

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 15, 2026

The Meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Dato 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.

ABSENT: Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Fred A. Henry, Business Administrator David Kales, Dan Balka, CFO, Katie Rose Walenty, Acting City Clerk, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

Amendment to Agenda

Law Director Aaron Rainone announced the amendment to the Agenda.
Ordinance 26-07 – Purchase of 110 Henry Street through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Motion to approve the amendment to the Agenda
Motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan. Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION:

Mr. Reilly presented the proclamations of recognition to Jack O’Leary, Joseph Szaro, Mary Szaro, and Thomas Kross.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:

- 1st Mario Garcete
- 2nd Caitlin Martinez
- 3rd Gia Callis

Mr. Reilly presented the awards to Mario Garcete and he read his winning essay. Caitlin Martinez was not in attendance. The parents of Gia Callis were in attendance and accepted her award.

Mayor Fred Henry commented on the Budget.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Gary Higgins was unable to attend. Ralph Piccone presented the Budget.

Ralph Piccone answered questions from the City Council members.
Motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Reilly to open the meeting to the Public. All in Favor.

No comments from the Public.

Motion by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Reilly to close the meeting to the Public. All in favor.

BUDGET ADOPTION:

RESOLUTION 26-103
ADOPTION OF 2026 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$24,549,454.59 for municipal purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the summary of revenues and appropriations are approved as attached.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 26-103 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly.

Attorney Aaron Rainone presented the Ordinance which was amended to the Agenda.

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-07

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 HENRY STREET, SOUTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY 08879 DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAPS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AS BLOCK 38, LOT 6.02 FROM JERZY M CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDED BY THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

MOVED by: Mrs. Dato moved that Ordinance #2026-07 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the May 6, 2026 meeting.

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

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. 26-104 through NO. 26-106 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:**Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly. Absent: Mr. Gross

NO. 26-104 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 9 FOR FERRY TERMINAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS – C-04-23-002-001 – KYLE CONTI CONSTRUCTION, LLC

NO. 26-105 RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR RARITAN STREET PUMP STATION & FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT – PILLARI BROS CONSTRUCTION CORP.

NO. 26-106 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF E- TICKET STAR BUNDLE & QTY:3 – E-TICKET ZEBRA BUNDLE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-107

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 April 1, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-107 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly. Absent: Mr. Gross

RESOLUTION NO. 26-108

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 April 9, 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. Lenahan of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-108 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly. Absent: Mr. Gross

COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad:

- Commended Councilman Reilly on Government Week.
- Congratulations to the honorees and thank you for your service.
- Congratulations to the essay contest winners and thank you to the Administration at the School.
- Commended Mario Garcete for reading his essay.
- Commend the First Aid Squad and Fire Department.

Mr. Lenahan

- Phenomenal job to Councilman Reilly.
- Standing ovation to Mario Garcete.
- Summer Camp - registration open.
- 4/16 rock the 250th at Senior Center
- Youth Athletic Association Opening Day was fantastic.
- Volunteers needed for Coach Thomas Bikowski.
- Fundraiser for the Troop - Fish Fry - 732-614-0205 Dan Sibel.

Mr. Reilly

- Thank you to the food pantry and first responders.
- MVC is changing the requirements for E-Bikes regarding licensing and registration.
- Government week was great – thanks to Fire Chief Mike Kelly, Tim Gay, and Tim Walczak.
- Congratulations to our 4 honorees
- Congratulations to our 3 essay winners
- Tomorrow our BA will be at the Library at 3:30 to read a book and have an ice cream social.

Mrs. Dato

- Congratulations Councilman Reilly, City Clerk, BA, School board and staff for government week.
- Thanks to the CFO, Mr. Piccone and Mayor Henry for the budget.
- June Primary is June 2nd. Vote by mail April 18th, and May 26th deadline for vote by mail registration.

Mayor Henry

- Thank you to the Council for adopting the budget unanimously.
- Thank you to David, Kathy and Dan.
- Congratulate honorees.
- Commended Tom Reilly and Katie Rose on Government week. Commends the School Administration and the students.
- Resolution NO. 26-105 - Replacement of the Pump Station on Raritan St – thank you to Mark Rasimowicz.

Mr. Kales

- Thank you to Gary, Dan, Ralph, and the rest of the team for the work on the budget.
- Thank you Council for passing the Budget.
- Congratulations to Councilman Reilly, Katie Rose, and Alyssa. You did a great job.
- Comments on the Bond Rating – we did get an increase. However for 2026, it costs money to get an increase, so the financial decision was to hold off this year.
- Spring cleanup is starting lawn cutting, parks, playgrounds. Our plan to get everything up and running has begun.

Mr. Rasimowicz

- Broadway Phase 2 has started. The trees, concrete, and road improvement is occurring.
- For the Raritan Street Pump Station there is a federal grant paying for it. The bid was for \$3.5 by Pillari Brothers. This is a large project and we are hoping there will be little impact and disruption to residents, but all will be noticed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Vanni, Parker Avenue, South Amboy

Thank you to Ms. Dato and Mr. Kales for the paving of Parker Avenue and assisting with the noise issue from Unique Auto, the issue of parking of cars on the side of building. There is a section of fence that is in need of replacement. Mr. Kales will investigate it.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Reilly and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty
Acting Municipal Clerk
Approved 5-6-2026