

MINUTES
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
REORGANIZATION
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
JANUARY 2, 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Reorganization Meeting of the Perth Amboy Municipal Council was held on January 2, 2015 at the Public Safety Municipal Complex Auditorium, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy at 1:00 P.M.

Acting Presiding Officer of the Council, Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk, advised the audience that notice of this meeting has been filed with the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger, The Amboy Beacon and posted on the bulletin board in the City Clerk's office and on the City's website, indicating that today's meeting is being held in the Public Safety Municipal Complex Auditorium, at 1:00 p.m.

Acting Presiding Officer of the Council, Elaine M. Jasko: At this time, as a courtesy to the Governing Body, I would ask all individuals present, including members of the audience, to please turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices. Should you need to make a telephone call, please go out into the hallway and speak in a low voice so as not to disturb the ongoing meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Acting Presiding Officer of the Council, Elaine M. Jasko with the following Council Members present: Fernando Gonzalez, Fernando Irizarry, Lisa Nanton, Joel Pabon, Sr. and William Petrick.

Also at this meeting were: Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator; Mark Blunda, Esq., Director of Law and Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk.

NOMINATION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Elaine M. Jasko asked for a nomination for the position of Council President.

Motion was made by Council Member Pabon, seconded by Council Member Petrick to nominate Council Member Lisa Nanton for the position of Council President and was carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Nanton, Pabon and Petrick. Nay—none.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council President Nanton.

Judge Pedro Jimenez, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Council Members Gonzalez and Pabon.

Judge George M. Boyd administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Petrick.

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT – Citizens may address the Council on any matter on the agenda which does not have its own scheduled public hearing. Citizens shall be permitted to speak once for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

RESOLUTIONS

R-1-1/15 Adopting council meeting dates, times and location.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Pabon to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Pabon, Petrick and Nanton. Nay—none.

R-2-1/15 Adopting the official newspapers for legal notices.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Pabon to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Pabon, Petrick and Nanton. Nay—none.

R-3-1/15 Authorizing temporary budget appropriations for CY 2015.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Pabon to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Irizarry, Pabon, Petrick and Nanton. Nay—none. Abstain—Council Member Gonzalez.

R-4-1/15 Authorizing transfer of CY 2014 Budget Appropriation Reserves in the amount of \$750,000.00.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Pabon to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments.

Stan Sierakowski, 679 Charles Street: Is the transfer in the 2014 budget?

Jill Goldy, CFO/Comptroller: This is for insurance monies transferred within the insurance account category.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Pabon, Petrick and Nanton. Nay—none.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk, certifying the results of the Perth Amboy Municipal Election held on November 4, 2014. (12/10/14)**

**PUBLIC PORTION
(5 MINUTES MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER)**

Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez, 758 Convery Boulevard: Please consider making Perth Amboy a partisan town. No one is afraid of changing the election. People should not be harassed for the way they voted in the last municipal election.

David Caba, 159 Lewis Street: We need to move forward after the election. I hope this Council moves forward. I wonder why Mr. Pabon decided not to continue being Council President even though he was the top vote getter in the election.

Ken Balut, 359 Bruck Avenue: Police officers were promoted and the promotions were done in the closet.

Council Member Pabon: There will be a ceremony for them in the future.

Ken Balut: MCIA is part of the reason we had a financial problem and why our bonding was bad. Our state/county politicians want to run this town. The County paid way too much money for the Washington Street Park.

Iris Rodriguez, 335 Fayette Street: I still have issues with parking in the Fayette Street area. We should have residential parking for the 7 pm – 7 am period. Can a police officer working off duty use a city police car? I will continue complaining about this parking situation.

Bob Sottilaro, 722 Gornik Drive: Acknowledgement should go to Ms. Goldy and Mr. Fehrenbach for making our bonding rates better. Council Members should deliberate with conscience and not politics.

Virginal Lugo, 316 State Street: Our credit rating has gotten better but we need to look at our budget and tax base. Many people are losing their homes. We have a huge unemployment rate in the City. We need to create jobs. The youth don't have jobs. We have a homelessness issue in the City.

JoAnn Jimenez, Assessor: The average taxes for a one family home are \$7,400.00.

Alan Silber, 244 Rector Street: I appreciate the way Joel Pabon ran a meeting. I hope Ms. Nanton continues running the meeting the same way. We should eliminate all the democrats/republicans. At this last election much of the money came from politicians from out of our county. We should put a push on the library completion.

Stan Sierakowski, 679 Charles Street: Our Police Chief was arrested for theft of services. The Business Administrator recommended his suspension over 6 months ago. The Mayor kept him on. The Mayor has no integrity. Three or four years ago, the Tax Assessor gave reductions to homeowners. The third section of town received less money than the other 2 sections.

Rabbi Ari Saks, 325 Rector Street: I was at the recent Police Department swearing in and there will be a ceremonial swearing in in the future. How do you define unity?

Council President Nanton: We'll work on a response for you rabbi.

Bernadette Falcon-Lopez, 654 Jacques Street: I work on the food coalition. There are feedings throughout the City, throughout the year.

Gregory Pabon, 437 Ashley Street: Everyone should speak their mind. Council Members should vote their conscience. Do not feel intimidated.

Wilfredo Soto, 202 Hidden Village Drive: I thank all city employees for the work they do. Many of the banks caused problems for the homeowner when they refinanced and caused the foreclosures of many homes in the City.

Mayor Wilda Diaz: I congratulate Lisa Nanton as the new Council President and also Joel Pabon as the previous president. All residential properties in the City of Perth Amboy were adjusted. I thank all the agencies that help our homeless. I inform the Council of all decisions. I respect all city employees, they are my co-workers. We will have a police appointment promotion ceremony in the future. There should be no apologies for people who support candidates.

Lisa Ferreira, 394 Bruck Avenue: I thank you for the sign being put up on my street. The politicians that come into this town should not take sides. They should treat everyone equally. I welcome the politicians coming into this town. We need to see some of the parks rehabilitated.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

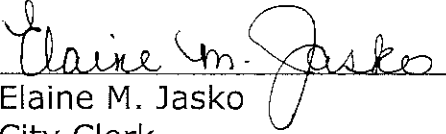
Council Member Pabon: There were no deals made for the Council Presidency. I believe in equal opportunity for the Council Presidency. I believe Lisa Nanton will do a great job as President. I agree we need to see completion of some of the parks.


Council Member Gonzalez: The Rt. 35 bridge really needs to be followed up on. This will be a priority for me.

Council President Nanton: I thank the Council for its support in electing me as President. This Council has worked as a team. We decided we would rotate the Presidency.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Irizarry to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 pm and was carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Pabon, Petrick and Nanton. Nay—none.


Elaine M. Jasko
City Clerk


Lisa Nanton
Council President

