MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2026

The Meeting was called to order by Council President 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, Councilman Gross

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Business Administrator, David Kales, Mayor Fred A. Henry, Katie Rose Walenty, Acting City Clerk, Aaron Rainone, Law Director, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer, Daniel Balka, CFO, Kristal Manion, QPA, Mark Herdman, OEM Coordinator, Ken Krass, DPW Director, Police Chief Patricia Kanecke, Jason Valetutto, Zoning Officer.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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PROCLAMATION:

Recognizing Patrolman Garcia and Patrolman Shereyka

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PRESENTATION:

Middlesex Water Company

Middlesex Water Company's Lead Service Line Replacement Program. This important initiative helps identify and replace lead and galvanized steel water service lines throughout our community at no direct cost to homeowners.

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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. Reilly of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 26-196 through NO. 26- 199 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by**: Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

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NO. 26-196 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A RELAY 3500 FOLDER/INSERTER MACHINE & SEND PRO MAIL CENTER POSTAGE MACHINE

NO. 26-197 AMENDING RESOLUTION 26-189 WHICH AUTHORIZED A 100% DISABLED VETERAN TAX REFUND

NO. 26-198 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX REFUND – 103 NORTH BROADWAY

NO. 26-199 RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR ACCESSIBLE VERTICAL LIFT AT THE SOUTH AMBOY POLICE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE – DRM CONTRACTING GROUP LLC

Resolution 26-199 - Mr. Reilly confirmed this will be at zero cost to our residents and will use CDBG funds.

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RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-200
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 16, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-200 is hereby approved**. SECONDED by: Mr. Reilly. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 26-201
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 October 2, 2026 as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bill list be appended to the official minutes.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-201 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

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ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2026-13
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, VACATING A PORTION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO BLOCK 18.01, LOT 27 (356 FERRIS STREET)

OPEN PUBLIC
CLOSE PUBLIC

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2026-13 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by**: Mr. Lenahan. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY, REQUIRING REMOVAL AND PROPER DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, RESTRICTING ANIMALS FROM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PLAZA, AND AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2026-14 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 21, 2026, meeting. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 164, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC," OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY TO STREAMLINE THE HANDICAP PARKING PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, that Ordinance #2026-15 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the October 21, 2026, meeting. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

Ms. Dato asked for clarification regarding the audit to make sure that this is being enforced and what the process is. Acting City Clerk Katie Rose Walenty explained the process.
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COMMENTS:

Mr. Conrad

- Commended Patrolmen Garcia and Shereyka for their outstanding work and congratulated the Chief and Police Department.
- Thanked the Fire Department for its dedication and congratulated members on representing the City at the Wildwood Convention.
- Recognized emergency services and random acts of kindness.

Ms. Dato

- Recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month and emphasized the importance of early detection. Noted that the Police Department is wearing pink in support.
- Encouraged residents without health insurance to seek mammogram assistance through Central Jersey Medical Center or contact the County for available resources.

- Recognized Hispanic Heritage Month and South Amboy's diverse community.
- Announced Tie the City Pink event on October 8 at 3:00 p.m.
- Commended Patrolman Garcia and Shereyka.
- Reminded residents that Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Early voting runs October 24 through November 1 at the Sayreville Senior Center,
- Reminded residents that the deadline to request a mail-in ballot is October 27.

Mr. Reilly

- Congratulated Patrolmen Garcia and Shereyka for their outstanding service.
- Highlighted the First Responders and Food Pantry and encouraged residents to volunteer.
- Announced an acoustic music event at the Arts Center on October 16.
- Promoted an upcoming Middlesex County business summit focused on networking and business development.
- Discussed legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Ivonne Lopez concerning deed fraud and stronger protection against property scams.
- Thanked volunteer firefighters and first responders for their service.
- Shop local.

Mr. Lenahan

- Thank you to our first responders and food pantry volunteers.
- Announced a blood drive on Sunday, October 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Announced the State of the City event scheduled for October 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- Free Rabies Clinic at Enterprise Fire House October 17th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Promoted a self-defense program for seniors at the Senior Center.
- Announced free flu shots through the Middlesex County Health Department on October 22 at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. Proof of county residency is required.
- Reminded residents of early voting hours.

Mr. Gross

- Congratulated the Police Department and thanked officers for their training and dedication.
- Thanked the Fire Department for its service.
- Recognized the upcoming Veterans Day and thanked veterans for their service.
- Encouraged residents to check on senior citizens as colder weather approaches.

Mayor Fred Henry

- Congratulated the Fire Department on representing South Amboy at the Wildwood Convention and thanked volunteers for their time and dedication.
- Congratulated the Police Chief and Police Department.
- Announced that construction of an ADA-accessible ramp at the Police Department will begin soon.

Mr. Kales

- Thanked department heads and staff.

- Thanked Center State Engineering, Katie Rose, Kristal, Dan, and the Police Chief, for their work and dedication on this project for the Police Department accessibility lift, noting that funding is now fully secured.
- Guardrail and signs have been installed at the Broadway parking lot.
- Happy Birthday to Mayor Henry.

Mr. Rainone

- No comments.

Mark Rasimowicz

- No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chris Smiga – South Amboy

- Raised concerns regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Gordon Street and South Broadway.

Stephen Szabo – South Amboy

- Expressed concerns about children riding e-bikes and scooters without helmets, speeding, and failing to stop at intersections.
- Requested additional safety measures, including signage and flashing lights near Broadway.
- Raised concerns about cracked sidewalks and potential hazards for children and pedestrians, particularly during icy weather.

Police Chief Kanecke

- Discussed Police Department outreach at local schools and back-to-school events regarding helmet safety and helping families get access to helmets.

Sandra Reilly – South Amboy

- Thanked the Police Department for enforcement efforts and noted that two additional stop signs had been installed. Concerns regarding speeding on South Pine Avenue were also raised.

Brian McLaughlin – South Amboy

- Wished Mayor Henry a Happy birthday.
- Requested an update regarding the Ryan Homes proposal for Pupek Road.
- Discussed a proposed project labor agreement ordinance and if that can be an option.

Judith Raskoshin – South Amboy

- Shared that children are excited about the October 31 SAYAA/COSA Trunk-or-Treat event and encouraged community participation.

Brianne Rogers – South Amboy TNR

- Thanked the Department of Public Works and Police Department for assisting with animal rescues, including assistance provided by Candace Turner.
- Announced a waterfront cleanup scheduled for October 24 and encouraged volunteers to participate.
- Suggested coordinating with the City for a TNR event, regarding garage space, DPW assistance, and a mass microchipping event.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty
Acting Municipal Clerk
Minutes approved 10-21-2026