

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 16, 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: Councilman Conrad, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Henry, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, OEM Dir. Mark Herdman, City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, Attorney Christopher Zingara, and Capt. McCabe.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

DISCUSSION: Best Practices – Mr. Kales reviewed the results of the questionnaire noting we scored a 42. In order to receive full state aid the score must be a 35 or better.

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. 24-171 through NO. 24-177 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

- NO. 24-171 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2024 TAX SALE FEES
- NO. 24-172 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT
- NO. 24-173 RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN AWARD EXTENSION REQUEST FOR LA-2023 MA SOUTH AMBOY CITY BROADWAY, PHASE 1 - ROADWAY & PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- NO. 24-174 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX CANCELLATION OF DELIQUENCY OF LESS THAN TEN DOLLARS
- NO. 24-175 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC TAX SALE
- NO. 24-176 RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CENTRAL JERSEY JOINT INSURANCE FUND
- NO. 24-177 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX FOR INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND N. STEVENS AVENUE IN THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-178 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 October 2, 2024 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-178 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Ms. Dato** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Reilly, Gross** **Abstain: McLaughlin**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-179 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 October 10, 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. 24-179 hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All infavor.**

ORDINANCE:

SECOND READING/ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE 2024-18

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 SPACE 229 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, 131 AUGUSTA STREET, AND 145 AUGUSTA STREET

OPEN PUBLIC - No Comment
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. McLaughlin, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-18 is hereby adopted.

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

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Stated it was great to see all the veterans in attendance and he is looking forward to Veteran’s Day and all it’s events.
- Thanked the food pantry and first responder volunteers for their continued work and expressed thanks to the following people who are very committed to the work they are doing: Janet Kern, Mark Herdman, Larry Parsons, Mike Toth, Dave Kales, Ed O’Connor, Tom Szatkowski Sr., Tom Szatkowski Jr., Brandon Russell, Mayor Henry, Anthony Conrad, Anthony Conrad Jr., Chris Conrad, Bob O’Connor, David Hetzel, Tom Hetzel, Patrick Hetzel, Steve Doyle, Mike Galvin, Drew Newcome, Mark Wahler, Anthony Olivieri, Len Moffa, Kenny Krass, Bill Parsons, Brian McQuade, Brian

McLaughlin, Amy McLaughlin, Bob Garacia, Jamie Norek, Pat Tierney, Rocky Kusic, Sue Kusic, John Fedorka, Tori LaVigne, and Tom Coman.

- Wished everyone a Happy Halloween.
- Noted the American Legion will be honoring Billy Garnett and Bob Sekerak at a dinner on Nov. 2nd, 6 to 10pm, \$50 per ticket.
- Reminded everyone to go out and vote.
- Reported he will meet with Mr. Womack regarding the updating of the handicap parking ordinance.
- Requested the City consider implementing on-line payments for any payments residents might need to make.
- Requested the Rec. Dept. web page have a tab added that would allow for the on-line registration for any rec program.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Noted he had not attended the last meeting and wanted to support Mr. Reilly's suggestion of establishing a "Veteran Friendly City" designation.
- Thanked the Police Department, OEM and Fire Department for their continued service and noticed that there has been a small upward movement in volunteers.
- Reported both the warehouse and ferry projects were moving along nicely – both projects using local labor.

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the veterans and their families as well as the fire department, OEM, and first aid responders.
- Noted South Amboy Day was a great success and thanked all involved in embracing the vision of the day.
- Reported the Green Team had met and is focusing on sustainability and becoming certified in 2025. The team and its volunteers are doing a great job.
- Wished Happy Diwali to all that celebrate on October 25th.

Ms. Dato:

- Stated she was happy to see Resolution 24-177 passed – and thanked Mark Rasimowicz as well as the County for getting the signal at Main and Steven fixed.
- Reported the most recent Lunch and Learn had been a great success. The Red Cross and Mr. Herdman gave a presentation on disaster preparedness.
- Noted South Amboy Day had been a great success and thanked all the volunteers, especially Mr. Conrad, Mr. Gross, Mr. Elliot and Mr. Kales.
- Reminded everyone that there will be a beach clean up on Saturday at 9am.
- Reminded everyone to vote and reviewed early voting options as well as the Mail-in Ballot deadlines.

Mr. Gross:

- Encouraged everyone to attend the various ceremonies on Veteran's Day.
- Reported he was in receipt of the draft resolution Mr. Reilly had mentioned regarding attaining Veteran Friendly City certification. It is in the hands of the City attorney and will be sent to the Council for review.
- Reminded everyone about the upcoming dinner honoring Bob Sekerak and Billy Garnett and welcomed Linda Garnett to the meeting.
- Thanked Mr. Kales for all his work on the TNR ordinance – it is still a work in progress but moving forward.
- Thanked the following for their help with South Amboy Day: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Herdman, Ms. Kudelka, Ms. Brooks, the Police Department and First Aid volunteers, the Parade Committee, Brandon Russel and Jay Elliot.

Mayor Henry:

- Stated it was nice to see all the veterans in attendance and hoped everyone would come out to honor them on Veterans Day.
- Reiterated how informative the Lunch & Learn had been and thanked Mr. Herdman for his participation.
- Reminded everyone the Halloween Parade is next Saturday at 10:30 am.
- Thanked Congressman Pallone for securing \$250,000 of funding to move the David Street park over to the Ally Clark Field Complex.

Mr. Kales:

- Noted a meeting scheduled for today with the TNR group was cancelled and will be re-scheduled. The City is working to team up with an animal rescue organization.
- Agreed with the other Council member's statements that South Amboy Day was a great success and thanked his team for all their efforts.
- Noted the budget process was in its initial stages.
- Reported that the DPW is all set for the winter, trucks ready, salt on hand.
- Reported that he had attended the D.A.R.E. graduation and as proud as he is of the program, he is more proud of his son for being the new D.A.R.E. officer.

Mr. Rasimowicz and Attorney Zingara had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Szaro, David St., thanked the Council for supporting their fundraising efforts, updated the Council on the additions to the Veteran's Park and announced the dedication to Jerry Pizzillo will be on November 11th. He proposed a joint committee between Council Members and the American Legion to further advance the efforts for funding their new building. He also noted the three areas of benefits to the Veteran's Mr. Reilly had mentioned could be expanded as other Municipalities have done.

Maureen Sekerak, 340 George St., received clarification regarding the Veteran Friendly City benefits and mentioned Veteran hiring preferences. BA Kales noted as a Civil Service City, South Amboy already gives Veterans preferences in hiring.

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 November 6, 2024