

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 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 – PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – ABSENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – ABSENT
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. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

Councilwoman Hall joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

POLICE/OEM REPORT: Administrator/Department Head Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for June 2023.

June 2 – Police responded to Yellin School for a dispute between a student’s parents over their participation in a class trip. There was no resolution and the student unfortunately did not go to Great Adventure.

June 7 – An employee of Tomkinson’s Auto reported the catalytic converter was stolen from one of their vehicles while they stopped by the shop in the evening to complete office work.

June 11 – An unknown suspect stole scrapped generators and engine parts from Joe’s Small Engine Repair.

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June 15 – A vehicle struck a large deer on Laurel Road, near Warwick Road just as school dismissed for the day. Police quickly euthanized the mortally wounded animal.

June 17 – Police responded to a neighbor dispute on Cooper Ave. Complaints were issued by police for disorderly conduct and harassment.

June 18 – Police received a report from a Jefferson Hospital patient that their car was stolen from the hospital parking lot. The vehicle has not yet been recovered.

June 22, 24 & 25 – Police responded to Jefferson Hospital for healthcare workers who were assaulted by patients. A Camden man and a Lawnside man were charged in separate cases. A 71-year-old Newark woman was not charged.

June 25 – Police & fire department responded to a Webster Ave home for a fire. The cause was determined to be careless smoking.

June 25 – The Borough was hit by a powerful storm that caused: flooding, loss of power, including two traffic lights and a two sewer pump stations, 7 vehicles towed from flooded roadways, fallen tree limbs and downed power lines. DPW respond that evening to clean streets of debris.

June 26 – Police responded to CVS for a homeless woman being disruptive and spitting on the manager. Police found the female suspect harassing people at Tim Hortons and she was charged and banned from both locations.

June 28 – Police responded to Vassar Ave for reports of a naked man walking near the playground. Police found the naked and intoxicated man at Hagerty Field. The 39-year-old was determined to be a new resident and he was charged with lewdness and disorderly conduct.

June 30 – Police responded to a home in the Wood & Leaves section for the report of a 33-year-old man who was found dead in the bathroom from a suspected drug overdose.

June 30 – Police responded to the Residences at Whitehall for the report of an unconscious 45-year-old man. Police determined the man had died of natural causes.

Mr. Morello stated the Borough will create a First Aid Division within OEM CERT Team via an Explorer program to give Borough youth an opportunity for community service. Mr. Morello stated the program hopefully will generate more interest among younger residents to serve on the ambulance squad or fire department.

Mr. Morello stated the Borough investigated the use and need for a staffed crosswalk at Atlantic and Laurel and subsequently determined it can be eliminated. Mr. Morello stated the study included surveys to parents. Mr. Morello stated the Police Department also conducted a gap analysis and determined the intersection's design is among the safest in the Borough.

ENGINEER REPORT:

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Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Councilman Gilligan asked the timeline for the ADA improvements. Mr. Keenan described the schedule and stated the Senior Center is closed for renovations and the library would close during the door installation. Mr. Reilly stated the ADA project came in under budget so they are looking at other improvements that the CDBG funds can be used for.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

JUNE 8, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

JUNE 8, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

JUNE 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Bray stated he incorporated Council's edits into the draft minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote except Councilwoman Hall who abstained from the June 8 minutes because she was absent from the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES

ORD. 23:8 AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF \$650,000 IN BONDS/NOTES

Mr. Bray stated Ordinances 23:8 is up for introduction at the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #2 UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

There were none.

BLOCK PARTY:

Mr. Bray stated the police department reviewed and approved the application for a Block Party on GREEN TREE ROAD on July 1 which was held without incident. Mr. Bray stated Council action is to memorialize the approval. Councilman Gandy made a motion to approve the Block party. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous roll call vote of the Council members present.

BUSINESS LICENSES:

Mr. Bray stated the license application of Autozone at 10 N. White Horse Pike was reviewed and approved by the Police Department. Councilman Gilligan made a motion to approve the business license for Autozone. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous roll call vote by all members present.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:100 through 23:109 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 23-100 APPOINT FIREFIGHTER DUTY CREW MEMBERS

RES. 23-101 AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR LABOR DAY DWI CRACKDOWN GRANT

RES. 23-102 ESTABLISH STRATFORD OEM CERT FIRST AID DIVISION

RES. 23-103 APPOINT CROSSING GUARD

RES. 23-104 APPOINT TRASH & RECYCLING PART TIME LABORER

RES. 23-105 APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1 – ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

RES. 23-106 AUTHORIZE SSA – MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUGS & ALCOHOL

RES. 23-107 AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING – NEGOTIATIONS FOR BERLIN ROAD PHASE II

RES. 23-108 APPOINT FIREFIGHTER

RES. 23-109 DESIGNATE STAFFED CROSSWALKS FOR 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy stated school is out, please look out for kids while driving. Councilman Gandy thanked DPW, police, fire, ambulance squad for their efforts during the recent spat of storms. Councilman Gandy stated the July 4th parade was a great event and he enjoyed participating.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly stated the parade was outstanding.

Councilwoman Hall – Councilwoman Hall thanks Public Works for helping all day with the parade and celebrations afterwards. Councilwoman Hall stated she got a lot of positive feedback about the parade. Councilwoman Hall thanked OEM for helping a parade participant who was impacted by the heat.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan thanked Councilwoman Hall for her work on the parade and he enjoyed participating. Councilman Gilligan stated he was impressed with the response to the Webster Ave. fire and thanked all the fire companies who responded and worked very well together.

Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo stated enjoyed the parade too.

Mayor Keenan – Mayor Keenan thanked Councilwoman Hall and Council for their support and participation in the July 4th parade.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Kelly 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 sale of the Quaker Store, Bradlees, Central and Kirkwood resurfacing project and the Laurel Road Redevelopment. Mr. Keenan stated the Quaker Store is under contract. Mr. Keenan stated there are many items stored at the Quaker Store that do not have any historic value and the Borough would need to find a place to store these items while it is determined what to do with them. Mr. Keenan stated the new owner of Bradlees is doing roof repairs. Mr. Keenan stated the resurfacing would not include sidewalks but could include ADA compliance improvements at intersections. Mr. Keenan stated the redevelopment study would allow the Borough to offer a long-term tax abatement but does not allow for condemnation.

There were no further comments.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Platt stated the Executive Session is anticipated to last approximately 30 to 40 minutes and no action is expected afterwards but Council reserves the right to take action if needed.

Motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall, with all Council voting aye to enter Executive Session.

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Council entered Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Kelly, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk