

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 5, 2025**

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Gross 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 Lenahan, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer, Christopher Zingaro, Esq., and BA Kales.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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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.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 25-080 through NO. 25-085 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor.

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- NO. 25-080 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2024
- NO. 25-081 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FIRST AID ORGANIZATION QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2024
- NO. 25-082 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR GRANT WRITER- CONTINUITY GROUP, LLC
- NO. 25-083 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF JUVENILE DEPT FURNITURE FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-084 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF TRAFFIC OFFICE FURNITURE FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-085 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR THE POLICE CHIEF OF SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**BUDGET INTRODUCTION:** Mayor Henry stated he though this is the best budget the City has ever produced and thanked his team for their hard work. This budget reduces the average household taxes by \$78 dollars and the surplus is up to \$6.4 million. This is a fiscally responsible budget with increased program budgets and no program cuts. He is proud to be able to give back to the tax payers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-086**

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE READING IN FULL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-086 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-087**

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025+

**MOVED by:** Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-087 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross**

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-088**

**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 February 19, 2025 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-088 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross Abstain: Dato**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-089**

**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 February 27, 2025, 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. 25-089 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

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**ORDINANCES:**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2025-08**

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 -ADD 251 DAVID STREET

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad that Ordinance #2025-08 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the April 2, 2025 meeting. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**ADOPTION/SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE 2025-04**

AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 158 TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY "TREE PRESERVATION"

**OPEN PUBLIC – no comments**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by Ms. Dato, as amended and read into the record of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance NO. 2025-04 is hereby adopted.**  
**SECONDED by Mr. Conrad ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**ORDINANCE 2025-05**

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF EASEMENT FOR PARKING ON BLOCK 138, LOT 20 IN FAVOR OF STEVENS DALE REALTY CO., INC., AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

**OPEN PUBLIC – no comments**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance NO. 2025-05 is hereby adopted.**  
**SECONDED by Mr. Lenahan ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**ORDINANCE 2025-06**

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK  
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

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

**MOVED by Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance NO. 2025-06 is hereby adopted.**  
**SECONDED by Mr. Reilly ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**ORDINANCE 2025-07**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XI OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH LEVELS OF STAFFING AND CREATE ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

**MOVED by Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance NO. 2025-07 is hereby adopted.**  
**SECONDED by Mr. Lenahan ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor**

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the Mayor and Administration for such a collaborative, successful budget. He appreciated the robust discussions and consideration of Council recommendations. This budget builds on the previous budget with its fiscal

responsibility and reflects a decrease in spending, decrease in taxation and increase in services. This is quite a feat.

- He thanked the volunteers and noted the budget addressed the LOSAP issues.
- He mentioned the budget also addresses ADA capital expenditures, money for improving the downtown and other quality of life issues such as Arts Alliance and Senior Center and noted it is a good budget and shows the Council is serious about be a good steward of the money and services for the residents of the City.
- Noted the Mayor and he had attended a Veteran stakeholders meeting discussing an increase in services and access to services.
- Noted that this February 27<sup>th</sup> was the first Black History Month celebration hosted by the City and is looking forward to many more.
- Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and will see you at the parade.

Ms. Dato:

- Commended Mr. Kales and Mr. Balka for the hard work on the budget. It was well done.
- Thanked the department heads and stated she appreciates all they do.
- Noted the Black History Month event was a great success and thanked Councilman Conrad for his initiative. Added perhaps we may add the celebration of the Lunar New Year in the future.
- Reported the new flooring at the Senior Center is beautiful.
- Acknowledged Women's History Month and noted we all have women in our lives to be commended and in South Amboy we have Camille Tooker, Sadie Pope Dowdell, Betty Leveille and our soon to be Chief of Police Kanecke.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Noted the passage of the LOSAP resolutions shows how many committed volunteers we have and noted the Fire Department did a great job working the John Street fire.
- Sent get well wished to Dave McGill.
- Noted Government week will be celebrated at the April 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting and he will be visiting the fifth graders to talk about resolutions and ordinances.
- Stated the budget is the best budget in 9 years. It cut taxes, increased services and increased our surplus. His requests for an expanded arts program, live music on Broadway and bringing LOSAP current were all met.
- He is also interested in exploring the possibility of a dog park, and farmers market as well as growing the Senior Citizens programs.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting in such terrible weather.
- Thanked the first responders and volunteers for their good efforts.
- Sends condolences to the Ploskonka and Bialoblocki families.
- Reminds everyone to get informed and vote on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Reported the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a dinner on March 16<sup>th</sup>. \$18 adults, \$16 children
- Reports that on March 17<sup>th</sup> the mobile MVC will be at the first aid center.
- Reported he had met with representatives from JCP&L and was informed that there would not be an increase in voltage on the new poles, the poles needed updating to meet industry standards and there will be representatives at the next meeting to answer any questions.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked the first responders and department heads.
- Noted it is a great budget and thanked Mr. Kales, Mr. Balka and the Mayor for all their hard work.

Mr. Kales read the attached statement.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: - No comment**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved 3-19-2025