

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022  
7:00 P.M.

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

**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 – ABSENT  
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – ABSENT  
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT  
JUSTIN STRAUSSER, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT  
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER – PRESENT  
RON MORELLO, POLICE/PEM COORDINATOR – PRESENT  
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR - PRESENT  
BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

**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.

**PROCLAMATION** TONY’S BARBER SHOP – Mr. Bray stated the proclamation was present before the meeting.

**PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

Councilman Tolomeo 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.

There were no comments.

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

**POLICE/OEM REPORT:** Ron Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for November 2022.

Nov 1-7 – Police are investigating reports of rocks being throw at homes along the rail road tracks. Similar incidents have occurred in Laurel Springs and Lindenwold.

Nov. 4 – A noise woke up a resident who found two suspects had his work vehicle up on jacks and were stealing its catalytic converter. The resident was not able to get a good look and the vehicle the suspects fled in.

Nov. 10 – A home on Princeton Ave was burglarized. The burglars took cash and a Rolex watch from a safe. Police believe a burglary ring targeting Asians is responsible.

Nov. 11 – Officers found a man in White Horse Pike in the area of Whitehall Apartments eating a lit cigar. Police transported the 40-year-old man to Jefferson Hospital.

Nov. 14 – A thief stole the catalytic converter from a box truck parked at Nehlig’s furniture store on the White Horse Pike.

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Nov. 15- A crisis patient fled Jefferson Hospital wearing only a paper shirt. Police located the man near Veterans Way and transported him back to the hospital.

Nov. 16 – Police received reports of four unlocked vehicles were entered and items stolen. The suspect, a 30-year-old Camden man was arrested and charged with similar offenses by Gloucester Township Police. Charges in Stratford are pending.

Nov. 17 – Police responded to a sudden death at Whitehall Apartments and found a 60-year-old female was deceased from natural causes.

Nov. 22 Police responded to a North Atlantic Ave. home for a 40-year-old man who was overdosing. Police administered Narcan and the man was taken to Jefferson Hospital

Nov. 22 – Police responded to the bowling alley for reports of a school bus driving drinking during school field trip to the facility. The school made other transportation arrangements for students. No charges were filed because the bus driver was not operative the vehicle.

Nov. 23 – A 60-year-old Hillside Rd. man was arrested after he entered a home on Temple Ave and making himself comfortable. The homeowner saw the activity on a security camera and contacted police.

Nov. 24 – Police responded to a Vassar Ave. home for reports of a death. Police found a 50-year-old woman with a history of illness had died of natural causes.

Nov. 24 – Police stopped a vehicle observed traveling 73 MPH on the White Horse Pike. Police determined the vehicle had been involved in a hit and run crash. As police approached the vehicle, the driver fled, but drove down a dead-end street. Police took the driver into custody and was charged with driving while intoxicated, resisting arrest, and assaulting a police officer.

Nov. 25 – a Laurel Mills resident was injured when his vehicle fell off its jack and pinned him underneath. The Fire Dept. freed the 40-year-old man who was transported to Cooper Trauma. The man survived.

Mr. Morello stated the Police Department has received grant funds for drunk driving patrols and for extra officers on duty due to annual increase in crime, traffic and calls for service during the holiday season. Mr. Morello stated Tomkinson’s Auto is the only tower to submit an application for a license. Mr. Morello stated the department has processed 12 applications for handgun carry permits. Mr. Morello stated Council should consider rules on where firearms are allowed to be carried. Mr. Morello stated Det. Thomas Farrell did a great job delivery police, OEM/EMS reports during the previous four months.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mr. Reilly stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated the 2022 Borough-funded Road project is out for bids to be opened Dec. 22. The project includes portions of Winding Way, Timber Creek, Rutgers Place, and Nancy Road. Mr. Reilly state the Borough will receive \$284,650 from the NJDOT FY2023 Local Assistance Grant. Mr. Reilly stated the funds will be used to continue the Central/Kirkwood resurfacing.

Councilman Gilligan asked if that would complete the project. Mr. Keenan stated it would not.

There were no further questions from Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

November 3, 2022 AGENDA MEETING

November 3, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

November 9, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

November 9, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

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Mr. Bray stated the minutes were distributed and he incorporated all of the Council Members' edits. A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

REPORT #1 Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinances:

**ORD. 2022-19** AMENDING CHAPTER 2.12, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT"

Mr. Bray summarized the purpose of the proposed ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was none.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 2022:183 through 2022:192 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 2022-183 APPROVE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN COUNTY – PROJECT SAVE

RES. 2022-184 APPROVE TOWING LICENSE - TOMPKINS AUTO REPAIR & TOWING

RES. 2022-185 APPOINT FIREFIGHTER – MEYERS

RES. 2022-186 AUTHORIZE CANCELLING OUTSTANDING CHECKS

RES. 2022-187 AUTHORIZE CANCELLING OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS/DELINQUENCIES LESS THAN \$10

RES. 2022-188 APPOINT POLICE LIEUTENANT – BEASLEY

RES. 2022-189 ACCEPT ARP GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,000

RES. 2022-190 AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFER

RES. 2022-191 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 – Laurel Mills LLC Vs Stratford; Personnel*

RES. 2022-192 AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER #2 – CENTRAL AND KIRKWOOD RESURFACING

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

**BUSINESS LICENSE:** Mr. Bray stated the application was reviewed by the Stratford Police Department and authorized for approval. Councilman Tolomeo made a motion to approve the Business License for KALEIDOSCOPE KIDZ DAYCARE, LLC – 814 N WHITE HORSE PIKE Councilwoman Lomanno seconded the motion which was adopted by Council by unanimous roll call vote of members present.

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENT** – Mr. Bray read the following appointment into the record:  
KIM BERDINE – Joint Land Use Board, Alternate #2 – Unexpired term ending 12/31/2022.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Gilligan – Thanks to Councilwoman Hall for the fabulous tree lighting event. Thanks also to Councilman Gandy who helped with tree lighting.

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy reminded resident not to crawl under their vehicles when they are only supported by a jack. Councilman Gandy stated jacks are only to support a vehicle during a tire change. Councilman Gandy stated the tree lighting was an excellent event

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Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo thanked everyone for the Tree Lighting ceremony which he missed due to illness. Thanks to Councilman Gandy for his help with the electricity for the event.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Councilwoman Lomanno stated it was great to have the event back at the school and the turnout was tremendous. Councilwoman Lomanno thanks the school for use of its facility.

Mayor Keenan – Mayor Keenan stated the Council did a super job and the tree lighting was a great night. Mayor Keenan stated he was really impressed and thanked them for their efforts.

Councilman Gandy reminded everyone of the Winter Wonderland event on Friday.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

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

John Gentless – 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked about the consolidation of the Stratford and Magnolia Ambulance squads. Councilman Gandy stated the borough also transferred some equipment and radios but no consolidation is planned. Mr. Keenan stated the two separate organizations still exist. Mr. Gentless asked if Council had to approve the sale of an ambulance to Magnolia Ambulance Squad or if it should have gone out to bid. Mr. Keenan stated the ambulance was not public property and therefore public auction or Council approval isn't necessary.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Strausser stated the Executive Session is anticipated to last approximately 15 to 20 minutes and no action is expected afterwards but Council reserves the right to do so.

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

Council entered Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

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

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk