

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 20, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by City Clerk, Deborah Brooks at 7:00 P.M. The City Clerk read the Opening Prayer, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Dato, Councilman Conrad, Councilman McLaughlin, Councilman Reilly and Council President Gross.

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Brooks, City Clerk, David Kales, BA, Mayor Henry, Dan Balka, CFO, Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer and Kevin McManimon, Esq.

The Clerk read the Certification of Meeting Notice.

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**RESOLUTION 24-073**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY RATIFYING A CONTRACT WITH POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH MATARANGOLO**

**WHEREAS;** the City of South Amboy (“the City”) has previously recognized the need for a contractual agreement between the Chief of Police and the City; and

**WHEREAS,** the Business Administrator representing the City and Police Chief Matarangolo have agreed to terms and conditions for a new Contract covering the period retroactive from February 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS,** the Business Administrator has reviewed the Contract with the Mayor and hereby recommends to the Governing Body ratification of the attached contractual agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024, the City Council of the City of South Amboy hereby approves the Contract with Police Chief Joseph Matarangolo, for the period February 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** a copy of this Resolution along with the Executed Agreement be forwarded to Police Chief Joseph Matarangolo.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-073 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Reilly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**POLICE OFFICER SWEARING IN: Chief Joseph Matarangolo – Mayor Henry swore in Chief Matarangolo in the presence of family and friends. There was a ten minute break for pictures.**

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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.

President Gross pulled Resolutions 24-077 and 24-080 from the consent agenda.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolutions NO. 24-074,24-075,24-076,24-078 and 24-079 are hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad.  
**ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Resolution No. 24-077 was approved. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Conrad, Dato, McLaughlin, Reilly Abstain: Gross

On motion by Mr. McLaughlin, and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Resolution No. 24-080 was approved. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Conrad, McLaughlin, Reilly, Gross Abstain: Dato

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NO. 24-074 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE CASH BOND TO COLFER -PB#434-22

NO. 24-075 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE CASH BOND TO BRIAN D. MCGUINNESS -PB#414-20

NO. 24-076 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO ON-SITE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

NO. 24-077 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEPT. OF PLANNING DIV. OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 2024 MUNICIPAL RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

NO. 24-078 TAX REFUND ON OVERPAYMENT – CORELOGIC – 242 SECOND ST.

NO. 24-079 RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

NO. 24-080 CITY AND SARA INTERLOCAL SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT

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**RESOLUTION NO. 24-081**  
**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 March 6, 2024 Council Meeting.

**MOVED by:** Mr. Conrad of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Resolution No. 24-081 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Ms. Dato **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-082**  
**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 March 14, 2024, 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. 24-082 is hereby approved. **SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

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**ORDINANCE**

**INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-06**

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 –252 Henry St.

**MOVED by:** Mr. McLaughlin, that Ordinance #2024-06 be introduced on first reading and advertised for second reading which is scheduled for the April 17, 2024 meeting.

**SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad, **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

**ADOPTION/SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-05**

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 –ADDITION OF HANDICAP SPACE – 12 BERTRAM AVE.

**OPEN PUBLIC – no comment**

**CLOSE PUBLIC**

**MOVED by:** Ms. Dato, of the Council of the City of South Amboy, that Ordinance #2024-05 is hereby adopted.

**SECONDED by:** Mr. Conrad **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor.**

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**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reilly:

- Thanked the first responders and food pantry volunteers for their continued good work.
- Reminded everyone that government week will be celebrated at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be an open house from 4-7 at Independence Fire House, a mock Council Session at 6pm by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Government Club, announcement of the essay winners and acknowledgement of some volunteers at the regular 7pm meeting.
- Congratulated Mr. Gross on doing a great job with the parade.
- Reported he had attended the demonstration of the new mechanized stretcher – it is very impressive and will be a great aid to the volunteers. He noted that he had been

told there are 8 to 10 new volunteers and also requested the administration look not the purchase of a chair lift which had also been demonstrated.

- Congratulated the new Chief of Police Matarangolo and thanked the newly retired Chief LaVigne for all the great work he had done over the years.
- Reported the program "Dial 211" was available as a health and human services resource.

Mr. McLaughlin:

- Thanked the first responders and told Mr. Herdman he hoped there would be no more cold weather to deal with!
- Congratulated Chief Matarangolo
- Noted a resident of the City had asked him to find out what type of questions the Council could not discuss with the public. Mr. Gross and Mr. McManimon both agreed that personnel, legal, and political questions could not be addressed by the Council.
- Requested a committee be set up to address the new State training requirements for the fire department volunteers, apparently they are extremely stringent.

Mr. Conrad:

- Congratulated Mr. Gross on being honored as Grand Marshal.
- Congratulated the new Chief of Police and thanked Chief LaVigne for his past service.
- Noted the excellence of our first aid and volunteers was evident as the streets were kept safe during the parade.
- Thanked the food pantry volunteers and encouraged anyone in need to reach out.
- Wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Ms. Dato:

- Echoed the other Council members in congratulated the new Chief of Police and thanking Chief LaVigne for his past service.
- Congratulated Grand Marshal Gross and Deputy Grand Marshal Lopez on the success of another great parade. She thanked the Parade Committee and volunteers.
- Reported the reinstatement of the "Barbershop Literary Corner" and thanked Rico Vasquez for allowing the book corner to be put back in his shop and hoped this would promote local literacy and help kids get excited about reading.
- Reported another successful Lunch and Learn today, the topic was health eating.
- Reported Rep. Frank Pallone has secured \$800,000 for the Ferry project. This money will go toward shoring up bulkheads, environmental clean-up, parking and a pavilion.

Mr. Gross:

- Congratulated Chief Matarangolo on his promotion and thanked newly retired Chief LaVigne for his past service.
- Noted it is the Parade Committee that deserves all the credit for the success of the Parade, especially Mr. Herdman, OEM, the Police and Fire Departments, and first aid volunteers.
- Noted the Budget public hearing is coming up at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and he is pleased to see that swimming lessons for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders is in the budget.
- Reported the draft of the TNR Ordinance is in the hands of Mr. Womack, City Attorney.

Mayor Henry:

- Congratulated new Chief of Police Matarangolo and thanked outgoing Chief LaVigne for his many years of service.
- Thanked the Parade Committee for putting together a great day with special thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid, OEM and DPW.
- Congratulated Mr. Gross on being the Grand Marshal noting it was a long time coming.

- Reported he had been in attendance at the stretcher and chair lift demonstration and in his mind, the chair lift may be of more importance than the stretcher in aiding the volunteers and is looking forward to it's procurement.

Mr. Kales:

- Reported the closing for the property at 119 Broadway is March 28<sup>th</sup> and that Mr. Rasimowicz is working on getting the demolition bid ready.
- Noted that he had attended the Parade and had been happy to see how many families and children had been in attendance and thanked Mr. Herdman and the OEM for their amazing support.
- Confirmed that Auditor Gary Higgins, Dan Balka, CFO and he will be at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to answer any questions on the budget.
- Confirmed that the TNR Ordinance was in the hands of Mr. Womack.

Mr. Rasimowicz noted that work was beginning on the 4<sup>th</sup> St., Potter and Thompson project and cautioned everyone to drive safely in the area.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ruth, 111 N. Pine, wondered why the City Planners made it unsafe for the children to walk around the City. BA Kales directed her to speak with Capt. McCabe after the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brooks  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved April 3, 2024