



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Carie A. Crone
City Clerk

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**MAY 20, 2010
REGULAR & WORK MEETING
MINUTES**

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

PRAYER – Rev. Janet Gasbarro, Chaplain for AtlanticCare

ROLL CALL

Present: Fishman, Green, Falivene, Vizthum, Gorman, Caterson

Absent: Seher

Also Present: Mayor Elco, Terry Dolan, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Mike Blee

**PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED**

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Green - second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Bern Roswell – 202 Boulder Court – Absecon – the residents of the Visions age-restricted project and he came to air some concerns that he and the other residents have. You had a presentation last meeting from Amboy Bank regarding the age-restrictions in the communities. On May 13th residents received emails from Vince Simonelli, the developer of Visions, which he read. On May 14th at our homeowner’s association meeting we were notified that the bank would be taking over the project within the next 60 days. He did some research after that and found out that Amboy Bank is in not such good shape either. He understands that Amboy presented that they were planning on another presentation for the council and he would like to be notified when that is to take place. The residents who live there not only purchased homes, they purchased a life-style. We are aware of the economic conditions and difficulties in the real estate market, but we also believe they have not developed or marketed properly. We are willing to listen to their proposal. The homeowner’s association has retained William Thompson, Esq. to represent us in this matter. However, Mr. Simonelli refuses to cooperate with the homeowners in recognizing our attorney.

Mike Blee –thank you for your information and keeping us apprised of your concerns. The administration is in frequent discussions with Amboy and Visions. Any information or questions you should speak to Mr. Dolan.

June Dutch – 120 Hobart Ave. – I don't live at Visions but I feel for them and I am a citizen of Absecon. She wanted to know if this was going to be done through the City Planner?

Lynn – our request to them was to put their ideas in writing and one of the key people to review it would be our city planner, Stuart Wisner. We need to keep everybody aware of everything and keep talking to each other.

June – her fear is what could happen down the road and it could lead to many things other than Visions, which naturally we would all be affected.

Motion to close public – Councilwoman Gorman – second – Councilman Vizthum
All were in favor.

WORK MEETING AGENDA

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS LISTED BELOW ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND MAY BE ACTED UPON AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL.

2010 ORDINANCES

- 06** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 282-Sewers, Article IX-Rates, Section 49, Sewer charges and Section 51, Payment of sewer charges; changes in charges. **HELD OVER**

Referred to Fred and his committee to review

- 07** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 330-Vehicles and Traffic, Section 330-31, No Stopping or Standing. **HELD OVER**

Lynn - wants everyone to drive Rt. 9 before considering this ordinance. It is a request from the State.
Chief Cowan – believes this started in 2007

2010 RESOLUTIONS

Lynn: May I hear a motion to add Resolution 93-2010 – Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the contract to pave Shady Lane in the City of Absecon to the Work Session Agenda?
Motion made by Councilman Fishman – second – Councilman Green
All were in favor.

- 87** Authorizing the release of Escrow funds posted by Brian Mills for Block 232, Lot 15. **MOVED**
- 88** Granting a 50-50 License to the Absecon Education Foundation. **MOVED**
- 89** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2010 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$14,355.20 from the State of New Jersey Clean Communities. **MOVED**
- 90** Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2010 Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$1,134.87 from the State of New Jersey Body Armor Fund. **MOVED**
- 91** Authorizing the acceptance of, and when authorized, the release of various street opening permit security deposits. **MOVED**
- 92** Appointing one full time tele-communitcator, namely Timothy Ruggeri. **MOVED**

93 Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the contract to pave Shady Lane in the City of Absecon. **MOVED**

Fred – there was a tree impeding on the road and we put in a metal plate and it's not coming out of our city budget but the funds from the state grant that we received to do Turner Ave. and Shady Lane.

REGULAR MEETING

ORDINANCES

05 Establishing salary ranges for the City of Absecon.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Green – second – Councilman Fishman

ROLL CALL: Fishman, yes; Green, yes; Falivene, yes; Vizthum, yes; Gorman, yes; Caterson, yes

Motion to open to public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Gorman

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Fishman – second – Councilman Green

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilwoman Gorman – second – Councilman Falivene

ROLL CALL: Fishman, yes; Green, yes; Falivene, yes; Vizthum, yes; Gorman, yes; Caterson, yes

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to move consent agenda consisting of Res. #87 to #93 made by Councilman Fishman - second - Councilman Falivene

ROLL CALL: Fishman, yes; Green, yes; Falivene, yes; Vizthum, yes; Gorman, yes; Caterson, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST- \$1,479,151.37

Motion to accept – Councilwoman Gorman – second – Councilman Falivene

ROLL CALL: Fishman, yes; Green, yes; Falivene, yes; Vizthum, yes; Gorman, yes; Caterson, yes

MONTHLY REPORTS - Carie

Tax Collection - \$2,981,131.43

Court – \$10,399.83

Construction - \$8,408.00

Clerk's Office - \$6,933.00

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 4/8/10 and 4/22/10

Closed Session as to form and content only – 4/8/10

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Gorman – second – Councilman Green

ROLL CALL: Fishman, yes; Green, abstain 4/8/10 yes on other; Falivene, yes; Vizthum, abstain 4/8/10 yes on other; Gorman, yes; Caterson, yes

REPORTS

Mayor - with the 2.5 cap it is important we look ahead and what it may do to the budget next year. He asked Terry to start working on a spreadsheet of sorts to give us an idea of what areas go up each year. Has heard concerns from residents around town, dealing with cars and other vehicles being parked on front lawns. We might want to address this in an ordinance fashion. At this time we don't have one that prohibits that.

Lynn – asked Bobbie and her community affairs group to look into it.

Mayor – the center island strip from on NJ Ave. from Mill to Morton still needs to be done and we have some different ideas. He is asking to the community for volunteers to serve on this beautification project. This is going to be costly and will have to come from outside sources. As to the 2005 Master Plan transit village concept and the overlay district, he asked Jim Vizthum to begin working with him to generate interest and more creative ways. He asked Chief Cowan to speak on the 800 radios.

Chief - County operates our current radio system and what we have is coming to the end of their life. They have a plan to start upgrading the system over a couple of years. The first phase of this plan would start in 2012 and 2013. That phase we are okay but the next phase in 2014 is where it will start to hurt us due to the technology that has changed and they want to plan a system that will take us 20-25 years out. The current radios we use county wide will not work on the new system. The estimated cost at current market value for Absecon to replace the radios is \$500,000. Some grant money may be available at the county level for some of the upgrades, not all of it. He asked the county to come make a presentation to each municipality due to the significant expense.

Lynn – how can you raise funds like that with a 2.5 cent cap?

Terry – thinks your debt service is excluded from the cost of the cap. However, I feel if it's the county's idea to change them, then they should raise the funds to pay. They can raise \$5 million with one cent. If you want me to go to the county and say this, I am more than willing to do this.

Oscar Dutch, Jr. – 120 Hobart Ave. – was at the meeting with Joe and some of the radios might be able to be updated maybe not. He read an article about Phoenix who spent \$21 million to go to 800 mgh and now have gone back to VHF on the fire ground. In the fire service, we will need one analog. We can make digital work. There has to be more meetings to iron all these things out. The fire dept. isn't hurting as bad as the police dept. since we still have our old radios so we use them when we go out of town.

Drew – commended on how our fields look. Concerts start 6/27 and schedules should be out soon. Explained a new small business incentive for employees. Still trying to get Comcast in.

Fred – discussed drainage problems around the city and we have some solutions and will see if they will work and possibly they will take place in June. We spent a lot of time with the new ordinance for the sewer bill and late fees. Should be ready soon to discuss. Mon. 6/7 meeting he will discuss areas where a lot of residents are having water problems but they have to understand that the water table is very high.

Jerry – echoed the Mayor's comments on the budget. Usually after we adopt the budget, we are done and wait for the next year. This year the budget process will not end and it will happen all year long. We need to see where our monies are going. There will be no juggling or moving around of monies to make anything work. It was cut to the bone. We do have problems that need to be addressed especially with police overtime. We will be trying to correct it.

Jim – we will be having a downtown meeting – one day and one night one. Will have dates soon.

Bobbie – the senior center on 5/25 AtlanticCare is giving a presentation from 11-12 on strokes. Also announced upcoming events.

Lynn – still working on getting council photo done. Talked about a "walk score" program and a healthy eating program being done in the 8th grade.

Terry – no report

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open –Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Fishman
All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close – Councilman Green – second – Councilman Falivene
All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilwoman Gorman - second – Councilman Falivene
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carie A. Crone, Clerk

Approved: _____