

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 7, 2025

The Meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Dato 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(via call-in).

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Business Administrator David Kales, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, and Francis Womack, Esq. as well as department representatives: Mark Herdman, Leonard Moffa, Jason Valetutto, Greg Czoch and Chief Kanecke

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 Resolution NO. 25-110 through NO. 25-117 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

NO. 25-110 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CASH BOND TO CASEY O’GORMAN – 401 SOUTH PINE AVENUE – BA-21-1028

NO. 25-111 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITHOUT PUBLIC ADVERTISING DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SANITARY MANHOLE REPAIR AT 316 WALNUT STREET

NO. 25-112 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS AND INSTALLATION AND NUMEROUS SONIC WALL DEVICES AND SOFTWARE

NO. 25-113 RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF OF POLICE KANECKE

NO. 25-114 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS

NO. 25-115 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS

NO. 25-116 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANNING SERVICES FOR FOURTH ROUND COMPLIANCE DELIVERABLES – TOPOLOGY NJ LLC

NO. 25-117 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CH. 159, P.L. 148) – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES OFFSET BY APPROPRIATIONS

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-118
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 April 16, 2025 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-118 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-119 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 May 1, 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. 25-119 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2025-011

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,305,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,189,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2025-11 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the June 4, 2025 meeting.

SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan, **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross**

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Stated he was happy to see the City had hired a Planner to handle the COAH matters.
- Noted May 5th had been Cinco De Mayo and the City had it's first celebration.
- Reported last Thursday SARA had approved a \$300,000 expenditure to help the schools meet their goals focusing mainly on safety and security.
- Thanked the first aid and fire department volunteers.

- Noted May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Military Appreciation Month.
- Wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Wished all the mothers Happy Mother's Day.
- Reported that May 10th the AOH will be hosting its Spring Fling with proceeds going to aid Special Education in South Amboy.
- Reported there will be a Tax Relief Seminar on May 19th, 9:30am at the Senior Center.

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers.
- Noted the AOH Spring Fling is on the 17th and is free to the public.
- Stated he is glad the summer camp Arts & crafts program is expanding this year and there is financial help available if needed.
- Requested the Clerk's office to send out reminder letters to the restaurants so they can apply for the outdoor dining permits.
- Thanked the County Fire Marshal for donating smoke detectors.
- Requested the Council give some thought to naming one of the baseball fields "Epinger-Colucci".
- Noted the Sunday before Memorial Day Post 62 will host its Memorial ceremony starting at Christ Church Cemetery at 9am.
- Noted the South Amboy Record is publishing on-line and hoped the City might help in increasing its circulation.
- Requested the Administration look into fire retardant mulch.
- Wished all the mother's Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated Mr. Conrad on a successful Cinco De Mayo celebration.
- Noted the American Legion's Outreach to Veterans event was a big success.
- Wished all the mother's a Happy Mother's Day.

Ms. Dato:

- Stated she was happy to see Resolution 25-115, which included grant funds earmarked for improving the downtown business district, had passed and it will make a tremendous difference for the downtown.
- Thanked the department heads for attending tonight's meeting.
- Reminded everyone that the election primary is June 10th. Vote By Mail ballots have been sent out, and early voting is available.
- Mentioned the Property Tax Relief program at the senior center noting you must register for the event.
- Reported the YMCA held a fraud seminar hosted by Amboy bank today and also observed the second graders in the swimming program and thanked Mr. Gross for implementing the program.
- Wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day – it's the most important career!

Mayor Henry:

- Noted that some people say there is nothing going on in South Amboy and they are very wrong – just look at the Cinco De mayo celebration, the recent Touch-a-Truck event, library and YMCA events – you just have to look around. He stated we need more people to get involved.
- Noted the City has always been there to support the school system and the \$300,000 allocated will be of great benefit to the safety and security of the school.
- Wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Kales:

- Reiterated the \$300,000 going to the schools are from SARA and are not coming from taxpayer dollars.
- Stated that after a 3 month trial of extended Wednesday hours and shortened Friday hours there has been no significant change in use by the public and the staff will revert back to normal hours after Memorial Day.
- Thanked the department heads for attending this evening's meeting.

Mr. Conrad responded to Mr. Reilly's comments regarding the South Amboy Record noting it is intended to be a quarterly publication communication from the Mayor and Council and will continue permanently.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Comments

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved May 21, 2025