

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 18, 2026

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, Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Lenahan, Councilman Reilly and Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Katie Rose Walenty, Acting City Clerk, Aaron Rainone, Esq. Law Director, David Kales, Business Administrator, Mark Herdman, OEM, Michael Kelly, Police Captain and Fire Chief, Ken Kokosza, Fire Chief

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

HONORING THE SOUTH AMBOY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

- Won the Division for the first time since 2008.

Councilman Thomas Reilly presented the Boys Basketball team with a Proclamation from the City of South Amboy.

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin presented each player with a Proclamation.

Mayor Fred A. Henry congratulated the Boys Basketball team.

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. 26-078 through NO. 26-089 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

NO. 26-078 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20

NO. 26-081 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION - Edgar A. Sanchez

NO. 26-082 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY APPROVING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPENDING PLAN

NO. 26-083 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY APPROVING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PLAN

- NO. 26-084 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1220-33-011-008 – 103 South Broadway
- NO. 26-085 RESOLUTION AWARDDING STATE CONTRACT 24-PROS1-114534, T2770 FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF POLICE, FIRE, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- NO. 26-086 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF A MERCANTILE LICENSE – SWEET & STICKY LLC
- NO. 26-087 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF A MERCANTILE LICENSE – KONA ICE OF BRIDGEWATER
- NO. 26-088 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF A MERCANTILE LICENSE – L&D Industries LLC dba Mister Softee
- NO. 26-089 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ACUITY CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC THE PROVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT SERVICES FOR THE CITY’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

- NO. 26-079 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FIRST AID ORGANIZATION QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2025
- NO. 26-080 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY FIRE FIGHTERS QUALIFYING FOR CREDIT UNDER THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR 2025

- Mr. Reilly thanked all the members on the list for their dedication.

- NO. 26-082 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY APPROVING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPENDING PLAN

- Mr. Conrad asked City Law Director Aaron Rainone how the plan works to use the funds. Mr. Rainone explained the process of accessing and utilizing funds.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-090

WAIVER OF READING IN FULL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 25-090 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

RESOLUTION NO. 26-091

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-091 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mrs. Dato. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

- Mr. Gross explains that City Auditor Mr. Higgins will attend the April 15th meeting to present the budget and answer any questions.
- Mr. Kales highlights the main points of the budget.
- Mr. Gross thanked Mr. Kales, Mayor, and CFO Daniel Balka.
- Mr. Conrad comments on the budget and the reduction of taxes.
- Mayor Fred A. Henry thanks David Kales, Daniel Balka, as well as Council members for their work and commented on the municipal reduction in taxes as we still added services.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-092

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 March 4, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-092 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

RESOLUTION NO. 26-093

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 March 12, 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. 26-093 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2026-03

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING A \$6,018,000 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER FERRY GRANT TO PROVIDE FOR FERRY TERMINAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS

OPEN PUBLIC

CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mrs. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2026-03 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

COMMENTS:

Mr. Reilly

- Thank you, first responders and food pantry volunteers.
- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team.
- Condolences to Bill Garnetts family.
- Sign up for Summer Camp.
- Mock Council meeting on April 15th
- Thank you to the Parade Committee for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Parade helps our local businesses
- Government week is the week of April 13th. On Tuesday, there is a meet and greet 5:30-7:30 with Council and Mayor.
- Recognizing Volunteers on April 15th and the High School Essay contest winners.

Mr. Lenahan

- Thank you, first responders and food pantry volunteers.
- Condolences to Bill Garnetts family.
- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team.
- Congrats to Parade Committee on the Parade
- April 12th fundraiser for Sayreville Brain Injured Children at the Grand Marquis.

Mr. Conrad

- Condolences to Bill Garnetts family.
- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team.
- Thanked the Fire Dept, First Aid, Police and OEM for keeping us safe and secure during the Parade.
- Congratulations to Council President Gross on the Parade and to the Parade Committee.
- March 20th is the First day of Spring and International Day of Happiness.
- Eid Mubarak to residents that celebrate.

Mrs. Dato

- Congratulations to Councilman Gross, Jay Elliott and all volunteers for the Parade.
- Keep Jamie Norek in your prayers.
- Condolences to Bill Garnett's family.
- St. Patrick's Day party at Senior Center was fun. The new business, Pura Vida Balloons, made a beautiful display that was donated for the event.
- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team and the Coach.
- The budget was great and we are proud of it. Thank you to BA, CFO.

Mr. Gross

- Billy Garnett was a special person.
- Welcome, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Williams and Nicole Navarria, Business Administrator.
- South Amboy Parade Committee donated \$2,500.00 to charity, local food banks, Ukrainian church, SA First Sid Squad, and the Middle School Band.
- Kevin Wiater, County OEM, proud of all you do.

- Thank you, Mayor, Mr. Kales for the budget.

Mayor Fred Henry

- Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team.
- Thank you to Parade Committee for the Parade.
- Thank you to City workers, Police Department for making sure all went well during the Parade.
- Condolences to Bill Garnett's family.
- Condolences to Andrew Horezgas' family, who was a longtime member of our Planning Board.

Mr. Kales

- Thank you, Mayor, for the support, and shout out to Daniel Balka for the budget.
- Thank you to Parade Committee.
- OEM, Police Department, the DPW, great team effort to make the Parade work.

Mr. Rainone

- No comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joseph Szaro, South Amboy, NJ

- On behalf of Stars and Stripes Veterans Center –request the approval of \$500,000.00 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Mary Szaro, South Amboy, NJ

- As project manager, of the Stars and Stripes Veterans Center, requesting action by the City Council, accessibility for the funding and compliance.
- Mr. Rainone addressed the public regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, regarding regulations and the spending plan.

Brian McLaughlin, South Amboy, NJ

- Commended Councilman Reilly on promoting businesses in town.
- Commented on Council President Gross on having a political event out of town.

Jarvis Baltista, South Amboy, NJ

- Concerned about the safety on Henry Street because of the speed. He is looking for speed bump installation to help.
- Mr. Kales will bring this to the Police Departments attention.

Brian Murphy, South Amboy, NJ

- Commented on the Henry Street safety and that something needs to be done.

ADJOURNMENT PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 26-094

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED by: Mr. Gross of the Council of the City of South Amboy, Resolution No. 26-094 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Conrad. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross.**

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty
Acting Municipal Clerk
Approved 4-1-2026