

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 14, 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 Reilly, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, David Kales, BA, Dan Balka, CFO, and Attorney Christopher Zingaro

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.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 24-147 through NO. 24-151 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

\*\*\*\*\*

NO. 24-147 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND – SAUNDERS

NO. 24-148 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL JUDGEMENT – BL 150 LOT 18

NO. 24-149 RESOLUTION CANCELLING REAL PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR BLOCK 36, LOTS 1& 3

NO. 24-150 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTION BY DISABLED VETERAN - DENNIS

NO. 24-151 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTION BY DISABLED VETERAN - MOURA

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-152**

**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 July 17, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-152 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Gross, Abstain: Reilly**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-153 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 August 8, 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. 24-53 hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ORDINANCE:**

**SECOND READING/ADOPTION:**

**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

**OPEN PUBLIC – No Comment**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-14 is hereby adopted.

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

**FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE 2024-13**

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 240 HENRY STREET, ADD 248 SECOND STREET AND 108 DAVID STREET.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2024-13 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 4, 2024 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-15**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SOUTH AMBOY SENIOR CENTER PROGRAM FEES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SAYREVILLE

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2024-15 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 4, 2024 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-16**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 53, Article XXIII "DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS – STORMWATER CONTROL" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES IN CONFORMITY WITH NEW, ALTERED AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**MOVED by:** Mr. Reilly, that Ordinance #2024-16 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 4, 2024 meeting.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the food pantry and first responder volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Wished everyone a happy Labor Day.
- Thanked Mr. Kales and the staff for putting together a great Arts & Crafts Program, noting he had received many positive comments about it from residents.
- Noted he would have liked the Cablevision agreement to be for a shorter term.
- Stated that National Night Out had been a great success.
- Sent condolences to the families of June O'Leary and Wally Peterson.
- Stated he wished Larry Parsons was present at tonight's meeting so he could thank him for his 50 years of volunteering and wish him well.
- Stated he was glad that the Pidgeon Palace had finally been demolished, it had been an eyesore for too long.
- Reported Phil English would be donating an artifact from 9/11 and suggested it be put in a memorial at the train station.

Anthony Conrad:

- Thanked the Fire Chief, volunteer firefighters, OEM and the Police Department for their continued service to the community.
- Noted he had driven past the demolished Pidgeon Palace site and was looking forward to the space being put to good use for the City's resident's. It was a great collaboration of SARA, the Council, and the Administration.

Ms. Dato:

- Noted that Pidgeon Palace had been an ugly monstrosity and was delighted it had been removed. The additional space will serve the city well.
- Stated that National Night Out had been outstanding, a salute to the Police Department and other supporting agencies.
- Reported the YMCA with News12 had hosted a free backpack event that over 500 people had attended and it had been a wonderful event.
- Was pleased to see the volleyball net that had been installed on the beach.
- Noted that the city was paying \$1400 per month for non-basic cable services and the "benevolence" shown by the Cable Company was not very much at all.

Mr. Gross:

- Noted that National Night Out was a big success and thanked everyone involved for doing a great job.
- Noted October 12<sup>th</sup> is South Amboy Day. Mr. Conrad and Mr. Elliot will be heading up the Committee.
- Wished the Fire Department good luck in the upcoming Wildwood competition noting South Amboy is always well represented.
- Announced that OEM Director Mark Herdman will be the Grand Marshal of the St. Pat's Parade.
- Noted the free backpack event had been a great success.

Mr. Kales:

- Squashed the rumor that he was going to be the Deputy Director of the Police Department. All that occurred was a letter from Mayor assigning the BA as temporary Director while the Mayor is away on vacation, which is normal protocol.

- Noted that NJ Transit is the worst government agency he has worked with and that he was happy the demolition is completed.
- Agreed with previous comments that the National Night Out was a great success.
- Credited his staff and in particular Christen Liberty with doing an excellent job with the summer Arts & Crafts program.
- Reported there will be a 9/11 Ceremony headed by Fire Chief Gay. More information to follow.
- Wished everyone a safe rest of the summer.
- 

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., congratulated the Council on the demolition of the John Street building and the success of National Night Out. Spoke about an article in the Home News regarding pedestrian safety and mentioned the streetlight on Main St. and Stevens Ave. was perpetually out and although there have been several calls made to get it repaired, it is never permanently resolved. Mr. Kales stated he has been working with the County, who owns ¾ of the light, on a solution. Finally, Mr. Smiga requested that the city institute a Police Blotter for increased communication with its citizens.

Joe Szaro asked about a traffic study that had been conducted on Fifth St.. Mr. Kales noted this was a County Road. Mr. Szaro asked if the Council might consider adding parking at the beach. As a representative of the Historical Society he noted they had retrieved a few items at the site of the demolition that would be on display at their offices.

Brandon Russell, 327 Fourth St., asked for updates on the sustainable land use pledge and Venetian litigation. Mr. Womack was not present and will be asked to follow up. Confirmed with President Gross that the possibility of starting an Environmental Commission will not be brought up again until January. He pressed Mr. Gross on his personal feelings about it and Mr. Gross replied that he had no opinion at the moment, and as stated will look into again in January.

El Rampador spoke about disabled rights noting he had been here over a year ago and there had been no changes in accessibility to the PD. He stated able-ism must be eradicated and reported he would be protesting the lack of access to the PD. Mr. Kales said he had not been here the last time the gentleman had been present, and would look into the situation. He asked El Rampador to speak with Captain McCabe at the end of the meeting.

Anonymous aired his grievance about the City Prosecutor and Public Defender, noting he believed they are incompetent and that the Prosecutor is using his leverage to plea people down and the Public Defender did a horrible job representing him with an issue he had a while ago.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Dato and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved September 4, 2024