

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 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: Councilman Conrad, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Henry, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, CFO Balka, Attorney Womack, OEM Dir. Mark Herdman, Construction Official Czoch, Zoning Officer Valetutto, and Fire Chief Gay.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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**OATH**

Family and friends were present as Mayor Henry swore in Patrolman Joseph Traina.

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**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. Gross, seconded by Ms. Dato and carried unanimously, Resolution 24-180 was pulled from the consent agenda.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 24-181 through NO. 24-186 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. McLaughlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously, resolution 24-180 was approved.

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- NO. 24-180 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MIDDLESEX COUNTY COVERING THE CFC RECOVERY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
- NO. 24-181 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VETERAN TAX REFUND – JACOB MURRAY
- NO. 24-182 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE
- NO. 24-183 REFUND PERMIT FEE – 323 PARKER AVE.- PATRIZZO
- NO. 24-184 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX REFUND – MARY SENAPE

NO. 24-185 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

NO. 24-186 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-187 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 16, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-187 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-188 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 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:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-188 hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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**ORDINANCE:**

**SECOND READING/ADOPTION:**

**ORDINANCE 2024-19**

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 265 FIRST STREET

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

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-19 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-20**

BOND ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$2,319,285.48 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

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

**MOVED by:** Mr. Reilly, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-20 is hereby adopted.

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-21**

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3(L) AND (M) AND SECTION 6(B) OF BOND ORDINANCE #2023-10 OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, FINALLY ADOPTED JULY 19, 2023, IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

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

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-21 is hereby adopted.

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

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**COMMENTS:**

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Officer Traina on being sworn in noting he will be a great addition to the force.
- Congratulated the newly elected Council members Mr. Reilly and Council Elect Mr. Lenahan. She is hopeful there will be a peaceful transition of power and that the country will protect its democracy and continue to fight for all people.
- Reviewed the various upcoming Veteran’s Day events.
- Sent condolences to the family of Camille Tooker noting she worked very hard for the city over many years and the city is greater for it. She asked to keep the family in our prayers.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Sent condolences to the family of John McNulty noting he had left a donation to the food pantry in his passing.
- Sent condolences to the Tooker and Ziola families.
- Congratulated the American Legion for a successful dinner event honoring Bob Sekerak and Billy Garnett.
- Congratulated Mr. Lenahan and Ms. Dato on their election victory.
- Reminded everyone the FOSA fundraiser will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Noted the City will be holding Government Week again this April.
- Reported the contact information for Hackensack Success Hub, a small business resource, will be forwarded to the local businesses.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Congratulated Officer Traina on his swearing in.
- Thanked the volunteers for their continued support.
- Thanked the Veterans for their service, noting his father was a veteran and he had spent many hours as a child at the American Legion and the day hit home even harder when your own son was currently in the navy attending pilot school.
- Congratulated the election winners noting the big change in the republican presence.

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Officer Traina on his swearing in.
- Thanked the volunteers and their families for their continued service.
- Sent condolences to the Tooker family noting the City is grateful for all her years of service.
- Congratulated Mr. Sekerak and Mr. Garnett on being honored by the American Legion.
- Thanked the veterans and those that are currently serving along with their families for the sacrifices they made.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked the department heads for attending the meeting.
- Congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan on the election win.
- Noted he was sorry he could not attend the American Legion dinner and was happy Mr. Sekerak and Mr. Garnett had been honored.
- Noted Mr. Kales is still working diligently to move the TNR Ordinance forward and that Mr. Smiga and Mr. Kales are currently working on the tree Ordinance.
- Reported he will be meeting with Mr. Kales regarding the "Veteran Friendly City" designation.
- Reminded everyone of the various Veteran ceremonies that will be held.
- Noted that budget talks will begin shortly.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated Officer Traina on his swearing in.
- Reminded everyone to come out and support the various Veterans Day events.
- Congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan on their election victory.
- Reported the Anchor Tax Program filing deadline has been extended to December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Reported the Historical Society's cemetery tour had been a success.
- Sent condolences to the family of Camille Tooker noting he had worked with her for many years and she had been very supportive of him and that she will be missed.
- Commented that in regards to the election results, he had hope for a peaceful transition of power and that we need to support the newly elected President and put aside our differences and do what is right for the citizens of the United States.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the department heads for being in attendance, noting this will be their last meeting for the year and they will be back in January.
- Thanked the Veterans for their service.
- Sent condolences to the family of Camille Tooker, noting she was a good friend and will be missed.

Mr. Womack:

- Reviewed a grievance submitted by the Police Department and noted in his opinion this was a matter not for a grievance but to be handled by Workman's Compensation. On motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Dato and passed unanimously, the Council voted to affirm Attorney Womack's recommendation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Carolyn Maxwell stated Camille Tooker had always been kind to her and that she will be missed.

Edwin Paredes, South River Road property owner, received confirmation that the Council had not passed any Ordinances to allow the sale of cannabis.

Katherin Massopust, of the Amboy Bayside News, confirmed with Mr. Reilly that the Hackensack Success Hub was a statewide program.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved November 25, 2024