

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 13, 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: Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Lenahan and Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, and Francis Womack, Esq.,

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:** Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 25-159 through NO. 25-163 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Lenahan, Gross Absent: Reilly, Conrad**

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NO. 25-159 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR

NO. 25-160 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE UPGRADES AT THE SOUTH AMBOY SENIOR CENTER

NO. 25-161 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2025 FORD E-450 PASSENGER VAN FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

NO. 25-162 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VETERAN PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION – 715 CHARLES ST.

NO. 25-163 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VETERAN DISABLED TAX STATUS FOR BLOCK 115, LOT 8

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-164**

**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 July 16, 2025 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by: Mr. Lenahan** of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-164 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Gross ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Gross Abstain: Dato, Lenahan Absent: Reilly, Conrad**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-165 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 August 7, 2025, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the bill list be appended to the official minutes.

**MOVED by: Ms. Dato** of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-165 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dato, Lenahan, Gross Absent: Reilly, Conrad**

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**FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-13**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 58 THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH A "TRAP, NEUTER & RELEASE PROGRAM"

**MOVED by:** Mr. Lenahan, that Ordinance #2025-13 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 3, 2025 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-14**

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 -HANDICAP SPACE 131 SOUTH PINE AVE AND 221 POTTER STREET

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2025-14 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 3, 2025 meeting.

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-15 – On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and carried unanimously, this Ordinance was pulled from the agenda.**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE BEACH CLUB DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

**MOVED by:** \_\_\_\_\_, that Ordinance #2025-15 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 3, 2025 meeting.

**SECONDED by:** \_\_\_\_\_, **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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**COMMENTS:**

Ms. Dato:

- Congratulated Lt. Wang and Sgt. Besner on their recent promotions
- Noted the new County recycling can program has begun and while there have been a few hiccups Mr. Kales has stepped in to assist the County is making sure everyone gets a new can.

- As Mr. Reilly could not attend this evening's meeting, he passed on a few notes that she will convey for him: Thanked the first responders and food pantry for their continued work, he sends condolences to the Mackiel and Wright families, he noted the Broadway Night events have been very successful and thanked Mr. Conrad for his assistance in preparing the event, wished the students and administration good luck in the upcoming school year, sends kudos to the fire department for their quick response to the Augusta Drive incident, noted he is happy to see the new street banner purchase and finally acknowledged Tom Cross as the oldest member of the South Amboy Fire Department.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Congratulated recently promoted Lt. Wang and Sgt. Besner
- Thanked the first responders and volunteers for increasing the quality of life for South Amboy residents.
- Noted the National Night Out event was well represented and well attended and thanked all those who worked to put the event together.
- SAYAA has baseball/softball clinic registration on August 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> for children 8 to 14 years old. Registrations can be dropped off at the Senior Center between 9am and 3pm.
- South Amboy Day is September 27<sup>th</sup> – come out and enjoy!

Mr. Gross:

- Kudos to our first responders and volunteers!

Mayor Henry:

- Thanked the Fire Department for putting on the car show – a very successful event.
- Thanked the Historical Society for the plaque for Independence Fire House – it is help keeping history alive.
- Noted the Friday night music event is one of many things the City is doing to keep people involved.
- Thanked the Council for approving the purchase of the new Senior Center van – it will help us continue to provide senior services.
- Noted the library will be wishing art exhibit "Edward" a bon voyage on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Stated in response to the story in local newspapers, there will be no interruption of ambulance services with Woodbridge.
- Thanked Chief Kanecke and the Police Department for hosting the National Night Out event and the introduction of our new motorcycles.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked the Council and TNR team for helping to produce tonight's Ordinance.
- Gave an update on the recycling can delivery schedule.
- Reported National Night Out was once again very successful, thanked Chief Kanecke and PBA 63 – stated this is one of my favorite events.
- The Car Show was a tremendous success with over 220 cars registered.
- Noted the new senior van is really a bus very similar to what we have.

Mr. Womack:

- Reported the Middlesex County JIF suit response has been filed. All the involved municipalities are getting together to determine the next steps.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Brandon Russell, 1355 Schindler Drive, thanked the Council for accepting the amended minutes. He was informed the old senior bus will be kept as backup. Asked about the status of the BNE negotiation and was informed nothing has been brought to the City regarding

phase 3 or 4 and the gate situation is still under negotiation. Asked for an update on the Venetian litigation and was informed that the meeting to discuss the City's demands is tentatively scheduled for Monday. Was informed that Mr. Kales will get back to him regarding the audio/video upgrades. Asked how much funding will be needed for the ferry terminal building and was told approximately 10 million dollars. Mr. Russell then spent some minutes requesting the City budget more funds from the PILOT programs to be put into the school system. On a final note, Mr. Russell once again requested that politics be put aside and the Council appoint him to the Municipal Alliance Committee.

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., shared that the information required by the NJ Dept. of Labor in job advertisements had not been met in the latest laborer position posting. It should have provided salary range/hourly range, and general benefits available. He is just bringing it to the administration's office so moving forward they can meet the requirements.

Taylor McFarland, from the NJ Sierra Club, brought to the attention of the Council upcoming plans for Williams Transco to establish a gas pipeline designed to transport gas from Pennsylvania to Long Island. It will run through several areas in NJ and underneath Raritan Bay while providing no gas to NJ. She requested the Council place a Resolution in opposition to the pipeline and would be available if anyone has any questions.

Melissa Steele, 214 Catherine St., thanked the Council for introducing the TNR Ordinance.

Brianne Rodgers from Saving All Species NJ spoke in support of the TNR Ordinance noting costs incurred for fixing, feed and giving medical care to cats is creating a large strain on animal rescue services.

Alan Ing, 105 August St., asked if the Appendix for Ordinance 25-15 would be available. Mr. Kales noted it would be available with the final version to be introduced at an upcoming meeting. He also confirmed for Mr. Ing that the solar panel project for the YMCA had been authorized by SARA and should be moving forward.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., questioned why the Council would not want to have people with addiction experience or people who had beaten addiction to be on the Municipal Alliance Committee. Asked how many PILOTS had been initiated since the Mayor has been in office? Mr. Kales will have to get back to him with the exact number. Mr. Babilak asked how many new PILOTS are in the works and was told none. He wondered why the City, with its large surplus, couldn't pay for the entirety of the summer camp program and make sure the offer got to all families. He was told that no family is turned away for financial reasons and that no child had been kept from registering for the camp due to lack of space. Mr. Babilak finished by asking the Mayor and Council how the City recognized its retirees.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved September 3, 2025