

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING SEPTMEBER 17, 2025

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Gross at 7:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz and Kevin McManimon, Esq. OEM Department head Mark Herdman was also present

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Council President Mickey Gross presented the proclamations honoring Eagle Scouts Gavin Oshman and Jesse Bender in the presence of fellow troop members, friends and family. There was a short pause in the meeting for picture taking and congratulations.

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. 25-174 through NO. 25-178 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor (Absent – Ms. Dato)

NO. 25-174 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK – KATIE ROSE WALENTY

NO. 25-175 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPT VETERAN – O’GORMAN

NO. 25-176 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF UNIMAC FIREMAN’S TURN OUT GEAR WASHER AND DRYER FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

NO. 25-177 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND TO RICHARD NICHOLS

NO. 25-178 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION POCKET LICENSE NO. 1220-33-032-003 from B536 SYMPOSIUM TO RUKH LHD LLC

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-179

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 September 3, 2025 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-179 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Lenahan, Reilly, Gross Abstain: Conrad Absent: Dato**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-180 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 September 11, 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. 25-180 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan.** **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Conrad, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato**

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING
ORDINANCE 2025-15

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

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2025-15 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 15, 2025 meeting.
SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Conrad, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING
ORDINANCE 2025-16

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 233 CATHERINE AND 375 CONOVER STREET

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2025-16 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 15, 2025 meeting.
SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Conrad, Lenahan, Reilly, Gross Absent: Dato

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers.
- Thanked Ms. Brooks for her service and wished her the best of luck in the future.
- Congratulated the Fire Department’s great success in Wildwood.
- Noted he is looking forward to the Council putting forth an ordinance banning the used of motorized bikes and scooters in the City.
- Reported that this Saturday is a Hazardous Waste Pick-up day in Sayreville, 750 Jernee Mill Road.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Thanked the volunteers and first responders for their continued efforts.
- Congratulated the Fire Department and First Aid Department on their Wildwood success.
- Reported the City Wide Yard Sale is on the 20th and 21st.
- Stated South Amboy Day is September 27th 11am to 6pm.
- Arts Festival is September 25th.
- Noted the Ladies AOH is having an essay contest for the students, the deadline is October 30th and information can be found on the website.
- There is a flu clinic at the Senior Center on October 23 from 2 to 3pm.

Mr. Conrad:

Mr. Conrad read the following statement for Ms. Dato:

1. Sadly, our Municipal Clerk, Deborah Brooks has announced that she will be leaving us, and tonight is her last Council meeting. I would like to express my appreciation for all that she has done for our City and for all of us on the Council during her tenure. It takes a special person to deal with all that the City Clerk must handle, and Deborah has done it effectively and with precision. It takes great skill and a wealth of knowledge of City Ordinances, procedure, State law and election law plus so many other areas. Deborah has displayed expertise while under fire and done so with grace. We will miss you but wish you well in all your future plans and endeavors.
2. Today the Senior Center hosted another successful Lunch and Learn program with a knowledgeable speaker who educated the group regarding prescription drugs, opioids, addiction, how to deal with pain effectively without harmful medications and so much more. Our seniors continue to gain valuable information and resources through this successful Lunch and Learn program.
3. Election Day, Tuesday, November 4 is fast approaching, and residents still have time to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot by submitting a written request using the proper application which must be received in the County Clerk's Office by October 28, 2025. Applications are available in our Clerk's Office. Voters may also choose the Early Voting option from October 25, 2025, through November 2, 2025, or vote in person on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4 with your voting location noted on the sample ballot you will receive in the mail.

Mr. Conrad added his own comments as follows:

- Congratulated Mr. Oshman on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout and notes his life of service is off to a flying start.
- Congratulated the First Aid and Fire Department on their success in Wildwood.
- Thanked Ms. Brooks for her service and wished her blessings and kindness.
- Reminded everyone to come out for South Amboy Day on the 27th.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated the First Aid and Fire Department on their success in Wildwood.
- Noted South Amboy Day is coming up and everyone is ready to rock & roll!
- Complimented Ms. Brooks and Ms. Polomene on the good job they have done in forwarding the fall schedule of activities to the Mayor and Council.
- Reiterated his support of the Boys Scouts.
- Thanked Ms. Brooks for her service.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated the First Aid and Fire Department on their success in Wildwood. They are a great contribution to the City.

- Reported the 9/11 ceremony was well attended noting it is important to keep that date in our hearts and minds.
- Noted it is always a pleasure to honor the new Eagle Scouts.
- Thanked Ms. Brooks for her service over the last 6 years and wished her well in her retirement.
- Wished Katie Rose well in her new position as Acting Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Kales:

- Thanked Ms. Brooks for her service and welcomed Katie Rose to the position.
- Reviewed the schedule of the Bulk Drop off and pick up program.
- Noted the City will be getting 5 new vehicles in 2026.
- Noted the recycling can program is improving with only 27 issues left.

Mr. Rasimowicz wished Ms. Brooks well.

No comments from Mr. McManimon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chris Smiga, 144 Second St., inquired as to the status of the potential of offshore utility projects. Mr. Kales noted one offshore wind project is under discussion.

Brandon Russell, 1355 Schindler Ave., received confirmation that there is a meeting scheduled for next week on the Venetian legislation. Mr. Russell stated he had heard mention of a new Municipal Complex being discussed. Mr. Kales noted at this point it is just a hope and a dream. He again reiterated that he was concerned with the amount of current and past PILOT funds being directed toward the schools budget. Finally he stated he was frustrated with the lack of noticing for the Municipal Alliance meeting schedules and was upset that the two meetings conflicted this evening and he could not make the alliance meeting.

Mitchell Hall, 55 Pupek Road, noted concerns about natural habitats being destroyed as the amount of development increased in the City. He also confirmed with Mr. Rasimowicz that the trees removed from Broadway during the paving will be replaced sometime this fall.

Greg Babilak, 125 Henry St., stated he wanted to include electric scooters as well as bikes in the upcoming ordinance. He is still waiting to find out how many pilot programs have been initiated since the Mayor has been in office. Mr. Kales will follow up with him. Stated his ongoing concern with the locked gate at Station Bay. Mr. Kales noted they are still negotiating but it is private property. Mr. Kales stated he was sure the issue would come up if a new development phase was submitted to the City.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks
Municipal Clerk
Approved 10/1/2025