

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 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
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR - PRESENT
BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

Mr. Bray stated the topic of Laurel Mills Redevelopment was added to the Executive Session Agenda.

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 Councilman Gandy how much saving would be realized by moving the Rescue Squad into the firehouse. Councilman Gandy stated the borough would save at least \$10,000 per year in facility costs. Mr. Keenan stated the resolution was pulled from the agenda. Mr. Bray stated the item is no longer on the agenda and his comment would need to wait until the end of the meeting. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough is promoting the former Bradlees site to commercial realtors. There were no further comments.

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

POLICE REPORT: Officer in Charge Sgt. Michael Meyers thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of National Night Out.

July 2022:

23 Adult arrests	0 Juvenile arrests,
0 Assaults to Police	7 Simple assaults Complaints,
3 Criminal Mischief Complaints	12 Harassment complaints,
20 Other investigations and complaints	3 burglary,

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0 robberies	6 thefts in the amount of \$4,519.78
\$0.00 in stolen property recovered	0 motor vehicle thefts,
5 D.W.I. arrests	2 Narcotics arrests,
330 Traffic summonses issued	25 Motor vehicle accidents,
5 injuries from accidents, 1 pedestrian struck	20 Alarm activations

0 properties inspected, 0 Warning Letter Issued, 0 code summons issued.
With 70 Total Crime Reports Taken, and 747 Total Calls for Police Service
11 Code Summons, 12 Warnings issues and 2 properties inspected
4 domestic calls that resulted in 4 handguns being taken including a TEC 9 with a large capacity magazine.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Bach stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Bach stated FY 2022 Borough Funded Road Program is anticipated to go out for bid and construction in the fall of 2022. 2023 NJDOT Aid application was submitted. Contracts are being executed on the Central and Kirkwood Ave resurfacing project and the preconstruction meeting will be held on Aug. 11.
Council had no questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 7, 2022 AGENDA MEETING

July 7, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

July 12, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all members present voting aye by roll call vote except Councilman Gandy who abstained for the July 12 Minutes due to his absence from that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinances:

ORD. 2022-08 ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8.20 BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY (revised) Mr. Bray stated this is a revised from the previously introduced ordinance to resume local control of fire safety code enforcement and is using the same ordinance number.

ORD. 2022-10 ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 15 - BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION Mr. Bray stated this ordinance amends construction permit fees.

ORD. 2022-11 ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 8.66 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

ORD. 2022-12 ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 8.58 - EMERGENCY AND AMBULANCE FIRST RESPONDER

Mr. Bray stated Ord. 2022-11 &12 are related to EMS service in the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS: Report #2 Upcoming Introduction of Ordinances:

Ord. 2022-13 AMEND 2022 SALARY ORDINANCE

Mr. Bray stated this ordinance adjusts the salaries of building code enforcement officials.

RESOLUTIONS:

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Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 2022:114 through 2022:117 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 2022-114 AUTHORIZE SSA WITH CAMDEN COUNTY – STERLING ALLIANCE

RES. 2022-115 AUTHORIZE MAINTENANCE LEIN – 40 TEMPLE AVE.

RES. 2022-116 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 Negotiations – Stratford Square

RES. 2022-117 AUTHORIZE SSA WITH CAMDEN COUNTY – DMHAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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

BUSINESS LICENSE: GIOVANNI’S ARACANI, 912 N. White Horse Pike. Mr. Bray stated the application was reviewed and approved by the Police Department. Mr. Bray stated the business prepares foods that are sold by other businesses.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan congratulated Chief Morello on his retirement. Councilman Gilligan stated the following: I offer my congratulations on a lifetime career as a police officer for the last 32 years, 20 of which as our chief of police. He has managed a department that is both highly professional and committed to our residents. We are truly well served and well protected by all of our officers as a result. The efforts that he put forth behind the scenes were barely noticed by the public, but the impact and benefits are deep and long lasting. Ron’s work is a shining example of what community policing is and should be. There are not enough words to thank Ron and I again congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his family all the best. Councilman Gilligan stated beginning in September Council will meet in person for its agenda meeting and continue with Zoom for Regular meetings.

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy thanks Chief Morello for his many years of service to the Borough. Councilman Gandy also congratulated Sgt. Meyers on becoming the Officer in Charge. Councilman Gandy thanks everyone who helped to organize and those who attended National Night Out.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanks Chief Morello for his outstanding service to the Borough. Councilman Kelly welcomed Sgt. Meyers to the position of Office in Charge. Councilman Kelly thanks Councilwoman Hall and Council for their efforts for National Night Out.

Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo thanked Chief Morello for his service to the Borough.

Councilwoman Hall – Councilwoman Hall thanks Chief Morello for his many years of service to the Borough. Councilwoman Hall wish Sgt. Meyers good luck in his new roll with the Department. Councilwoman Hall thanks Borough employees, Borough businesses, police department, fire department and ambulance squad for their efforts for National Night Out.

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Councilwoman Lomanno – Councilwoman Lomanno thanks Chief Morello for his years of service to the Borough. Councilwoman Lomanno thanks Chief Morello for his support and his dedication to the Borough. Councilwoman Lomanno stated she looks forward to working with Sgt. Meyers in his new leadership role in the department. Councilwoman Lomanno stated National Night Out was a great night for the Borough. Solicitor Stuart Platt stated it has been a pleasure to work with Chief Morello and wished him good luck in his future endeavors. Mr. Platt thanks Chief Morello for his years of assistance and leadership

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless, 111 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless congratulated Chief Morello and stated he really turned the department around. Mr. Gentless stated he is not against this move with the ambulance company but wanted it to stay in the most populated area of the Borough. Mr. Gentless stated he doesn't know how the school could rent the squad building. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough is going to save money consolidating the fire department and rescue squad into a single building. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough could send out an eblast for volunteers for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Mr. Gentless stated the move needs to be further vetted. Councilman Gandy stated the current financial losses sustained by the ambulance squad are unsustainable. Councilman Gandy stated placing both entities in the same building could help recruit new volunteers. Councilman Gandy stated there have been several meetings during which all of the variables have been discussed. Councilwoman Hall stated the Borough main focus is to keep the Stratford Ambulance Association operating. Councilman Tolomeo stated the Borough Council working to do the best for the Borough, Fire Department and the Ambulance Squad.

There were no further comments.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Hall to close the public portion with all Council voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Council entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

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

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk