

## **MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 19, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by Vice Council President Dato 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

ABSENT: Councilman Reilly, Councilman Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Business Administrator, David Kales, Katie Rose Walenty, Acting City Clerk, Aaron Rainone, Law Director, Dan Balka, CFO, Mark Herdman, OEM, Fire Chief Michael Kelly, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer, Gary Higgins, Municipal Auditor

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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Law Director, Aaron Rainone amended the agenda to move the presentation from Mr. Higgins, Municipal Auditor until the end of the meeting after Council comments due to the delay of arrival from Mr. Higgins.

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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:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 26-160 through NO. 26-171 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** **AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

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| NO. 26-160 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION – MONSERRATTE QUINONES                                               |
| NO. 26-161 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION – ALEXA NANCY CARAMB                                                 |
| NO. 26-162 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION – JAMES TOPOLSKI                                                     |
| NO. 26-163 | REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT FOR SEWER FEES - J & A WAHLER, LLC                                                         |
| NO. 26-164 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC TAX SALE                                                                          |
| NO. 26-165 | RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR 2027-2031 |
| NO. 26-166 | AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR SHARED SERVICES WITH WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES                      |

- NO. 26-167                    AUTHORIZING PURCHASE FOR TWO (2) LIGHTING PACKAGES AND EQUIPMENT FOR TWO (2) '26 FORD F150 POLICE RESPONDERS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 26-168                    2026-2027 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – JETMIR KACIC & THOMAS HUDANISH
- NO. 26-169                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE FIVE (5) PORTABLE RADIOS, XL-95P, 7/800MHZ FOR THE SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT
- NO. 26-170                    A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS MANHATTAN BEACH PHASE 1 URBAN RENEWAL, LLC
- NO. 26-171                    RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE BID SPECIFICATIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSIBLE VERTICAL LIFT AT SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-172**

#### **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 15, 2026 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-172 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-173**

#### **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 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. 26-173 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

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#### **ORDINANCES:**

#### **ADOPTION/SECOND READING**

#### **ORDINANCE 2026-11**

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 HANDICAP SPACE 380 DIVISION STREET AND REMOVE 520 HENRY STREET

**OPEN PUBLIC**  
**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2026-11 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

### **INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

#### **ORDINANCE 2026-12**

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 HANDICAP SPACE 309 HENRY STREET AND REMOVE 151 NORTH BROADWAY & 147 DAVID STREET

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2026-12 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the September 2, 2026 meeting.

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

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#### **COMMENTS:**

Mr. Lenahan

- Thank you to the first responders.
- Condolences to the McCarthy family.
- Tomorrow at 1pm at the MHS PreK through 8th graders are invited to come watch Sandlot. Free of charge and the whole family is invited.
- First Presbyterian church will be closed 8/21 through 9/7.
- 9/12 and 9/13 City Wide Yard Sale.

Mr. Conrad

- Thank you to the first responders. Thank you to Fire Chief Kelly and Assistant Chief Kokoska. We are here to support the Fire Department.
- Friday 8-21 music on Broadway from 6-8pm.

Ms. Dato

- Thank you to all who came out for National Night Out. Our Police Department did a wonderful job.
- Speaker Coughlin hosted the Bowl for Hunger event at the Majestic Lanes. It was a record breaking 250k. Since 2010, a total of 1 million has been donated. All goes to local food pantries.
- Event at the Senior Center 7-22 tax relief program was a great success. Speaker Coughlin and representatives from the state were there to help citizens.
- There is a need for blood as our supply is critically low. YMCA on Thursday 9-3 from 315pm to 630pm. Please schedule an appointment. There are incentives like \$20 rewards and Halloween t-shirts.
- The project on Broadway was a great job.

Mr. Kales

- National Night Out was very successful. Thank you to our Fire, PD, DPW and First Aid departments.
- Broadway parking lot is almost done. We are waiting for the guardrail and lights.

- With our upcoming street closures, we are working with the school.
- Thank you to Center State Engineering for Broadway, Phase 2. It has been successful.

Mark Rasimowicz

- Contractor is returning to Broadway for crosswalks. There are no dates yet.

Mr. Rainone

- Bowl For Hunger is a great event and a wonderful cause.

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Mr. Conrad makes a motion, seconded by Mr. Lenahan for a 5 minute recess. Vice Council President Ms. Dato opens the meeting back up.

### **PRESENTATION- AUDIT REVIEW** – Gary Higgins

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-158**

#### **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**MOVED by: Mr. Conrad** of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-158 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-159**

#### **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 ANNUAL AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF SAID PLAN WITH THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**MOVED by: Mr. Conrad** of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-159 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lenahan, Ms. Dato. Absent: Mr. Gross, Mr. Reilly.**

Mr. Higgins presents the audit and announces there is no correction action plan.

Ms. Dato confirms that there is no correction action plan and how wonderful that is.

Mr. Conrad gives congratulations to CFO Balka and the Business Administrators office on their hard work.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Thomas Spanning, South Amboy, NJ

Commented on the beach area located at the waterfront that it looks terrible. Recently the wooden fence was hit and there was caution tape. Commented that the beach used to be regularly raked and cleaned up. Mentions that Public Works department has done a good job in the past. The Business Administrator commented that he signed a contract this week to get the guard rail repaired and they needed to rent different equipment and machinery to upkeep the beach cleanup. Also, looking for parking to be expanding

The fence at the ballfield located at Vet's field looks horrible around half the field. Also, the landscapers only cut the grass, there is no weed whacking around the concrete bleachers

and never go around the fencing. Branches are overhanging and if they will fall and they are left there. The Business Administrator will send our DPW to look at the area.

Sergio Rodriguez, South Amboy, NJ

On the dead end on Railroad Avenue there is a dead tree. He is concerned that the tree will fall and cause damage. The town came out to look at it and was told it was not City property. Looking for guidance on what can be done.

Mitchell Hall, South Amboy, NJ

Urge members of Council to consider action on a pressing matter on data centers. There is an environmental impact and residential impact. He wants the people who lead the city's future to know that this is a nonpartisan issue. New Brunswick blocked them for a permitted use in a redevelopment plan, in July 2026, Sayreville passed an 18-month ban, and in June, Old Bridge drafted an ordinance for a total ban. Asking as a neighbor and remembering we are not a company but a country.

Judith Raskoshin, South Amboy, NJ

Thank you for all that were involved in National Night Out. There were many hits like the bounce house, free ice cream, and all the events. Also, tomorrow at 1pm at the MHS we will be hosting a movie for the kids to watch. Also, thank you to Friends of South Amboy for their donation of 6 backpacks and supplies.

Brian McLaughlin, South Amboy, NJ

Asks if there are any ordinances or requirements to use City parks for event. Can we go and speak to residents of Noble Manor and the McCarthy Towers.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Lenahan and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty  
Acting Municipal Clerk  
Minutes approved 9-2-2026