

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 6, 2025

The Meeting was called to order by City Clerk, Deborah Brooks at 6:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Brooks read the Notice of Publication Certification.

Councilman Mr. Reilly was sworn in by his son Tom with the assistance of his wife Monica, Councilwoman Dato was sworn in by her husband Robert and Assembly Speaker Coughlin swore in Councilman Lenahan in the presence of friends and family.

Mayor Henry wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the local legislature that were present He congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan. He noted this is a "feel good" moment for the City and he is looking forward to working work the Council to make better days to come. He thanked Mr. Kales for all his hard work and recognized the team effort needed to get all that had been accomplished.

PRESENT: Councilman Conrad, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Lenahan, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred Henry, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Dan Balka, CFO, Francis Womack, City Attorney, Mark Herdman, OEM Director, Fire Chief Albarran, and Past Fire Chief Gay.

The City Clerk entertained a motion for temporary Council President. On motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and with no further nominations and passed unanimously, Ms. Dato was appointed Temporary Council President.

Ms. Dato entertained a motion for Council President. On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan with no further nominations and carried unanimously, Mr. Gross was appointed Council President.

Council President Gross entertained a motion for Council Vice President. On motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Mr. Conrad and carried unanimously, Ms. Dato was appointed Vice President.

Mr. Gross recognized the following people resent at the meeting including Commissioner Charlie Kenny, Ret'd. Police Chief LaVigne, Fire Chief Albarran, former Fire Chief Gay, Superintendent Dr. Williams, and the Speaker and his staff members and thanked CFO Dan Balka, Clerk Brooks and Mr. Kales as well as Captain Kanecke and OEM Director Herdman.

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 Resolution #25-001 through #25-049 are hereby approved retroactive to January 1, 2025. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

- Resolution 25-001 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Budget Appropriations for the 2025 Calendar Year
- Resolution 25-002 Resolution Adopting 2025 Cash Management Plan
- Resolution 25-003 Resolution establishing 2025 Meeting Dates
- Resolution 25-004 Resolution Adopting 2025 Holiday Schedule
- Resolution 25-005 Designating Official Newspapers
- Resolution 25-006 Designating Official Depositories
- Resolution 25-007 Resolution Filing Signature with Secretary of State
- Resolution 25-008 Appointment to Emergency Management Council
- Resolution 25-009 Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer
- Resolution 25-010 Appointment of Crossing Guards
- Resolution 25-011 Appointment Deputy Records Custodians
- Resolution 25-012 Approval of Towing City Tow Service Operators
- Resolution 25-013 Change Fund – Tax Collector
- Resolution 25-014 Change Fund – City Clerk
- Resolution 25-015 Petty Cash Fund – Administration
- Resolution 25-016 Change Fund – Municipal Court Administrator
- Resolution 25-017 Approving municipal Public Defender
- Resolution 25-018 Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes
- Resolution 25-019 Appointing JIF Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner
- Resolution 25-020 SARA Appointment – Williams and Noble
- Resolution 25-021 Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Sewer Use Fees
- Resolution 25-022 Authorizing Prepayment of Middlesex County Taxes
- Resolution 25-023 Appointing Planning Board members
- Resolution 25-024 Library Board Appointment
- Resolution 25-025 Resolution Authorizing Tax Assessor to act as agent for the City of South Amboy for the purpose of filing and settling tax appeals on behalf of the taxing district for the tax year 2025
- Resolution 25-026 Approving municipal Prosecutor
- Resolution 25-027 Authorizing Disbursement of Hospitalization and state Health Benefits
- Resolution 25-028 Authorizing 2025 Pay Schedule and Pension Benefits
- Resolution 25-029 Authorizing the CFO to Wire Transfer Funds
- Resolution 25-030 Payroll Agreement with Sadie-Pope-Dowdell Library
- Resolution 25-031 Payroll Agreement with SARA
- Resolution 25-032 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Labor Counsel
- Resolution 25-033 Sustainable Green Team members Appointing
- Resolution 25-034 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for IT Services Ocean Computer Group
- Resolution 25-035 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Planning Board Planner/Engineer
- Resolution 25-036 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Consulting Engineer Services
- Resolution 25-037 Qualifying professional services for 2025
- Resolution 25-038 Authorizing the Award for Architectural Services
- Resolution 25-039 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Special Tax Counsel
- Resolution 25-040 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Planning Board Attorney
- Resolution 25-041 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Risk Management Consultant/Liability Insurance Broker of Record
- Resolution 25-042 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Auditor
- Resolution 25-043 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Bond Counsel
- Resolution 25-044 Authorizing the Award of Contract for General Counsel
- Resolution 25-045 Authorizing the Award of Contract for Grant Writer/Administrator
- Resolution 25-046 Appointment of OEM Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators

Resolution 25-047 Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments
Resolution 25-048 Resolution authorizing exempt Veteran tax - Wolf
Resolution 25-049 Authorizing Award of Contract for Environmental Engineer

BEGIN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-050
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 December 11, 2024 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-050 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Reilly, Gross** **Abstain: Lenahan**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-051
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 December 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. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-051 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Ms. Dato** . **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS

Mr. Gross:

- Reported he had met with Mr. Kales and that the Tree Ordinance, Veteran Friendly City Resolution and TNR Ordinance are all moving forward.

Mr. Conrad:

- Wished everyone a happy new year.
- Congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan on being sworn in, noting the City is in good hands.
- Thanked the fire department, first aid squad and volunteers for their service. Welcomed new Fire Chief Albarran and thanked outgoing Chief Gay.
- Congratulated Dr. Williams on his appointment to SARA noting he would be a great representative of the school's interests.
- Thanked the Board of Education members for their service.

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Mr. Reilly and Mr. Lenahan on their successful election noting they are devoted to the residents and she is looking forward to working with them.
- Thanked the 3rd Ward residents and others for supporting her in the election.
- Thanked the City's team, Ms. Brooks, Mr. Kales and the other professionals as well as the volunteers for their support.

- Noted the first menorah lighting ceremony had been a wonderful event and is a great addition to the holiday celebrations.
- Pledged to be a voice for those without a voice, on large or small issues and will do her best.
- Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Reilly:

- Welcomed all the friends and family present at tonight's meeting.
- Thanked the first responder and food pantry volunteers.
- Welcomed Mr. Lenahan to the Council.
- Congratulated Ms. Dato and stated he is looking forward to working together in the upcoming four years.
- Reported the FOSA fundraiser was a big success.
- Stated the Veteran's Resolution is looking good and in particular he is in favor of waiving all fees for Veterans.
- Reminded everyone to support local businesses.
- Welcomed Dr. Williams to SARA.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Thanked everyone for coming out and showing their support.
- Promised he will do what he can for anyone that needs help.
- Thanked the MCDO for all their help during the election as well as the Speaker and his team.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan and thanked their supporters.
- Congratulated Mr. Gross and Ms. Dato on being reappointed Council President and Vice President.
- Thanked Mark Herdman and the OEM for their continuing efforts to keep the residents of the city safe.

Mr. Kales:

- Congratulated Mr. Reilly, Ms. Dato and Mr. Lenahan on their election win.
- Noted 2024 had been a successful year and he is looking forward to continuing the trend in 2025.
- Reported the hiring of three new police officers.

Mr. Womack and Mr. Balka – no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Szaro, 370 Fifth St., wished everyone a happy new year and once again requested increased communication from the council to the public for various issues including COAH numbers, CDBG grant allocations, etc. She thanked Mr. Reilly for his ongoing efforts to get the Veteran Friendly Resolution adopted and thanked Mr. Kales for his ongoing open communications and determination to focus on the needs of the residents. She stated her appreciation to Mayor Henry for providing Macco property updates and hopes the Council will continue to promote public engagement in 2025.

Chris Smiga, 144 Second Street, spoke about the payment deficit in LOSAP and requested the city make the payments whole.

Brandon Russell, 1355 Schindler Dr., welcomed Mr. Lenahan and stated he was looking forward to working with the city in the upcoming year and to keeping an open dialogue.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved January 22, 2025