

CITY OF ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 pm, July 16, 2025

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

Motion by McDermott; second by Halder to approve agenda as amended. All ayes: motion passed. Motion by Brink; second by Sarsfield to approve consent agenda:

- Minutes of the July 2, 2025, City Council Meeting.
- Bills: \$295,352.23 All ayes: motion passed.

Public Forum.

Rusia Salapa, Manager of El Dorado rentals, received a mowing abatement notice for one of her rental properties. She said the tenant had been mowing and she had loaned him a mower many times. The tenant also spoke and said he had not been mowing, and she only brought him a mower once.

Steve Fletcher deferred to speak later in the agenda.

Jason O'Brien asked permission to move the Cass County Fair fireworks show to a new location on city-owned property at Sunnyside Park, between the tennis courts and the softball field.

The Mayor said she had received a note from the Fire Chief that the originally planned location wasn't going to work, and that the biggest concerns about this show were the impact on animals; the potential for children to wander in the area; and who would provide insurance. O'Brien said the Fair Board, who hired him, said the animals should be put away by the time the show starts around 8:45 pm and that they would handle the insurance. O'Brien said he would adjust his location based on the wind to try to keep embers off the tennis courts and splashpad and out of the pool.

The Council agreed by consent with the stipulation that the Fair Board would provide a copy of the insurance certificate to the City.

Update Regarding New Laws Relating to Fireworks.

Lund reported that he had done research into whether the City has authority to limit the size of fireworks sold and the hours of sales and the guidance he received was that the state legislature's intent was to prevent any local restrictions on sales of fireworks.

It might be possible to adjust zoning laws locally, but Lund said if the intent was to restrict fireworks sales, state law would overrule the City.

McDermott asked Steve Fletcher if he wanted to address the Council. Fletcher talked about the debris around his neighborhood from people setting off fireworks and not cleaning up afterward. He was also concerned that if fireworks were to cause damage to his property, it would be his own insurance that would pay.

Motion by Halder; second by McDermott to approve SECOND READING OF [ORDINANCE NO. 1060](#) "AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION

70.03 'PARKING VIOLATIONS: ALTERNATE.'" Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Halder; second by Otte to approve [RESOLUTION #53-25](#) "ASSESSING UNPAID FEES AND COSTS TO PROPERTY TAXES." Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Review of the Contract & Bonds for the 2025 Concrete Street Improvement Projects.

Sturm said this is the last step in the approval process for this project. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week. Paving will occur in five stages to ensure business access.

Motion by Brink; second by Sarsfield to approve [RESOLUTION #54-25](#) "RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT AND BONDS WITH BLUFFS PAVING AND UTILITY FOR THE 2025 CONCRETE STREET

IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT." Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Administrator's Report.

- There are a lot of zoning map changes and many building permits for Camblin Hills.
- Lund has been working on the Whitney Hotel TIF (North); he will meet with Mark Smith to discuss the development agreement as Smith repays debt on that project.
- Work on dissolving the public works collective bargaining agreement continues.
- City Attorney is working on a potential easement for the Atlantic Golf and Country Club.

Mayor's Report.

A resident came to City Hall with kudos for the Streets Department.

City Council Reports.

- Kennedy: Beautification talked about weeding flower gardens downtown and taking bids until

7.29.25 at 4:00 pm at City Hall.

- McDermott: Healthy Cass, Library.
- Sarsfield: Chamber of Commerce, Personnel & Finance.
- Halder: Landfill.
- Otte: Bull Creek, Comprehensive Plan Committee. CADCO. P&Z. PFC.
- Brink: Landfill, PFC, Beautification Councilman Behrens left the meeting.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Brink to approve ORDER TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION UNDER IOWA CODE 21.5(1)(C) "TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH COUNSEL IN MATTERS THAT ARE PRESENTLY IN LITIGATION OR WHERE LITIGATION IS IMMINENT WHERE ITS DISCLOSURE WOULD BE LIKELY TO PREJUDICE OR DISADVANTAGE THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY IN THAT LITIGATION."

All ayes: motion passed. Council entered closed session at 6:18 pm.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Halder to enter open session at 6:36 pm. All ayes: motion passed. The next City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by McDermott to adjourn at 6:37 pm. All ayes. Motion passed.

ATTEST: _____
Laura McLean, City Clerk

Elaine Otte, Mayor Pro Tern

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- [Claims Publication](#)
- [Ordinance 1051 VOID](#)
- [Ordinance 1053 VOID](#)
- [Ordinance 1054 VOID](#)
- [Ordinance 1060](#)
- [Resolution 53-25](#)
- [Resolution 54-25](#)