

Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Garrett presiding. Council members present were Emily Kennedy (Ward 1), Jim Behrens (Ward 2), Mike McDermott (Ward 3), Shawn Sarsfield (Ward 4), Dana Halder (Ward 5), Gerald Brink (At-Large), and Elaine Otte (At-Large). Absent: None.

Also present: City Administrator John Lund, City Engineer Dave Sturm, Atlantic Municipal Utilities General Manager Steve Tjepkes.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by McDermott to approve agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion passed.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Behrens; second by Brink to approve consent agenda as follows:
Minutes of November 20, 2024, City Council Meeting.
Bills: \$136,735.02

All ayes. Motion passed.

Public Forum. Dan Haynes, Executive Director of the YMCA, addressed the Council about the bond to build the City's recreation center being paid off this year and with a request that the LOST allocation be continued according to the original referendum.

Motion by Otte; second by Halder to approve Pay Application #3 to the Henley Group, LLC for the Sunnyside Park Splashpad Project in the amount of \$141,909.88. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by McDermott; second by Sarsfield to approve **Resolution #59-24 "Approval of the CY 2025 Budget for Atlantic Municipal Utilities."**

Steve Tjepkes provided an overview of the AMU budget and upcoming plans. Electricity rates have not changed in nine years; however, they will increase by an average of 5% beginning on February 1, 2025. AMU anticipates capital expenses upgrading old equipment and working with the Ethanol Plant to expand the capacity of their substation.

Tjepkes stated that AMU has received the National Excellence in Reliability award for average electric service availability rate exceeding 99.9%. Out of 181 electric utilities in Iowa, AMU's rates are the 2nd lowest, averaging 7.16¢/kWh. He attributes this to AMU's ownership of the coal plant and of the means of transmission.

Water rates will increase next year by 10%. AMU will request bids to replace the 300,000-gallon underground storage tank with a 600,000-gallon above-ground tank for treated water. The estimated cost is \$1.5M, of which \$500,000 will come from a new CDBG grant and the rest from AMU's reserve fund.

Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Halder to approve the **Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1047 "Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlantic Iowa, By Amending Provisions Pertaining to All-Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles."** Sarsfield noted that in this ordinance, UTVs will be permitted in town year-round. Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan for the Southeast Urban Renewal District. Hearing opened at 5:48 pm. There were no comments. Motion by McDermott; second by Halder to close the public hearing. All ayes. Motion passed. Hearing closed at 5:49 pm.

Motion by Halder; second by Behrens to approve **Resolution #60-24 "Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Southeast Urban Renewal District."** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Brink; second by Sarsfield to approve **Resolution #61-24 "Setting a Date of Meeting at Which it is Proposed to Approve a Development Agreement with Vision Atlantic, Inc., Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments."** The date of the meeting was set for December 18, 2024. Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Brink; second by Halder to approve the FY24 Annual Financial Report. Lund commented that he was very pleased with the numbers. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by Behrens; second by McDermott to approve the Street Closure Request for the Lighted Parade on December 7, 2024. All ayes. Motion passed.

Administrator's Report. Lund reminded the Council that budgeting for FY26 will be the focus of work for the next several weeks. Council decided to hold a workshop reviewing the results of the city-wide listening sessions after their regular meeting on December 18, 2024.

Mayor's Report. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend the City's Lighted Parade and associated festivities on December 7. The Festival of Trees, beginning on December 5, has a new location this year.

Three volunteer firefighters--Wayne Brosam (27 years of service), Richard Smith (32 years), and Russell Peck (38 years)--and one career firefighter, John Johnson (44 years), are all retiring this year. The mayor acknowledged and thanked them for their service. Firefighter applications are available at the station.

City Council Reports.

- Otte: Attended Personnel & Finance Committee; check-in meeting with new City Clerk; Ward 3 listening session.
- Kennedy: Attended AMU meeting; Ward 3 listening session.
- Behrens: Attended the Public Safety Committee; substituted at the YMCA meeting.
- McDermott: Attended the Ward 3 listening session.
- Sarsfield: Attended the Public Safety Committee; the second meeting of the Sidewalk Committee, where they are working on a proposed ordinance.
- Halder: Attended the Landfill Committee meeting where they are finalizing their handbook. Winter hours have begun, so they will be open only the first Saturday of the month.
- Brink: Attended the Landfill Committee meeting.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.

Motion by Behrens; second by Halder to adjourn at 6:02 pm. All ayes. Motion passed.

Grace N. Garrett, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Laura McLean, City Clerk