

City Council
August 19, 2026
5:30 pm

The Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Clausen presiding. Council members were present: Emily Kennedy, Mike McDermott, Jim Behrens, Shawn Sarsfield, Dana Halder, Elaine Otte, and Jeremy Butler.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Butler to approve agenda as posted. Unanimously approval.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Butler; second by McDermott to approve consent agenda as follows: Minutes of August 5, 2026, City Council meeting and bills totaling \$513,334.01, motion carried.

Behrens moved to approve Resolution #40-26: Official Posting Location, designates the glass window at City Hall's main entrance as the official location for posting public agendas and notices, ensuring compliance with Iowa's updated Open Meetings Law. Seconded by Halder, motion carried.

City Administrator John Lund reviewed the Planning & Zoning Commission Report for stand-alone garages. A proposed amendment to allow stand-alone garages on certain residential lots, addressing vacant lot use, storage demand, and taxable valuation. The proposal includes strict design and uses standards.

McDermott moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1068: Sewer Connection Requirements that amends city code to allow exceptions for properties with impractical sewer connections (e.g., requiring costly grinder pumps), permitting disconnection and use of septic systems under strict conditions, seconded by Sarsfield, roll call vote, motion approved. Bulter moved to waive the second reading of the ordinance and proceed with the third and final reading, Otte moved to second the motion; Roll call vote, ordinance amendment adopted.

Sarsfield moved to adopt Resolution #41-26: Chain-of-Command Policy to add a formal chain-of-command policy to the Personnel Handbook to clarify supervisory authority, communication, and accountability for city employees, seconded by Otte. Roll call vote and all ayes approved the resolution.

Behrens moved to adopt Resolution #42-26: Meeting Attendance Policy which establishes when employee attendance at official meetings is considered a work assignment, clarifying compensation and representation rules. Seconded by Butler. Roll call vote and all ayes approved the resolution.

Bulter moved to adopt Resolution #43-26: Suspension of Urban Revitalization Plan Applications will temporarily halt acceptance of new tax abatement applications due to recent state property tax reforms that limit city revenue growth from new construction, protecting the city's financial stability, seconded by McDermott. Roll call vote and all ayes approved the resolution.

At 5:38 p.m. the mayor called for motion to open the Public Hearing for the West 15th Street Extension Project. This was an opportunity for public input on plans, specifications, and contract for infrastructure improvements supporting new industrial development (Mudslayer Manufacturing), with an estimated project cost of \$264,15. Clerk reported there was not comments or written comments received by her office. At 5:39 p.m. McDermott moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Sarsfield. Unanimously approved.

Halder moved to adopt Resolution #44-26: Approving Plans and Contract for the West 15th Street Extension. The resolution formally approves the project plans and contract documents, which are required before awarding the construction contract. Second, by Sarsfield; roll call vote and resolution were unanimously approved.

McDermott moved to approve Resolution #45-26 Review of Construction Bids and Award of Contract review of competitive bids for the West 15th Street Extension; contract awarded to McCarthy Trenching LLC for \$217,919.25. Sarsfield seconded the motion, unanimously approved with roll call vote.

Butler moved to approve Resolution #46-26: Acceptance of 2025 Concrete Street Improvements completed by Bluffs Paving & Contracting, the official acceptance of completed street improvement projects, authorizing final payment and contract closure with total project cost of \$1,207,259.81. seconded by Otte. Unanimously approved.

Reports by the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council reports on ongoing city operations and activities.

Mayor Robert Clausen

ATTEST: _____
Jackie Carl, City Clerk