



**MINUTES  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Special Public Meeting of the Council of the city of Perth Amboy was held on Monday, September 27, 2010, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Perth Amboy, New Jersey at 4:30 p.m.

Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk: In the absence of the Council President, I ask for a nomination for an acting presiding officer for this afternoon's proceedings.

Motion was made by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Petrick to nominate Council Member Fernando Gonzalez and was carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Kenneth Gonzalez, Joel Pabon, William Petrick and Fernando Gonzalez. Nay--none. Absent--Council Member Balut.

Presiding Officer of the Council, Fernando Gonzalez, advised the audience that a Special Public Meeting was being held on Monday, September 27, 2010 at 4:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Perth Amboy. The notice of this meeting has been filed with the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger, The Amboy Beacon and posted on the bulletin board in the City Clerk's office and on the City's website.

Presiding Officer Fernando Gonzalez: At this time, as a courtesy to the Governing Body, I would ask all individuals present, including members of the audience, to please turn off all cell phones, and electronic devices. Should you need to make a telephone call, please go out into the hallway and speak in a low voice so as not to disturb the ongoing meeting.

The sole purpose of this meeting was to review the TY 2010 Budget and consideration of budget amendments to TY 2010 Budget.

Meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Fernando Gonzalez with the following Council Members present: Kenneth Gonzalez, Joel Pabon and William Petrick.

Also present at this meeting were: Greg Fehrenbach, Interim Business Administrator, Jill A. Goldy, CFO/Comptroller, and Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk.

**PUBLIC PORTION  
(5 MINUTES MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER)**

Stan Sierakowski, 679 Charles St.: The City saved \$200,000 in insurance over the past year according to a recent Star Ledger article. Is insurance a biddable item?

Greg Fehrenbach: The city went out for proposals for insurance services this year.

Stan Sierakowski: The State Attorney General should review the policies for previous years to see if we were over-charged and see if we can get some of our money back.

Greg Fehrenbach: The US Attorney and State Attorney are well aware of everything that is going on.

Greg Fehrenbach: We are in a period of 2 temporary budgets. Due to a \$5.2m shortfall, the City changed its' budget cycle.

Mr. Fehrenbach provided an overall explanation of the budget.

Greg Fehrenbach: The parameters by which way this budget was constructed include:

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
General Administration			
Business Administrator S&W	Departure of Feigenbaum	\$169,893	\$151,880
Business Administrator OE	Appointment of Fehrenbach	78,350	126,606
Computer Data Processing OE	Added funds for IT security	181,000	189,000
Engineering Services OE	Contract is for more than		
	Appropriated	15,000	18,000
Div. of Code Enf. OE	Hire 2 PT temp code enf. Off	364,290	372,690
Police S & W	Relocate 2 employees to	5,845,191	5,867,010
	Dispatch & relocate former		
	Police staff to Admin	365,805	324,787
Buildings & Grounds OE	PSC – Added repairs & service		192,088
290,088	Contracts		

**FROM:**

Solid Waste S & W 1,270,395	Use of Seasonal Employees & Reduction of employees on Restricted duty	1,364,839
Employee Group Insurance 5,393,105	Reduced cost of Prescription Admin.	5,423,105

**GRANTS:**

New grants received 1,424,277.18	185,860.18
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We are recommending an amendment to the budget as introduced. We hope the Council considers these amendments.

We want to get this budget over with. We will have great difficulty with the 2011 budget.

The amendment would have to be adopted tonight and published. There will be a public hearing on the amendments only at the Council Meeting of October 13. Once we have this budget under our administrative belt, we will immediately begin to work on developing the CY 2011 budget with significant involvement from department heads and their staff. We will slate for discussion, capital projects that need to be initiated such as the Jefferson Street Parking Facility renovations.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: The changes need to be adopted for this budget. What is your immediate assessment for Calendar Year 2011?

Greg Fehrenbach: I don't want to make predictions. This TY Budget will provide you with some assistance. A 2% tax levy cap will be difficult to comply with. There will be increases to the pension costs in the upcoming year. We need to work on capital projects for the next budget. We will try to give you a 6 week period to review the budget.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: Why is there such a large increase in the new grants received?

Greg Fehrenbach: They are Chapter 159's. They are monies for hazardous remediation.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: What is the scope of work for Code Enforcement PT employees?

Greg Fehrenbach: They are being brought on to help with work that is currently not being done.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: We are not charging for many services that we should be charging for. We should put emphasis on this.

Council Member Petrick: Do we see any help coming from the state to help us with PERS and PFRS?

Greg Fehrenbach: It may not be covered by the CAP, but will be covered by the property tax.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: Will the state ever take over negotiations with police/fire?

Greg Fehrenbach: It will have to be done with teachers first.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: Is the administration thinking about increasing personnel to police/fire to make sure the staffing is available for services to be supplied?

Greg Fehrenbach: There are changes in schedules that affect many employees in the organizations.

Council Member Pabon: We need to look at the number of employees that are needed and review the structures in the departments.

Greg Fehrenbach: Once items are given away to unions, it's hard to get them back.

Council Member Pabon: If money is not there, how do we pay the bill?

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **R-453-9/10 Approving the amendment to SFY 2010 Budget Appropriations.**

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

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm, and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Fernando Gonzalez. Nay--none. Absent--Council Member Balut.

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Elaine M. Jasko  
City Clerk