

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 16, 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, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Ron Gordon, Esq., City Engineer Rasimowicz(arrived 6:47pm)

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

POLICE PROMOTIONS:

In front of friends and family, Mayor Henry swore Lieutenant Wang and Sargeant Robert Besner in with comments by Chief Kanecke. The meeting was paused for 10 minutes for pictures and congratulations.

PRESENTATION- AUDIT REVIEW – Gary Higgins reviewed the audit of the state of the City and answered questions from Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-139

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-139 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Reilly**
Gross Absent: Dato Lenahan

RESOLUTION NO. 25-140

2024 ANNUAL AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN APPROVAL

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-140 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Anthony Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Reilly**
Gross Absent: Dato Lenahan

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. 25-141 through NO. 25-156 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Reilly, Gross**
Absent: Dato, Lenahan

NO. 25-141 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2024 FORD E-350 CUTAWAY DRW BOX TRUCK FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY FIRST AID DEPARTMENT

NO. 25-142 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO EXTEND THE THIRD QUARTER 2025 DUE DATE

- NO. 25-143 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENT OF TAX OVERBILLING
- NO. 25-144 RESOLUTION CANCELLING REAL PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR BLOCK 36,
LOTS 1 & 3
- NO. 25-145 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE BID THRESHOLD UNDER THE LOCAL
PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW
- NO. 25-146 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2025 FORD EXPEDITION (U1G) XL 4x4
SSV VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- NO. 25-147 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF THREE 2025 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE AWD
VEHICLES FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-148 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2025 FORD EXPLORER ACTIVE 4WD
VEHICLE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-149 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2023 CHEVY TAHOE DEMO VEHICLE
WITH 16K MILES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-150 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF TWO I-PRO ICV4000 IN-CAR
CAMERA/MDT SETUP FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-151 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF 33 BODY WORN CAMERAS FOR THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 25-152 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE GATOR
XUV845M FOR DPW
- NO. 25-153 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. 25-154 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL ADJUSTMENT – 209 SOUTH
BROADWAY
- NO. 25-155 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ADJUSTMENT – 268 MAIN ST.
- NO. 25-156 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITH SOUTH AMBOY
FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION
ELIGIBILITY – SHAWN A. ROJAS

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-157

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 June 18, 2025 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-157 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Reilly, Gross** **Absent: Dato, Lenahan**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-158 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 July 10, 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. 25-158 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Reilly, Gross** **Absent: Dato, Lenahan**

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the food pantry and first aid volunteers for their continued efforts.
- Congratulated Sargeant Besner and Lieutenant Wang on their promotions.
- Reported that the fire department has three new volunteers.
- Congratulated Gavin Oshman for earning his Eagle Scout rank.
- Reported the Broadway Nights music series kicks off on August 1st and thanked Mr. Conrad for his efforts in putting together the program.
- Reported the Elks are having a buffet breakfast on July 20th, 9am to 11am and on the 24th are having Thanksgiving In July from 5:30 to 7:30 (Reservations required).

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Sargeant Besner and Lieutenant Wang on their promotions noting the largest budget expenditure of the City was on it’s Police Department.
- Thanked the first aid and fire department for all its efforts.
- Thanked Mr. Reilly and the Mayor’s Office for their help in putting together Broadway Nights.
- Congratulated Mr. Balka, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Kales on an unmodified opinion on the audit – that is no small thing.

Mr. Gross:

- Thanked our first responders.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked, Mr. Balka and Mr. Higgins on the work they did on the audit.
- Noted the new recycling cans will be delivered between the 11th and 15th, however, the first pick up using them won’t be until August 1st.
- Reported the Summer Camp has started and is a big success.
- Noted that Ms. Manion and Mr. Balka had saved the City \$25,000 by shopping out the First Aid Van instead of just automatically purchasing from the Co-op.
- Stated he is very happy that Ms. Walenty is back from her leave and thanked Candace Turner and Beth Magnani for stepping in while Katie-Rose was gone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- 1) Mr. Bill DeMasi, 246 John Street, requested DPW come and look at the trees in his neighborhood for dead branches etc. as one had fallen on his car and totaled it and he doesn’t want that to happen to anyone else.

2) Sandy Riley, 410 John St., spoke about sewers that needed cleaning out and the installation of the blinking stop signs where she is a crossing guard.

3) Brandon Russell, 1355 Schindler Dr, received confirmation that the ferry terminal is NOT fully funded, only the site improvements are funded so far. He also requested an update on the Venetian settlement and the gate blocking the road on Roswell St be opened. He was told Mr. Womack would reach out with an update and negotiations with BNE are ongoing. Lastly, Brandon reiterated his interest and commitment to joining the Municipal Alliance. He expressed frustration with the politics being played and the fact the Council has struggled to fill the 17 groups that are supposed to be represented on the Municipal Alliance. He called on the Council to hold the Mayor accountable if Mayor Henry is the one holding up the nomination process. Brandon will remain available to talk on and off the record about his interest, and encouraged to Council to talk among themselves about his request.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved August 13, 2025