

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keenan called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Keenan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Acting 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.

PRAYER: Father Rene Canales of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish led the opening prayer.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Oath of office to Councilman-elect Steven Gandy was administered by Congressman Donald Norcross.

Oath of office to Councilman-elect James Kelly was administered by Congressman Donald Norcross.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR JOSH KEENAN – PRESENT
STEPHEN GANDY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
JIM KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – ABSENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT
BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

SELECTION BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

Council President Councilwoman Hall nominated Councilman Patrick Gilligan as President of Council, and was seconded by Councilman Kelly. There were no other nominations. Councilwoman Lomanno made a motion to elect Councilman Gilligan Council President, seconded by Councilman Gandy with all members voting ayes and Councilman Gilligan abstaining.

OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Oath of office to Council President Patrick Gilligan was administered by Borough Clerk Bill Bray.

Councilman Tolomeo joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS OF 2022 COUNCILMATIC COMMITTEES

FINANCE AND REVENUE

DIRECTOR Tina Lomanno
Assoc. Member Linda Hall
Assoc. Member Stephen Gandy

EMERGENCY SERVICES

DIRECTOR Stephen Gandy
Assoc. Member Patrick Gilligan
Assoc. Member Linda Hall

POLICE

DIRECTOR Patrick Gilligan
Assoc. Member Jim Kelly

PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR Michael Tolomeo
Assoc. Member Jim Kelly

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Assoc. Member Michael Tolomeo

Assoc. Member Patrick Gilligan

PUBLIC EVENTS

DIRECTOR Linda Hall
Assoc. Member Michael Tolomeo
Assoc. Member Tina Lomanno

ORDINANCE/PROPERTY

DIRECTOR Jim Kelly
Assoc. Member Tina Lomanno
Assoc. Member Stephen Gandy

Councilman Gilligan made a motion to approve the Councilmatic Committee appointments. Councilwoman Lomanno seconded the Motion with all members voting aye.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR WITH CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Keenan appointed the following Fire Line Officers for a one-year term:

- Chief – Vincent Jess
- Deputy Chief – Michael Lewitt (Training Chief)
- Assistant Chief – Michael Lemmerman (Station Chief)
- Captain – Jeffrey Riebel (Ladder)
- Captain – Gary Riebel, Sr. (Squad)
- Lieutenant – Robert Bove (Engine)
- Lieutenant – Brian Worthington (Squad)
- Safety Officer – Michael Meyers

Councilman Gandy motioned to approve the appointments of the Fire Line Officers. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote

Mayor Keenan made the following Board and Committee appointments:

Historic Preservation Commission – <i>Virginia Baskerville & Walter Baxter</i>	Two Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Class III – <i>Tina Lomanno</i>	One Year Term
Park Commission Liaison – <i>Jim Kelly</i>	One Year Term
Police Matrons – <i>Kristina Rauer and Patricia Riebel</i>	One Year Term
Director of OEM – <i>Ron Morello</i>	Three Year Term

Councilwoman Hall made a motion to approve the Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Committees. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote with the exception of Councilwoman Lomanno who abstained from voting on the Joint Land Use Board appointment.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR WITH NO CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL REQUIRED

Borough Clerk Bray read the following Mayoral appointments into the record:

Joint Land Use Board, Class II – <i>Ron Morello</i>	One Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Class IV – <i>Karen Swallow</i>	Four Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Alternate – <i>Michael Chicalo</i>	Two Year Term
Parks Commission – <i>Michael Donaldson</i>	Five Year Term
Parks Commission – <i>Alan Sendler</i>	Five Year Term
Parks Commission – <i>Kimberly Gilligan</i>	One Year Unexpired Term
Board of Health – <i>John Keenan</i>	Three Year Term
Municipal Coordinator of Aging – <i>Kim Berdine</i>	One Year Term

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS 2022:01 THROUGH 2022-028 WILL BE DONE AS A CONSENT AGENDA

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Council can at this time request to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda and they can be voted on separately.

RES. 2022:001 Appointment of Solicitor – Stuart Platt, Platt Law Group P.C.

RES. 2022:002 Appointment of Engineer – Steve Bach, Bach Associates

RES. 2022:003 Appointment of Auditor – Scott Barron, Bowman & Company

RES. 2022:004 Appointment of Prosecutor – Cheryl Cohen

RES. 2022:005 Appointment of Public Defender – Frank Faulkenstein

RES. 2022:006 Appointment of Alternate Public Defender – Gary Lomanno

RES. 2022:007 Appointment of Police Chaplain – Fr. Rene Canales

RES. 2022:008 Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer – Bill Bray

RES. 2022:009 Appointment of Town Historian – Carole Dadino

RES. 2022:010 Appointment of Redevelopment Planners – Bach Associates

RES. 2022:011 Appointment of Redevelopment Planner – Colliers Engineering & Design

RES. 2022:012 Award of Contract for Affordable Housing Planner Consultant Services - LFB Land Planning

RES. 2022:013 Appointment of Risk Management Consultant

RES. 2022:014 Appointment of Statewide Fund Commissioner

RES. 2022:015 Appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officers

RES. 2022:016 Depositories for Borough Funds and Cash Management Plan

RES. 2022:017 Time and Place for Meetings

RES. 2022:018 Publication of Legal Notices

RES. 2022:019 Parliamentary Procedures

RES. 2022:020 Temporary Budget for 2022

RES. 2022:021 Custodian for Tarkill Club House

RES. 2022:022 Custodian for Field House

RES. 2022:023 Custodian for Quaker Store

RES. 2022:024 School Crossing Guards

RES. 2022:025 2022 Annual Holidays

RES. 2022-026 Authorize SAA for Mechanical Repair and Maintenance

RES. 2022-027 Authorize Refund of Construction Permit Fee

RES. 2022-028 Appoint CFO/Tax Collector effective March 1, 2021

Councilman Kelly made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

Congressman Norcross was recognized to speak. Congressman Norcross wished everyone a Happy Healthy New Year and stated that many people have become frustrated with the continued Covid 19 pandemic. Congressman Norcross stated it is important for people to work together. Congressman Norcross stated the American Rescue Plan has provided funding for vaccinations, school, financial assistance for people who lost their jobs and to help people get back to work. Congressman Norcross stated the legislation provided \$1.4 million direct aid to Stratford Borough and Borough Schools. Congressman Norcross stated the Infrastructure Bill also provides \$13.5 billion in funding for projects in New Jersey. Congressman Norcross stated that officials on the local, county, state and federal level work together to help communities like Stratford. Congressman Norcross stated that people don't always agree but can disagree respectfully and continue to work together for the benefit of the public. Congressman Norcross stated it was his honor to swear in the members to their new terms on council and he hopes of a safe and healthy 2022.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gandy – Thanks everyone on Council and to Congressman Norcross for taking time on Jan. 6, an important day for the country. Thanks to the people of Stratford for their vote and I will continue to work hard for the Borough.

Councilwoman Hall – Happy New Year and thanks to Father Rene for his beautiful prayer. Thanks to Congressman Norcross and congratulations to Councilmen Gandy and Kelly. We have a wonderful group of Council Members and we will continue to do great things for Stratford. Thanks to the new Trash Department and John Keenan you have done a great job this first week. Public Works did a great job cleaning up after the snow and thanks to the Police Department for keeping us safe.

Councilman Kelly – I'm honored to be among my fellow Council Members. Thanks to the voters for their faith in me. Thanks to the Trash Department and Public Works for their efforts during the recent winter weather and thanks to the Police Department and first responders for their continued service to the borough.

Councilwoman Lomanno – I am happy and proud of the Trash Department which is running like a well-oiled machine already and wish them the best. Welcome to our new CFO who is joining us in March. We have a great staff that has really come together. Congratulations to Councilmen Gandy and Kelly on their new terms, I look forward to working with you. Congratulations to Councilman Gilligan on his election to Council President.

Councilman Tolomeo – Thanks to the Borough staff for their hard work in all the departments. I hope all our employees stay safe and healthy and we continue to move forward this year.

Councilman Gilligan – Thanks to Council for their faith to take over after Councilwoman Hall who did a tremendous job. I look forward to working with my Council Members. Let's hope for continued progress along the White Horse Pike and the other projects in the Borough.

Councilman

PUBLIC PORTION:

Councilman Gilligan motioned to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless, 111 Union Avenue, asked if there is an update on the former Bradlees Site. Mr. Platt stated the litigation is still pending and the Borough is waiting for the judge's ruling in one aspect of it. Mr. Platt stated the Borough's appeal is also still pending. Mr. Gentless asked what other projects are pending. Councilman Gilligan stated he doesn't have a specific project to discuss but his hope is for more to develop in the future.

Councilwoman Hall motioned to close this portion of the meeting. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote

ADJOURN:

Councilman Gandy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Bill Bray, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk