

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 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: Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Conrad, Councilman McLaughlin, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, David Kales, BA, Mayor Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, and Attorney Kevin McManimon

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

PRESENTATION- AUDIT REVIEW – Auditor Gary Higgins reviewed the audit and answered questions from the Council members regarding compliance, excess revenues, direct credits, efficacy of refinancing debt, unpaid compensation, and PILOT numbers.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-129
GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year ending December 31, 2023 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations", as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an

order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Amboy, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-129 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Gross** **Absent: Reilly**

PUBLIC HEARING – FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE CSC TKRR, LLC, D/B/A CABLEVISION OF RARITAN VALLEY (Aeisha Hayward)

Ms. Hayward spoke briefly regarding the upcoming leasing agreement. She emphasized the priority of ensuring Communication with the City. Ms. Dato and Mr. Conrad spoke about their concerns about the outrageously high fees, poor customer service, lack of promotions and requested more information about the 2% gross billables and the audit process of said billables.

ORDINANCE 2024-12

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF A CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE FOR THE OPERATION OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY TO CSC TKR, LLC, D/B/A CABLEVISION OF RARITAN VALLEY

OPEN PUBLIC – No Comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-12 is hereby adopted.

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

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. 24-130 through NO. 24-144 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

- No. 24-130 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO
EXTEND THE THIRD QUARTER 2024 DUE DATE
- NO.24-131 RESOLUTION APPROVING MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE CONTRACT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE CITY OF
SOUTH AMBOY FOR FY2025
- NO. 24-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND ISSUANCE OF
ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024
- NO. 24-133 RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION
AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJDOT FOR THE
SOUTH PINE AVENUE ROADWAY AND PEDESTRIAN
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
- NO. 24-134 RESOLUTION APPROVING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT – 153
STOCKTON STREET
- NO. 24-135 SARA APPOINTMENT – RACHEL DRAUDT
- NO. 24-136 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS CONCERNING COSTS INCURRED IN
THE REMOVAL OF DEBRIS AND CLEAN UP OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED
AT 246 RARITAN STREET BLOCK 151, LOT 12, AND AUTHORIZING THE
PLACEMENT OF A LIEN AGAINST SAID PROPERTY FOR SAID COSTS.
- NO. 24-137 NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD 2024 FOR SPECIAL SERVICES
ENGINEER
- NO. 24-138 RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF
\$8,594,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE
CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW
JERSEY, AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE.
- NO. 24-139 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COMBINATION OF CERTAIN
ISSUES OF GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE
CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW
JERSEY, INTO A SINGLE ISSUE OF BONDS AGGREGATING \$8,594,000
IN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT.
- NO. 24-140 AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE TWO WHELAN EMERGENCY LIGHTING
PACKAGES
- NO. 24-141 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF
MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY
APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49 TO FUND INTEREST
ON NOTES AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
EMERGENCY NOTES TO FUND SUCH EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION

- NO. 24-142 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DISABLED PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION
- HORIGAN
- NO. 24-143 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE CASH BOND,
SAROP 24-113- 118 SOUTH STEVENS AVE
- NO. 24-144 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CASH BOND TO FOR
116 -118 DAVID ST. - BA21-1029

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-145
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 June 19, 2024 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-145 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-146 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 June 13, 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. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-146 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE:

SECOND READING/ADOPTION:

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

OPEN PUBLIC - No Comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-10 is hereby adopted.
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.

OPEN PUBLIC – No Comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-11 is hereby adopted.

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

FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE 2024-14

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 HANDICAP PARKING SPACE – 256 SECOND ST. AND 231 NORTH STEVENS AVE

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2024-14 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the August 14, 2024 meeting.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Commended Mr. Kales and Mr. Balka on their work on the budget.
- Thanked the volunteers and reminded them to stay hydrated in this extreme heat.
- Wished Larry Parsons good luck in his retirement.

Ms. Dato:

- Reminded everyone that the Arts Alliance would be presenting The Wedding Singer this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- Noted the Elks are hosting Thanksgiving in July on the 25th, tickets are \$20, 5:30 to 7:30pm.
- Reported the waterfront concert was cancelled for this evening.
- Noted the extreme heat we have been experiencing and reminded everyone to check on their elderly neighbors and pets.
- Reported the Bowl for Hunger fundraiser backed by Assemblyman Coughlin had once again been a huge success and raised \$150,000 for food pantries.
- Congratulated Mr. Reilly for pushing for the summer Rec Arts & Crafts Program, she has received positive feedback from some residents. She thanked everyone involved in putting the program together.
- Thanked all involved in getting the audit processed and approved.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked Larry Parsons for 50 years of service.
- Thanked the Fire Department and Fire Chief as well as the Police Department for their continued efforts.
- Congratulated Rachel Draudt on her re-appointment to SARA.
- Noted July is National Picnic Month.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked the volunteers for their continued service.
- Stated he would miss Larry Parsons and thanked him for his years of service.
- Gave a “hats off” to the summer recreation program.
- Noted that instead of the Irish Festival, this year the City would be hosting South Amboy Day on October 12th – there will be food, entertainment and rides.
- Thanked everyone for the work put into preparing the budget and audit, especially Mr. Kales, Mr. Balka and Mayor Henry.

Mayor Henry:

- Stated he is going to miss Larry and South Amboy needs more people like him.
- Sent condolences to the family of June O’Leary.
- Congratulated Aidan Gall for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Noted the demolition of the Johns St./Broadway property has been delayed and should start moving forward shortly.
- Thanked Mr. Higgins for his work on the audit.
- Noted that the attempted assassination of Donald Trump was a horrendous event. That we have a system in place to protect the vote and certify the results and that we should tone down the vicious rhetoric.
- Stated that the recent comments made by an “anonymous” person who said that the Business Administrator’s job was a ‘No-Show” job was completely incorrect and that person ought to apologize. Mr. Kales is one of the hardest working persons he knows and such comments are unwarranted.

Mr. Kales:

- Stated wryly that if his was a “no-Show” job, he would hate to see a “show” job!
- Congratulated all those on his team that put together the very successful summer Arts & Crafts program.
- Noted August 6th is National Night out, come out and support the City Police Department.
- Thanked Mr. Balka and Mr. Higgins for all their hard work getting the budget and audit completed and moving forward with the bond sale.
- Noted the “Journey for Jess” fundraiser had been a huge success – thank you to all who came out.
- Wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jarvis Bautista, 328 Henry Street, requested better upkeep of the sidewalks as they impact the children walking to school, seniors and all walking residents. They are an essential infrastructure and are in terrible shape. He suggested an increase in funding for repairs, a regular inspection schedule, a community reporting of issues program and enhanced ADA compliance.

Elzbieta Samojluk, 395 Conover St., thanked everyone who helped mitigate her neighbor noise issue, especially Council President Gross and the Police department.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved August 14, 2024