

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: Administrator John Lund, Clerk Laura McLean.

Motion by McDermott; second by Sarsfield to approve agenda as amended to remove Resolution #10-25. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brink; second by Behrens to approve consent agenda as follows:
Minutes of January 29, 2025 City Council Budget Work Session.
Minutes of February 5, 2025, City Council Meeting.
Minutes of February 11, 2025 City Council Budget Work Session.
Bills: \$151,101.87.

Public Forum. There were no speakers.

Recognition of Michael Hocamp for Attaining the Rank of Eagle Scout.

Michael Hocamp has earned fifty merit badges and is well known throughout town for many years of high popcorn sales. His Eagle Scout project was to build a dock at Lake Icaria.

Recognition of Diane McFadden for 36 Years of Service at the Atlantic Public Library.

Diane McFadden started her career in 1989. She has multiple responsibilities in adult services, using her creativity and excellent customer service skills to serve Atlantic library customers.

Recognition of Sondra Marnin for 10 Years of Service at the Atlantic Public Library.

Sondra Marnin began at the library as a part-time clerk and has worked her way to youth services assistant, coming to work with a smile every day.

Presentation by Police Chief Devin Hogue on Leveraging Technology to Sustain a Safe Community.

Chief Hogue has been working with AMU, Motorola, and Nishnanet to combat the problem of criminals coming from outside town, committing theft, and heading out immediately. It is hard to track them down in those circumstances. Motorola sells specialized cameras which will capture pictures of the license plates of each car that passes. These cameras have enabled other police forces in Iowa to solve crimes; reduce crime through deterrence; and offer assistance to neighboring communities. Motorola would provide six cameras with a five year lease and service contract, to be positioned at the entry and exit points to town. AMU will allow cameras to be placed on poles and access power. Nishnanet has been providing advice and technological expertise. He mentioned that another potential benefit is to gather traffic data to use in attracting businesses to town.

Motion by McDermott; second by Sarsfield to approve **the Third & Final Reading of Ordinance No. 1049 "An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlantic, Iowa, by Amending Chapter 165, Zoning Regulations."** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Behrens; second by Halder to approve **Resolution #08-25 “Setting a Public Hearing for the Proposed Maximum Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2026 to be Held on March 26, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.”** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Brink; second by Halder to approve **Resolution #09-25 “Approving the Proposed Maximum Property Tax Levy for FY 2026.”** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Behrens; second by McDermott to approve **Resolution #11-25 “Resolution Setting the Date for Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter into a General Obligation Solid Waste Management Loan Agreement and to Borrow Money Thereunder in a Principal Amount not to exceed \$90,000.”** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Motion by Brink; second by Sarsfield to approve **Resolution #12-25 “Resolution Setting the Date for Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter into a General Obligation Loan Agreement and to Borrow Money Thereunder.”** Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Administrator's Report.

Lund reported that he has invested time analyzing the City's debt obligations up to twenty years in the future. During FY24 he had estimated the City would need to take a \$6M bond in FY28; based on interest rates now and other obligations, the cost of that bond would be nearly \$9.5M. By paying solely interest for the first two years of the repayment period, the debt could be managed with only a minimal increase in the debt service levy. There will probably need to be another bond series in 2032 but it is too soon to anticipate an amount for that as it would depend on a future streets condition inventory.

Making projections on employee benefits for the next ten years is the next project. Traditionally Lund has used assumptions of increases around 5% each year, but over the past eight years, the average increase for members in our insurance pool has been 8.94% so he will begin using that number.

The City Clerk will be entering budget numbers into the Department of Management website in March, to be finalized for the early April deadline.

Dan Haynes sent the last two audits for the Nishna Valley YMCA for the Council's review.

Mayor's Report.

The mayor and several others met with Iowa State students via Zoom in a preliminary meeting for the Bull Creek project. Students will come to Atlantic on March 3rd to see the area and hear more about concerns and goals.

The mayor reminds everyone to try to keep cars off the street during snow season for plows and first responders and that residents and business owners are responsible to clear snow off their sidewalks.

City Council Reports.

Meetings attended included:

- Brink: PFC;
- Sarsfield: Airport Commission, P&FC;
- McDermott: Library Board;
- Kennedy: AMU Board;
- Otte: Iowa Finance Authority, learning about Iowa Profiles dashboards--plenty of accessible, up-to-date data with future projections; United First Aid brainstorming meeting on rural emergency health care; PFC which looked at debt bonds, LOST allocations, and setting goals for the committee; Mayors' Design Group.

Order to Enter Exempt Session Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) Providing for the Strategy Meetings of Public Employers for Collective Bargaining.

Motion by Sarsfield to enter exempt session at 6:19 pm; second by Kennedy. All ayes: motion carried.

Motion by Behrens; second by McDermott to close exempt session at 6:27 pm. All ayes: motion carried.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Halder to move into open session. All ayes: motion carried.

Other Discussion:

Council members have been hearing concerns about fireworks in the City, both for Independence Day and at various holidays and events throughout the year. Many residents are concerned for their children and pets as fireworks grow larger and more accessible.

Kennedy spoke to officials at AMU about the City adding a fee for trash pickup to the AMU bills. They could do it at no charge, though there are some concerns with residents getting billed for multiple charges on the same bill. Also noted: many residents don't pay for trash pickup or need it and will resist a fee.

Behrens mentioned the challenge of City snow removal when so many cars are parked on the streets.

The next regular City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025.

Motion by Brink; second by Kennedy to adjourn at 7:00 pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Grace N. Garrett, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Laura McLean, City Clerk