MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 21, 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, Councilman Gross

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Business Administrator, David Kales, Mayor Fred A. Henry, Aaron Rainone, Law Director, Mark Herdman, OEM Coordinator, Mike Kelly, Fire Chief and Police Captain

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.
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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: Ms. Dato of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution NO. 26-202 through NO. 26-204 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. 26-202 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT FOR SEWER FEES - CHRISTOPHER MAYER OF MASTER KEY GROUP, LLC

NO. 26-203 PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS – GORDON, VIDAL, DUNDEE

NO. 26-204 LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – ALBACH & JOHNSON

Councilman Reilly commented on Resolution 26-203 and 26-204 asking for a write up/bio on each appointment so there is prior knowledge before voting.
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RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-205
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 October 7, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 26-205 is hereby approved**. SECONDED by: Mr. Lenahan ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

RESOLUTION NO. 26-206
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 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. 26-206 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 2026-14
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

OPEN PUBLIC
CLOSE PUBLIC

Ms. Dato asked for clarification on what is covered under this Ordinance such as athletic fields. Mr. Rainone clarified all its sports fields, Veteran's Plaza and all property.

MOVED by: **Mr. Conrad,** of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2026-14 is hereby adopted. **SECONDED by**: **Ms. Dato. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Dato, Mr. Lenahan, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Gross. All in Favor.**

ADOPTION/SECOND 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

OPEN PUBLIC
CLOSE PUBLIC

Ms. Dato commends Officer Norek and Acting City Clerk Katie Rose Walenty.

MOVED by: Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2026-15 is hereby adopted. **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 2026-16
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 350 MAIN STREET AND 137 AUGUSTA STREET

MOVED by: Mr. Conrad, that Ordinance #2026-16 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the November 4, 2026 meeting. **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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COMMENTS:

Mr. Lenahan

- Thanked first responders and food pantry volunteers for their service.
- Extended condolences to the Noble family on the passing of Michael Noble.
- Announced a Clean Action beach sweep on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Announced the 4-H Haunted House fundraiser for Project Gift, taking place Fridays and Saturdays through Halloween.
- Announced that the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary will place flags for Veterans on November 7.
- Announced a glass-painting event at the Senior Center on November 19, with 15 spots available.
- Encouraged residents to get out and vote.

Mr. Reilly

- Thanked first responders and food pantry volunteers and encouraged residents to volunteer.
- Reminded residents to vote on November 3.
- Wished residents a happy Halloween.
- Announced his participation in a Business Summit in New Brunswick and encouraged residents to read his article in the *South Amboy Times*.
- Announced the Friends of South Amboy Basketball event on December 12 and encouraged community support.
- Secured eight local businesses offering discounts to Veterans.
- Extended condolences to the Noble family.

Ms. Dato

- Praised the day's Lunch and Learn event, featuring a self-defense presentation by the Police Department.
- Highlighted the many programs and activities available to seniors at the Senior Center.
- Reminded residents that Election Day is November 3. Sample ballots were mailed out. Early voting runs from October 24 through November 1, and the deadline to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot is October 27.
- Announced a paper-shredding event on November 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the DPW yard.

Mr. Conrad

- Thanked the Scouts for attending the Council meeting.
- Thanked Chief Kelly for his service and leadership as his tenure approaches its conclusion.

Mr. Gross

- Thanked the Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Office of Emergency Management, and Police Department for their service.
- Recognized the Boy Scouts and encouraged them to appreciate their commitment, their parents' support, and the dedication of their leaders.

Mayor Fred Henry

- Welcomed the Scouts to the Council meeting.
- Extended condolences to the Noble family and Katie Rose.

Mr. Kales

- Reminded residents that Halloween is October 31 and that a curfew will be posted.
- Announced the Halloween parade on October 31, with lineup at Progressive Fire House at 11:00 a.m., followed by Trunk or Treat at the baseball fields.
- Reminded residents that Veterans Day is November 11.

Mr. Rainone

- Expressed appreciation for the Scouts' opportunity to observe local government in action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joseph Szaro – South Amboy

- Thanked the Council for adopting the ordinance addressing animal waste at Veterans Plaza.
- Announced the American Legion's Ruck Walk on November 7 to benefit local food pantries and encouraged residents to participate and donate food.
- Referenced the November 11 Veterans Day observance at Veterans Plaza.
- Announced that Butch Mulvey and Brian McQuade will be honored on November 14.
- Extended condolences to the Noble family.
- Shared information about local businesses offering Veterans discounts and discussed identification options for Veterans who do not have an ID.

Mary Szaro – South Amboy

- Announced a cemetery tour at Christ Church on Main Street this Saturday, with tours at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Joanne Nebetski – South Amboy

- Raised concerns about speeding on North Stevens Avenue near access to Route 35 and asked whether speed bumps or other traffic-calming measures could be considered.

Greg Babilak – South Amboy

- Expressed well wishes to Ms. Dato's husband and Mr. Gross's wife.
- Revisited a question raised in 2025 regarding the number of PILOT agreements.
- Asked whether the elevator at City Hall is operational.
- Raised concerns about the recognition of recently retired DPW employees, noting that previous administrations had reportedly held retirement celebrations and presented watches.
- Discussed past St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshals and expressed support for Councilman Reilly being recognized as a Grand Marshal.

Amy Dundee – South Amboy

- Thanked the Council for her reappointment to the Planning Board.
- Complimented the appearance of the ferry terminal and expressed interest in having a bar or restaurant at the location.

Boy Scouts

- Asked questions regarding the upcoming DPW paper-shredding event and speeding within the City.

Margaret Whitely – South Amboy

- Congratulated Mr. Kales on the birth of his granddaughter.
- Praised the City's efforts to support Veterans and encouraged recognition of active-duty service members.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Ms. Dato, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Rose Walenty
Acting Municipal Clerk
Minutes approved 11-4-2026