

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 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 – PRESENT  
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT  
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT  
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT  
CRAIG REILLY, 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 Gilligan motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

There were no 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 July 2023.

July 1 – Police responded to Yale Ave. for the report of a woman falling off a moving vehicle. Police later determined the woman had allegedly followed the driver from Somerdale as part of a road rage incident.

July 3 – DPW Supervisor Mike Williams spotted suspected narcotics along the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade route in the area of Longwood Drive and Evergreen Road.

July 4 – Police responded to Eleanor Ave. for the report of a pool liner damaged by fireworks causing \$6,000.00 in damage.

July 6 – Police responded to Swarthmore Ave. for a domestic dispute in which a 41-year-old man allegedly punched his 75-year-old mother in the face. Police believe both the victim and attacker were intoxicated.

July 7 – Police responded to Vassar Ave. for the report of an unconscious male who was determined to be dead from a suspected drug overdose.

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July 8 – Police responded to Saratoga Road for the report of a deer hanging from a 6-foot-tall fence. Police discovered the deer broke both legs trying to jump the fence. Police euthanized the animal and disposed of the carcass.

July 9 – Police responded to Whitehall Apartment for reports of a 48-year-old man who had not been seen or heard from in a few days. Police entered the home and found the man had died several days earlier due to natural causes.

July 12-16 – Police are investigating the theft of tip jars from Milanese Pizza, D’Amico and Seasons Pizza. Police identified the 16-year-old suspect from Princeton Avenue via surveillance video. The suspect was entered into the Stationhouse Adjustment Program and restitution was made to each of the three businesses.

July 21 – A 2005 Dodge pickup truck was stolen and later recovered in Lumberton where two adults from Camden and Pennsauken were breaking into cars. The two suspects were later arrested in Medford allegedly breaking into vehicles.

July 21 – A Chevy Colorado was stolen from Whiteman Ave. The vehicle was unlocked and had the key fob inside. The vehicle has not yet been recovered.

July 27 – Police are investigating an alleged incident of cyber harassment by a 54-year-old Laurel Mills woman who posted material on Facebook regarding active and retired employees of the Stratford School District. Civil and criminal charges are pending.

July 29 – The Hafner Swim Meet was held and went smoothly due to the planning and work of its organizers at the Stratford Swim Club.

July 31 – Police responded to Union Avenue where a 32-year-old man was found deceased in his apartment. The Cause of death is still pending.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated bids will go out soon for the CDBG funded paving project. Mr. Reilly stated the 2022 Borough Funded paving project is substantially completed. Mr. Reilly stated the ADA improvements would begin in September with the Senior Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

JULY 6, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

JULY 6, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

JULY 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Bray stated he received one edit for the minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote except Councilman Gandy who abstained from the July 11 minutes because he was absent from the meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There were none.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:110 through 23:113 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 23-110            APPOINT FIREFIGHTER DUTY CREW MEMBERS

RES. 23-111            APPROVE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

RES. 23-112            AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION – BODY ARMOR REPLACEMENT

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RES. 23-113            APPOINT CROSSING GUARD

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy thanks the fire, EMS, police, OEM and other services who work to help the Borough. Councilman Gandy recognized the Swim Club and the other organizations for their work hosting the Hafner Swim meet. Councilman Gandy thanked the organizers of National Night out which was well coordinated and attended.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanked Councilwoman Hall for her work on National Night Out. Councilman Kelly stated it is sad to hear about residents who have passed away for unknown causes.

Councilwoman Hall – Councilwoman Hall stated the swim club did a phenomenal job running the swim meet. Councilwoman Hall stated she has heard a lot of positive comments about the event. Councilwoman Hall thanks all the participants and organizers of National Night Out.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Councilwoman Lomanno thanked the organizers of National Night Out.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan thanked Councilwoman Hall for her work for National Night Out. Councilman Gilligan stated it was gratifying to see residents come out including younger residents.

Councilman Tolomeo – No comment at this time.

Mayor Keenan – Mayor Keenan thanks the entire Council for their effort for National Night Out. Mayor Keenan stated the kids had a good time and both turnout and the weather was great.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

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

Marisa Hunter, 319 Columbia Ave., Apt 227 – Ms. Hunter stated her rent was increased by \$500 after only living there for a year and she wanted to know how it happened and if it was legal. Mr. Keenan stated the property was sold and the new owners are increasing the rent. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough does not have rent control and the landlord can change the rent as they see fit. Ms. Hunter stated there are unfinished repairs in her home and no on-site laundry facilities. Mr. Platt stated he does not give legal advice to residents and the Borough has no jurisdiction over landlord – tenant issues. Mr. Platt stated the residents should look at their lease and consider contacting a private attorney to represent them. Mr. Platt stated Camden County Legal Service can also help those who are income qualified.

Sandra Mack, 319 Columbia Ave., Apt. 321 – Ms. Mack asked if the Borough enforces any of the violations at the apartment complex. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough as already fined the owners thousands of dollars. Mr. Keenan stated residents can also contact the Camden County Department of Health.

Jackie Cortez Jr., 319 Columbia Ave., Apt. 605 – Mr. Cortez stated he has already been to court with the new landlords.

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John Gentless – 110 Union Ave., Mr. Gentless asked if the Methodist Church has been sold. Mr. Gentless asked if the Quaker Store and old gas station were on the same lot and block. Mr. Gentless asked for any update on Berlin Road Redevelopment Phase II. Mr. Keenan stated he believes the Methodist church was sold. Mr. Keenan stated the Quaker Store and the gas station are on separate lots. Mr. Keenan stated there is no update on the Berlin Road Redevelopment Phase II. Mr. Gentless stated the Borough should not move forward with the Laurel Ave. Redevelopment study until after a redeveloper purchases the entire area. Mr. Platt stated the study should be redeveloper and project neutral.

Sandra Mack, 319 Columbia Ave., Apt. 321 – Ms. Macks asked if the Borough had any assistance for relocation. Mr. Platt stated the County may have services that would help but the Borough is too small to have those services.

There were no further comments.

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

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk