

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 07, 2022
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Borough Clerk Bill Bray called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Borough Clerk read the following statement:
Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and The Retrospect and is posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and the place of the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Keenan led the Pledge and said an opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

JOSH KEENAN, MAYOR – PRESENT
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT – PRESENT
STEPHEN GANDY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – ABSENT
DONNA PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER – PRESENT
DET. THOMAS FARRELL, POLICE DEPARTMENT – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR - PRESENT
BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilman Gilligan motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Gandy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless, 111 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked about two items on the Executive Session agenda. Ms. Platt stated Council cannot comment on items on the Executive Session agenda because they are confidential at this time.

There were no further comments.

Councilwoman Hall motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

POLICE REPORT:

Det. Thomas Farrell provided the following information:

March 2 - Officer responded to Whitehall Apartments and found a man DOA of natural causes in his apartment.
March 2 - Officers responded to a Harvard Ave home for a report of child abuse. Police arrested and charged three people who were taken to the county jail.

March 3 - A vehicle for sale at Desi Auto on White Horse Pike was stolen and later recovered in Camden.

March 5 - A Gloucester Township Police Officer was injured by a combative arrestee at Jefferson Hospital. Both were treated for minor injuries.

March 11 – Officer responded to a crisis text message and found a male with slash wounds at their Laurel Mills home. The person was taken to Jefferson Hospital for treatment and evaluation.

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March 12 – Officer responded to Tim Hortons for removal and found a Bellmawr woman burglarizing the victim’s vehicle. The woman was arrested without incident. Later charged with burglary and theft. The next day the same suspect was arrested for breaking into another vehicle at Stratford Diner.

March 19 – Officer observed a Brownsville man breaking into a vehicle at Desi Auto. The suspect was taken to the county jail on active warrants.

March 20 – Officers were called to help a Pennsylvania Ave resident who recently adopt two dogs who subsequently got into a fight. The owner was also injured and the two dogs were transported for treatment.

March 21 – Officers responded to two separate overdoses and both females received Narcan and were transported to Jefferson Hospital.

March 22 – Officer on patrol encountered an intoxicated male exposing himself with urinating in public. The 40-year-old man from Cornell Ave. was arrested and charged with lewdness and public urination.

March 26 – A 40-year-old Lindenwold woman who was an ER Patient was unhappy with her treatment and threw a rock through the sliding glass door after leaving Jefferson Hospital. She was charged with criminal mischief

March 31 – Our Lady of Guadalupe requested a presentation on how to secure a place of worship. The two-hour presentation was well received by the parishioners in attendance.

The Police Department has also applied for a \$7,000 Click it or Ticket Grant. DARE Graduation is schedule for Thursday May 26. There were no questions from Council.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Bach stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Back stated Green Tree Road contracts are executed with constriction start April 18. FY 2022 NJ DOT Grant of \$240,000 has received DOT approval for bid documents for late spring early summer construction. Borough has applied for CDBG funds for ADA improvements to Borough facilities. Button Road Stormwater Outfall Repair is substantially complete.

Councilman Tolomeo asked if the sinkholes were repaired during the Buttonwood project. Mr. Bach stated the sinkholes are unrelated to the Buttonwood Stormwater Outfall. Mr. Keenan stated the pipe is not in the area of the sinkholes. Councilman Gilligan asked if there are any additional grant opportunities from the DVRPC. Mr. Bach sated they monitor what funds are made available to see if there are any programs that would be applicable to a Borough project.

Council had no further questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 3, 2022 AGENDA MEETING

March 3, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

March 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

March 22, 2022 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by roll call, with the exception of Councilman Gandy who abstained on the March 22 minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinances: **ORD. 2022:05** ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017:07 OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD ENTITLED “REGISTRATION OF DEFAULTED MORTGAGE PROPERTY”.

Mr. Bray stated this revises the Borough vacant property registration requirements.

NEW BUSINESS: Upcoming Introduction of Ordinances:

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ORD. 2022-06 AMEND 2022 SALARY ORDINANCE Mr Bray stated this cleans up some of the ranges to reflect the NJ minimum wage and established new rates for police extra duty assignments paid by third party vendors duty.

ORD. 2022-07 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2.12.150 RATES OF COMPENSATION Mr. Bray stated this revised the police extra duty regulations and rates charged to outside vendors.

RESOLUTIONS:

No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 2022:046 through 2022:057 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 2022-064 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

RES. 2022-065 AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF SEWER PENALTY

RES. 2022-066 AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR NJ OFFICE OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

RES. 2022-067 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, NJSA 10:4-12
The matters for executive session will pertain to matters relating to Litigation- Camden County Vs Stratford Borough – Brandywine/Bradlees; Laurel Mills Shopping Center Redevelopment – RDA; Audubon Shared Services

RES. 2022-068 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gilligan – We will be welcoming new police officers with a swearing in on Tuesday. On April 30 from 9-12 Officer will be accepting prescription drug drop offs at the Justice Facility. No sharps, cream, inhalers or EpiPens.

Councilman Gandy – Thanks to the OEM, Police, Fire and Ambulance Squad for everything they do for the Borough.

Councilman Tolomeo – April 9 is SAO opening day and festivities start at 9. It's a good time and great to see the kids out.

Councilwoman Hall – Hope to see everyone there at SAO opening day. April 16 is the Easter Egg Hunt, and lunch will be served.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Nothing at this time.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilman Gandy to open the meeting to the public for Good and Welfare with all Council voting aye.

John Gentless, 111 Union Ave – Any consensus coming out of Executive Session. Ms. Platt stated no action will be taken afterwards. Mr. Gentless asked if there is any erosion and if the homeowner on Sleepy Hollow should be made remediate the area they cleared out. Mr. Keenan stated the sinkhole area is within his property. Mr.

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Keenan stated the area was overgrown brush but is now being taken care of. Mr. Gentless asked when in-person Council meeting will resume. Mr. Keenan stated the courtroom still has limited capacity due to Covid guidelines. Mr. Gentless asked the RDA should be signed before the start of the Laurel Mills Redevelopment project. Ms. Platt stated in any project, demolition when needed is first. Ms. Platt stated she cannot comment further at this time. Mr. Gentless asked is any environmental study has been done on the Laurel Mills Shopping Center. Mr. Bach stated an environmental report was submitted as part of the Land Use application. Mr. Gentless asked if there was any updates on Berlin Road Phase II. Mr. Keenan stated the issue would be on the next JLUB agenda. Mr. Gentless asked if there is any update on the Rescue Squad. Councilman Gandy stated there are no updates. Mr. Gentless asked why did the JLUB Chair Mike Mancini know about the street naming contest before he did. Mr. Keenan stated the school was provided with the contest details and sent flyers home to all of the Borough children before Mr. Mancini posted anything regarding the contest. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough also placed the info on the Borough Facebook page and sent out an E-Blast. Councilwoman Hall stated Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford are part of the contest to allow them to participate in some of the great things happening in the Borough. Councilman Gilligan stated the Borough is trying to get the students interested and the Borough hopes to have a live Facebook event to announce the winning names. Mr. Bray stated the Facebook post will hopefully allow parents of students who don't attend Stratford's public or parochial schools can also participate in the contest.

Mike Mancini, 3 Winding Way Road – Mr. Mancini stated he doesn't hear any information in advance of the public but he does help share information to keep other resident well informed on Borough issues and events. Mr. Mancini asked for Mr. Gentless and his cronies to cease with the name calling.

Mr. Bray stated the Mr. Gentless must direct his comments to the Governing Body and wait to be recognized before speaking.

Mr. Gentless asked how is the street naming contest related to the Borough JLUB. Mr. Keenan stated it is not related to the JLUB.

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo to close the public portion with all Council voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno, with all Council voting aye to enter into Executive Session.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Gandy with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk