

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Borough Clerk Bill Bray called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL:

JOSH KEENAN, MAYOR – PRESENT
STEPHEN GANDY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT – PRESENT
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – ABSENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
ANTHONY COSTA, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE/OEM 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.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

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

John Gentless, 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked if the Stratford Commons townhomes were connected to the sewer system. Mr. Bach stated there is no live sewer use at this time and his office is working on the pumping station upgrades that consists of new starting equipment for the pumps which will increase the capacity. Mr. Bach stated the upgrades are being paid for by the developer but are not required to be completed at this time.

There were no further comments.

Councilman Gandy 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: Administrator/Department Head Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for March 2023.

March 3 – Police responded to complaints of dumping on Hillside Road. Police charged a 30-year-old Stratford man with dumping wires and other metals.

March 5 – Police responded to a report of a U Haul stolen from Tomkins Auto. The truck was later abandoned and recovered in Cinnaminson.

March 6 – Police arrested a charged a 53-year-old Pine Hill man who allegedly struck an EMT with an oxygen bottle while enroute to Jefferson Hospital

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March 8 – Police responded to Burger King for a 35-year-old Williamstown man suffering a drug overdose. Police revived the victim with Narcan.

March 19 - Police responded to Jefferson Hospital for the report of a load handgun magazine being found by staff. Police determined the firearm was brought to the hospital by an overdoes patient found at the Patco Station. A search by police later located the handgun which was determine to be stolen from a home on Palmyra. Police arrested the 35-year-old Bensalem man who was lodged in the county jail.

March 20 – Police responded to Jefferson Hospital for the report of a doctor being assaulted by a crisis patient. The suspect struck the doctor and injured his orbital socket.

March 23 – A 40-year-old Magnolia man arrested last month for stealing precious metals from the cell tower behind Good will was arrested and charged again for the same crimes at location throughout Camden County.

March 25 – Police responded to a report of dead body in the area of CVS. Police found a 33 -year-old Atlantic City man suffering an overdos3e and revied him with Narcan and took him to Jefferson Hospital.

March 26 – Police attempted to pull over a driver who pulled into a driveway but then made a U-turn and fled the scene. Police located the 19-year-old Audubon suspect the next day and charged him with eluding police, criminal mischief, speeding and driving without a license.

March 30 – Police responded to a home on Webster Ave for the report of an unconscious man. Police found a 46-year-old male deceased in the bedroom, later determined to be a drug overdose.

March 7 – Police pickup truck was struck by a backhoe driver causing \$8,500 in damage. The vehicle has been repairs at no cost to the borough.

Mr. Morello stated the Department has prepared several grant applications and the DARE graduation is set for May 25. Mr. Morello stated the John Paul II School Carnival is also May 25. Mr. Morello stated the Department will complete its review of the Stratford Swim Club’s special event application for a large-scale swim meet on July 29. The event will be approved with several conditions. Mr. Morello stated there will be parking in the surrounding neighborhood as at the nearby schools. Mr. Morello stated the vent is a good fundraiser for the swim club and it won’t return for another 9 years. Mr. Morello stated providing busing would cost too much. Mr. Morello stated the new firearms are now in service and officers are pleased and the weapons are more accurate and have improved firearms qualification scores.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Bach stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Bach stated the cost of some building materials is falling and they hope it will result in lower bids on architectural projects. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Bach stated the Borough has applied for CDBG funding but should not expect an award because it received funding last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MARCH 9, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

MARCH 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all members present voting aye by roll call vote accept Councilwoman Hall and Councilman Tolomeo who abstained from the March 9 minutes because they were absent from that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES

ORD. 23-04

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 TO ALLOW BACKYARD HENS

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ORD. 23-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDING APPENDIX TO CHAPTER 2.12 ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS”

NEW BUSINESS: There was none

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:53 through 23:59 were approved as a consent agenda.

- RES. 23-53 AUTHORIZE OEM PREPAREDNESS GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-54 AUTHORIZE NJHTS STATE FUNDED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-55 AUTHORIZE NJHTS FEDERALLY FUNDED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-56 AUTHORIZE NJHTS FEDERALLY FUNDED DWI TASK FORCE GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-57 AUTHORIZE NJHTS STATE FUNDED CLICK IT OR TICKET GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-58 AUTHORIZE FEMA PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANT APPLICATION
- RES. 23-59 AWARD CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy thanks the organizers and participants of the Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford events.

Councilwoman Hall – Councilwoman Hall praised the Council for its efforts to implement redevelopment in the borough at the Berlin Road and Laurel Mills Shopping Center locations. Councilwoman Hall stated everyone is happy to see the shopping center demolition and Ryan Homes is doing a good job. Councilwoman Hall stated she is proud to be part of positive changes in the Borough. Councilwoman Hall stated she hopes to get a lot of children for Sunday’s Easter Egg Hunt. Councilwoman Hall stated the Fire Company flower sale is also underway.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Councilwoman Lomanno praised the Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford pageants and thanks the organizers and participants for their efforts.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan apologized for missing the pageants and thanked Councilwoman Hall for her efforts to organize it again this year. Councilman Gilligan stated resident will soon enjoy fresh eggs from home raised hens.

Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo stated he has been happy to help with the Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford pageants and both well done. Councilman Tolomeo thanks Councilman Kelly for volunteering to be the Master of Ceremonies for the events.

Mayor Keenan – Mayor Keenan thanked everyone for their efforts with the pageants and both events were very well done.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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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 – 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked if there was any update with the former Exxon site. Mr. Keenan stated there are no updates. Mr. Gentless stated Council should reconsider holding the remaining liquor license due to possible changes to liquor licensing rules by the state. Mr. Keenan stated there are two pad sites available at the Bradlees site. Mr. Gentless asked if the Laurel Mills demolition was completed on time. Mr. Keenan stated Council was satisfied with the progress but work was delayed due to a machine malfunction. Mr. Keenan states work has resumed and is anticipated to be completed soon. Mr. Keenan stated the developer has documents and plans that must be filed before construction can begin on the new homes. Mr. Keenan stated the site will remain fenced and locked.

There were no further comments.

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

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk