

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 25, 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, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly, and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Henry, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, and Attorney Womack

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. 24-189 through NO. 24-190 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

NO. 24-189 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58

NO. 24-190 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PROVISION BY THE CITY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Mayor Henry congratulated Superintendent Williams, Cpt. Kanecke and Mr. Kales on the successful collaboration to install a school resource officer. He noted not many small school districts are able to provide such service. Dr. Williams echoed the sentiments of Mayor Henry noting it was a monumental task and a necessary one that shows how much we truly value the safety of our students and staff and demonstrated how well the Board of Education, Police Department and Council work together. Cpt. Kanecke stated she is ecstatic about the creation of this position noting it will create rapport between the students and Police as well as a mentoring atmosphere and will enable earlier resolution of problems. Mr. Kales stated is was a pleasure working with Dr. Williams, Cpt. Kanecke and Mayor Henry and was pleased the SOA and PBA came on board so quickly.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-191 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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-191 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-192 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 November 19, 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. 24-192 hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS:

Anthony Conrad:

- Thanked the volunteers and their families
- Gave a shout out to the BOE, Dr. Williams and the Police Department for working together to put the Resource Officer in place. The schools safety has been an active issue for many years and this demonstrates the commitment of the City to support a safe learning involvement. Being a small district is no excuse for less security.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Reported he had attended the "Wall of Heroes" Event which had been a success.
- Noted the FOSA fundraiser is on Dec. 21st, games begin at noon. We are still looking for donations and volunteers.
- Sent condolences to the Ann Mulvey family and noted she had formed the "Caring Listeners" group at St. Mary's.
- Wished the girls and boys basketball teams good luck in their upcoming season.
- Requested the application for fire and first aid volunteers be put on our website.
- Echoed the previous comments about the installation of a School Resource Officer, and stated it was a great idea.
- Reported the celebration of Government week will occur at the April 16th meeting.
- Confirmed that the Council was still considering attaining the Veteran Friendly City certification.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Noted that there is only one meeting left for him to attend and although he is sure some on the dais won't be sad to see him go, it has been his pleasure serving the people for the last eight years.

Mr. Gross:

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Henry:

- Once again thanked Dr. Williams, Cpt. Kanecke and Mr. Kales for their work in establishing the Resource Officer position.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Noted the Library is having an open house on December 2nd.
- Thanked the Veterans and Mr. and Mrs. Szaro for the programs that were put together for Veterans Day.
- Noted the upcoming holiday events such as the tree lighting, trolley tour and decorating contest. He noted there will be a menorah as well as a nativity scene.
- Reported the 2025 Bulk pick up schedule is posted on the website.

Mr. Kales:

- Stated that once the Resolution 24-190 was approved, the BOE and PD will put together a policy for the position and thanked all involved for the months of work to get this accomplished.
- Noted there has been an increase from 4 to 6 yearly bulk pick ups dates, and there is still the third Saturday of the month for drop offs and for residents only there are M-F 9-12pm drop-offs.
- Reported the Tree Lighting is December 5th.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Womack wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Szaro, 111 David St., spoke to the Council on the need for a hard commitment of funds for the veteran housing. Mr. Womack explained that there couldn't be a hard commitment until the COAH Fourth round numbers had been determined. The Council noted it had already given the American Legion a parcel of land worth \$200,000 and they fully intend to keep up the support of the Veterans. Mary Szaro confirmed they let the County know about the land and that they are very grateful for the support they have received from the Council.

Lisa Bergamo, 510 Thomas St., previously 10 Thomas St., voiced her anger and frustration regarding the address change. She noted that she has lived at the same address for several years and it has always been a confusion, however the postal service is aware and more importantly 911 service knows where they are located and that they come up under Thomas Road not Thomas Street. She is frustrated that such a change, which causes the homeowners to have to make multiple changes on their own paperwork was completed with no consultation, just a letter of notification. Mr. Kales will meet with Mr. Enright to discuss an alternative outcome.

Tom Hetzel, 363 Fifth St. requested curb and sidewalk improvements on Fifth St., not just the milling and paving.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved December 11, 2024