**

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 144, ENTITLED "STORAGE OF SALT AND OTHER SOLID DE-ICING MATERIALS ON PROPERTIES NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY"

**OPEN PUBLIC – no comment**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-08 is hereby adopted.

**SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2024-09**

AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 158 TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY "TREE PRESERVATION"

**OPEN PUBLIC – Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., spent some time pointing out the differences between the proposed Ordinance and the NJDEP template Ordinance and requested the Council review their Ordinance before adopting it.**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Mr. Reilly and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin  
Ordinance #2024-09 is hereby tabled.

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry workers for their continued service.
- Congratulated Ms. Leveille and thanked her for her many years of service.
- Sent condolences to the families of Steve Schmid and Ann Wyzykowski.
- Thanked Mr. Kales and Ms. Kudelka for their efforts in putting together the summer Arts & Crafts program. He noted that the City along with local charities would try to aid in making sure any child who is interested is able to participate.
- Reported that he had reviewed the proposed OPRA Resolution that will be on the June Agenda, and while he is always in favor of open and transparent government, the current OPRA laws need to reform to prevent bad faith abuse. He notes that these changes will in no way prohibit citizens from gaining access to public records.

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Ms. Leveille on her decades of service to the City and its residents.
- Thanked all the volunteers and in particular the double duty that the first aid volunteers performed in their constant efforts to help with the food pantry.
- Recognized International Family Day and the work the Jewish Renaissance Foundation was doing in the local community.
- Reminded everyone of the upcoming Memorial Day remembrance ceremony.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Ms. Leveille and her family.
- Reported she had attended the Police Memorial Service this past Monday and is eternally grateful for their service.
- Noted although Memorial Day Weekend is the kick off to summer, it is important to take a moment and remember those who died while serving.
- Noted the Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their 125 year at the June 19<sup>th</sup> dinner.
- Reported this Sunday from 10am to 5pm is the Touch-a-Truck fundraiser.
- Reported the American Legion is having their picnic on the 26<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm.
- Reminded everyone that the Primary Election day is June 4<sup>th</sup> and early voting will start on May 31<sup>st</sup> and go until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked everyone who had come to attend the meeting.
- Asked if everyone would please attend the American Legion Services for Memorial Day and purchase raffle tickets in support of the event.
- Congratulated Ms. Leveille

Mr. Gross:

- Reminded the Council members to take the on-line Ethics and Bias Training classes required by the JIF.

- Congratulated Ms. Leveille
- Agreed with Mr. Reilly about the need for OPRA reform.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated Ms. Leveille and thanked her for her years of commitment and sacrifice.
- Thanked the Police Department for putting on the annual Memorial Ceremony and noted it is important to support the Police Department and that they are vital to a healthy and safe community.
- Reported the Touch-a-Truck is on Sunday and reviewed the various Memorial Day Weekend upcoming events.
- Noted the Jewish Renaissance Foundation is open to all in the community.
- Reported the Pre-Demo meeting for 131 Broadway had occurred yesterday.
- Reported there is a travelling Vietnam Memorial in East Brunswick Arts Center from May 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kales:

- Sent well wishes to Mark Herdman for a quick recovery.
- Gave a shout-out to Kathy Kudelka for all the work she did in preparing the summer Arts & Crafts Program.

Mr. Womack:

- Reported the next court appearance for the Venetian litigation may be scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and there is no update for the JIF litigation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., reviewed the various events scheduled for the American Legion Memorial Weekend and agreed with Ms. Dato in reminding people to reflect, remember and honor those that gave their lives for our freedoms.

Anonymous – spoke at length about the difficulties he has been experiencing with being blocked or having his comments marked “pending approval” on Mr. McLaughlin’s Facebook Page and asked Mr. McLaughlin to correct the issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Reilly and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved June 5,2024