

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 5, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by City Clerk, Deborah Brooks at 6:00 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 Chirag Mehta (arrived at 6:06pm)

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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.

On motion by Mr. Conrad, Seconded by Ms. Dato and approved unanimously, Resolutions 24-104 and 24-109 were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 24-105 through NO. 24-108 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 24-104 and NO. 24-109 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly Abstain: Gross**

- NO. 24-104 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS
- NO. 24-105 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF PAYMENT #6, ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE BOND AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE FELTUS PHASE 2 PROJECT (SA-21-007-01)– Z BROS.
- NO. 24-106 RESCIND TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND RESOLUTION 24-098
- NO. 24-107 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS
- NO. 24-108 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY TO SELL SURPLUS CITY EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES THROUGH THE MUNICIBID WEBSITE FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY

NO. 24-109 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-110
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 May 15, 2024 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-110 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-111
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 30, 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. 24-111 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2024-10

AN ORDINANCE REMOVING PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 51, LOT 10 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 211 FIRST STREET, FROM THE BROADWAY-MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA AND AMENDING THE BROADWAY/MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT PLAN TO REFLECT SAID REMOVAL

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2024-10 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the July 17, 2024 meeting.
SECONDED by: Mr. McLaughlin, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE 2024-11

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 – 375 FIFTH ST.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2024-11 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the July 17, 2024 meeting.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked all the volunteers for their continued work and let people know they can reach out to the food banks if they are in need.

Ms. Dato:

- Reported the Memorial Day events she had attended had gone very well and thanked all involved for their effort.
- Sent condolences to the Schmid and Moran families.
- Stated she was impressed with the three grants that were on the agenda – good work by all.
- Thanked the Department Heads for attending this evening’s meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Congratulated Mr. Kales on the birth of his granddaughter.
- Thanked the people who supported him in the election noting he can hold his head up high knowing he has well represented them for the past eight years.
- Noted the Democratic Party was up to its old tricks , the NJ Globe once again ran a story with his picture crediting his wife with the photograph. He will take the next to years to think about whether he wants to run again.
- Thanked the volunteers.
- Sent condolences to the Rich Moran family.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers and noted he had read an article that stated how volunteerism was declining. He hoped residents of the City would step up and volunteer.
- Sent condolences to the Moran family.
- Noted that the South Amboy Food Truck Festival will be this Saturday.
- Reported the Summer Rec Program was looking very good and encouraged parents to sign up their children noting financial aid is available.
- Reported June is Men’s Healthcare Month – get your prostate exam!
- Congratulated Mr. Kales on the birth of his granddaughter.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked the Department Heads for attending the meeting.
- Reported that “South Amboy Day” will be on October 12th (rain date 10/13) and Mr. Conrad and Jay Elliot will be in charge.
- Sent condolences to the family of Rich Moran.

Mayor Henry:

- Sent his condolences to the Schmid and Moran families.
- Congratulated Mr. Kales on his new granddaughter.
- Congratulated the Ms. Dato, Mr. Reilly and Mr. Lenahan and their Primary win.
- Noted June 14th is Flag Day and there will be flag disposal services at the Waterfront at 6pm.
- Thanked the OEM Department for their participation in a HazMat training day last Saturday.

- There will be a Teen Library Program from June 1st to August 15th with a prize of a bicycle donated by Broadway's Image.
- Reported South Amboy will not be hosting Fire Works this year although there is a good likelihood that the Waterfront Park will be open.
- Reported that Paint & Sip will be holding an event on the 14th.
- Noted that August 6th is National Night Out and the City will be represented in the parking lot of the Middle High School.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the Department Heads for attending this meeting.
- Stated that three hours ago he had become a grandfather.

Mr. McLaughlin made one last comment to the residents noting he will still be around to help individuals looking for work opportunities as he always has.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., thanked the community for supporting the American Legion Event over the weekend and noted that Senator Vitale had recognized Commander Joe Szaro on his military service and accomplishments at a speech on the Friday before Memorial day at a service in Woodbridge. She then spent some time reviewing the new Affordable Housing Legislation that had just been signed into law and requested the City present an action plan moving forward.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., requested an update from the Council on the status of forming an environmental Commission and an update on the missing job description for "Confidential Aide to the Mayor". Mr. Russell was told by Mr. Kales that the Mayor would be responsible for writing that description. Mr. Gross stated that after speaking with the Council members there were not enough votes to move forward and it would be revisited in January. Mr. McLaughlin asked how Mr. Gross knew there weren't enough votes to move forward. Mr. Gross said he spoke to the individual members. The Mayor said it was his understanding from Mr. Womack that a job description was not necessary. Mr. Russell said he was referencing our policy and added that this position, with no description, could be used to have someone picking up the Mayor's laundry and it is concerning to him that there is no description. Mr. Russell asked the Council to pick a project that the Green Team could focus on and that there is no need to wait another six months to review the need for an Environmental Commission. Mr. Russell asked that the Mayor take his job more seriously. Mr. Gross vehemently disagreed with that statement and believed Mr. Russell owed the Mayor an apology. Mr. Mayor stated that Mr. Russell is implying that the City is not doing anything to address the contamination issues. The Mayor noted that the Developers working on the current projects have spent millions of dollars doing environmental cleanup and that we work consistently with the DEP to meet environmental standards.

Tom Cross, 336 Second St., was dismayed at the slanderous comments being made against Mr. McLaughlin on FaceBook and noted that Mr. McLaughlin had represented him well over the last eight years. He wondered what Mr. McLaughlin had done that the Democratic Committee had not supported him.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Dato and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk