



MINUTES
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
INAUGURATION-REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 3, 2013
PERTH AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

NOTICE OF MEETING

Acting Presiding Officer of the Council, Elaine M. Jasko, wishes to advise the audience that notice of this meeting has been filed with the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger and posted on the bulletin board in the City Clerk's office, indicating that today's meeting is being held at the Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Avenue, Perth Amboy at 6:00 P.M.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to select a Council President and to consider Resolutions relative to the reorganization of the City Council.

NOMINATION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk: May I have a nomination for consideration for the position of Council President.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Nanton to nominate Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez for the position of Council President.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: While I am honored with the nomination and support by my fellow members of the Council, I am going to decline at this time. I do not do this lightly. In all candor, I had seriously considered accepting the nomination. However, there are a small vocal number of citizens who have been attempting to malign my character and the character of my family. It's important to me that the work of this City Council be first and foremost in the minds of the public and that Perth Amboy continue to move its agenda forward. While I intend to continue arguing with these individuals, if necessary, at Council Meetings in the future, I do not think as the President of the City Council, I will service my City well allowing these people to focus their ill ways and inappropriate personal attacks on my character. With

this in mind, I can honestly say any of my fellow Council Members will serve as an outstanding presiding officer. While each of the five Council Members are outstanding leaders, there can only be one presiding officer. With that in mind, I respectfully nominate my friend, Joel Pabon to serve as Council President.

Council Member Petrick seconded the nomination of Joel Pabon as Council President.

The nomination carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Elaine M. Jasko swore in Joel Pabon as the Council President.

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 ten (10) minutes.

Communication #1

Stanley Sierakowski, 679 Charles St.: Only 20% of the voters voted in this election. I disagree that the number of registered voters is 24,253. The Mayor won with only 35% of the vote. This is a city on the decline.

Wilfredo Soto, 202 Hidden Village Dr.: The reason for so few people coming out to vote in November was because of Storm Sandy. Many people made the effort, but many people just couldn't come out and vote. We can't say the number of voters declined.

RESOLUTIONS

R-1-1/13 Authorizing a contract for professional services with Government Management Advisors, LLC for Business Administrator to be held by Gregory C. Fehrenbach.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Nanton 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, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

R-2-1/13 Consenting to the appointment of Mark J. Blunda as Director of the Department of Law and waiving the residency requirement.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Irizarry 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, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

R-3-1/13 Adopting council meeting dates and locations.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Irizarry 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, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

R-4-1/13 Adopting the official newspapers for legal notices.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Irizarry 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, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

R-5-1/13 Authorizing temporary budget appropriations for CY 2013.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez 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, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk, certifying the results of the Perth Amboy Municipal Election held on November 6, 2012. (12/7/12)**

PUBLIC PORTION (5 MINUTES MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER)

Stanley Sierakowski, 679 Charles St.: The Cities of Paterson and Camden are on the river and are in the state of decline, so is the City of Perth Amboy. Perth Amboy is going in the wrong direction. The City will stagnate and decline in the future. The Mayor doesn't have a clue on how to revitalize a city. Mr. Blunda should continue to investigate the grants that were given to city employees in the past. Has the Prosecutor's office been in contact with the City regarding the conduct of the Police Chief?

Mark Blunda: Yes. I prepared a report and circulated it today. He asked for a copy of my report and I will provide it to him.

Maria Garcia, 124 Kearny Ave.: Congratulations to the new Council Members and the new President. Citizens should volunteer to serve on city boards and try to make the city a better place. This City has great potential.

Reinaldo Aviles, 16 Harbor Terr.: I am happy that everyone spoke about Perth Amboy in their speeches tonight. We love this town. We all need to work together to make Perth Amboy better. We, in this town, are blessed. We will continue to move this City forward.

Greg Ficarra, Councilman, Woodbridge, NJ: I just want to offer my congratulations to everyone. I will offer to work with everyone.

Dorothy Carty-Daniel, 277 Water St.: The negative energy at the Council Meetings have prevented me from attending the meetings. Please learn what the Faulkner Act entails. I would request that Joel read the decorum at each meeting into the record.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Irizarry: I believe we have the power of death or life. If we say this City will decline, that's what's going to happen. If we say it's going to transform and rise up, that's what is going to happen. I'm choosing to say that this City will be transformed. I'm choosing to say this City will not decline. I respect everyone's opinion, but I believe this City will be turned around.

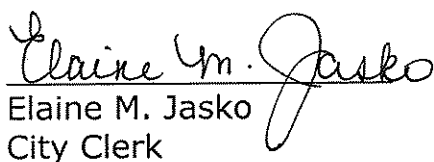
Council Member Gonzalez: Perth Amboy has great potential but everyone has to use positive energy to move forward. There are optimists that choose to see the glass half full and see the opportunities and there are people that choose to see inadequacies. Even though there are some of us that are optimists, we admit that Perth Amboy is not perfect. We do not live in a utopia, but that's where we have to use positive energy.

Council Member Petrick: I congratulate Lisa, Fernando and Joel. I also congratulate Ken Gonzalez for making the decision he made for the good of the City.

Council President Pabon: Moving the Municipal Election to November was a good move. All the candidates that ran knew that there would only be one winner. The process was good. We had more voter participation. I welcome our residents to come to Council Meetings and to present us with good ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm, and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Gonzalez, Irizarry, Nanton, Petrick and Pabon. Nay--none. Absent--none.


Elaine M. Jasko
City Clerk

