

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 21, 2026

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Mickey 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, Katie Rose Walenty, Acting City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer, Aaron Rainone, Esq, Director of Law, OEM Director Herdman, Fire Chief Michael Kelly

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 Mrs. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 26-049 through NO. 26-056 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**NO. 26-050 A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL
 APPOINTING KRISTAL MANION, QPA**

**NO. 26-051 AMENDING RESOLUTION 26-022 WHICH APPOINTED
 MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING BOARD – REPLACE MICHAEL
 GROSS WITH LAWRENCE LENAHAN**

**NO. 26-053 AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE HOLIDAY
 DECORATIONS FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY – BROADWAY**

**NO. 26-049 RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE
 TO THE BID SPECIFICATIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
 FOR FERRY TERMINAL FLOATING DOCK SYSTEM**

- Mr. Conrad asked what provisions are being made for docking systems. Mr. Rasimowicz confirmed all bids that were made were around 10 million dollars and grant money is in neighborhood of 5 to 6 million dollars, so the bids far exceeded that and bids were rejected. Other provisions are being worked on with NY Waterway. Mr. Conrad asked if this impacts the operations and Mr. Rasimowicz confirmed it will not.

**NO. 26-054 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 6 FOR FERRY
 TERMINAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS– C-04-23-002-001 - KYLE
 CONTI CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

- Mr. Conrad asked what the change order pertaining is to. Mr. Rasimowicz clarified this was for NY Waterway accommodations, spotlights, railing on the bulkhead that

was extended for safety requirements. These were reviewed by Colliers Engineering, Center State Engineering and the Business Administrator, who signed off on this.

**NO. 26-055 RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 7 FOR FERRY
TERMINAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS– C-04-23-002-001 AND FERRY
TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & PERMITS C-04-23-001-
004 - KYLE CONTI CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

- Mr. Conrad asked what the change order pertaining is to. Mr. Rasimowicz clarified this was for Middlesex Water Company waterline on Radford Ferry Road and included modifications on walkway
- Mr. Conrad asked if we foresee more changes as we near completion. Mr. Rasimowicz says there could be since we are nearing completion and there could be a final change order.
- Mr. Conrad asked if the change is reasonable compared to similar contracts. Mr. Rasimowicz stated that these are reasonable and necessary to this contract and can't compare it to other contracts.

**NO. 26-056 RESOLUTION INCREASING THE CONTRACT FOR THE AWARD
FOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY
INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER/RADFORD FERRY**

- Mr. Gross asked what the increase in the contract was for. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the increase is for Colliers Engineering who are overseeing the project. This will carry them through the project completion since we are nearing the end.
- Mrs. Dato asked Mr. Rasimowicz if French and Parello are part of the project review. Mr. Rasimowicz clarified that French and Parello does the design engineering, and they are involved in this review.

**NO. 26-052 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP
WITH SOUTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW JERSEY
STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY – MILLER**

- Mr. Reilly asked what fire company he is joining. Fire Chief Michael Kelly confirmed it is Independence Fire House.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-057
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 January 7, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mrs. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-057 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-058
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 January 15, 2026, 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. 26-058 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mrs. Dato ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

- Mr. Conrad asked about the \$500k payment to the JIF. Mr. Balka confirmed it is the payment that is paid 2 times a year for Liability and Workers Compensation.

ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-01

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 325 DAVID STREET - CONROY

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2026-01 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the February 4, 2026, meeting.

SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 167, "VEHICLES, ELECTRONIC SCOOTERS" OF THE CITY CODE TO REGULATE CERTAIN ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

- Mrs. Dato stated her concern about not having specific language on the driver not having a passenger. Mr. Rainone will add to state that only one person can operate.
- Mr. Reilly questioned whether this is enforced on county and school grounds. Mr. Rainone confirmed it is. Mr. Reilly stated concerns about children carrying drinks and with one hand on the bar. Mr. Rainone confirmed it is an enforcement issue. Mr. Reilly wants 2 riders on scooters addressed, lamp on the scooter or a backlight or reflective gear if driving at night. Mr. Rainone confirmed reflective gear is easy to add as a requirement to operate electric scooter after dusk on all users. Mr. Reilly asked what the minimum age to ride. Mr. Rainone explained under the current state statue, we can't bar people from riding. Mr. Rainone addresses the user age above 17 and under 17 and how to hold them accountable. Mr. Reilly asked about operating on snow covered roads. Mr. Rainone said inclement weather is not addressed but states operators need to follow state regulations. Mr. Reilly asks on how this ordinance will be rolled out to the public. Council President Gross talked with Chief Kanecke and they discussed a plan.
- Mr. Gross is concerned about section H that states under 16 you need to ride on a sidewalk but over 16 you must ride on the street. Mr. Rainone says this language was specifically put in which was in coordination with the Police Chief.
- Mr. Conrad asked if we allow riders on our sidewalk, does it open the city up for liability. Mr. Rainone explained that the liability is on the operator or if they are under 17, parents are liable for their actions. Anyone that operates a motor vehicle is their responsibility for whatever happens during the time they are operating.
- Mrs. Dato asks if reflective material on operator would be a vest or on the helmet. Mr. Rainone will give examples in the ordinance.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly that Ordinance #2026-02 be amended. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2026-02 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the February 4, 2026, meeting. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and First Aid volunteers for keeping us safe, particularly in this challenging weather.
- Special shout out to Volunteers, OEM and Public Works who must work out in this cold weather.
- Noted this past Monday was Martin Luther King Day and it is important to remember and practice his values.

Mrs. Dato

- Recognize Dr. King's major role in advancing civil rights.
- Next month is Black History Month and we plan to recognize it as a city.
- St. Patrick's Day kickoff event by the Parade committee to honor the grand marshals.
- Pleased with the progress on the e-scooter ordinance.

Mr. Reilly:

- Question if the city has ever passed a Resolution to become an official NJ Revolution community.
- Thanked the food pantry and first responders. Next month the food pantry volunteers will be recognized on February 18th.
- Currently, a bill in the assembly A5826, regarding EMTs that are LOSAP eligible to receive funds for training and certification.
- Sean Elwell initiative this year is to increase volunteer engagement.
- Fire Department initiative is to find new volunteers. During Government week we will talk to schools and have open houses to help with recruitment for volunteers.
- Congratulations to the South Amboy Boys basketball team, which won the division for the first time since 2008.
- Shop local
- Good luck with the new business, Papa John's.

Mr. Lenahan:

- Thanked the volunteers and first responders.
- January 25th 1pm-4pm History Gallery will be open free of charge.
- January 15th Blood Drive at St Mary's
- Follow up from last meeting that the poles are being removed at the top of Fourth Street.

Mr. Gross

- Happy New Year
- Thank you to Mr. Rasimowicz for answering the questions tonight.
- Thank you, volunteers.
- March 15th is the St. Patrick's Day parade, and we will do the best we can.

Mayor Henry:

- Prediction of snow upcoming this weekend and we are prepared.
- I want to recognize the boy scouts who received their Eagle Scout Award, Joshua and Elijah who are from South Amboy.
- Walmart nationwide is hosting a free health screening on Saturday January 24th 10am-2pm.

Mr. Rainone

- No comments

Mr. Rasimowicz

- No comments

Mr. Balka

- No comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mitchell Hall, South Amboy, NJ

He had suggestions and notes regarding the age and who should be on the sidewalk or street. He doesn't see why those under 16 or 17 should be using an electric scooter at such a young age, with no experience with a likely higher chance of an accident. Children should have access to regular scooters, not electric.

Asked if the train station maintenance falls on the City or NJ Transit. The elevator and generalized cleaning should be done.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-059

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED by: Mrs. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-059 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad** **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mrs. Dato and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty
Acting Municipal Clerk
Approved 2-4-2026