

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 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.

John Gentless, 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked about the Resolutions to Auction Liquor License, Temporary Salary Increase for Construction Code Enforcement, East Laurel Redevelopment Study, the Executive Session. Mr. Platt responded to his questions.

There were no further 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.

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

May 2-Police responded to a Temple Ave. home for a wellness check and found a female deceased from natural causes.

May 3- A BMW was stolen from Dena’s Auto after suspects entered the building through an open side window. The vehicle was recovered at a stolen vehicle staging area waiting to be loaded onto a ship

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May 4- A large sinkhole formed on the White Horse Pike near Yale Avenue. There were no injuries and repairs were made.

May 5- Scrap cooper was stolen from the Atlantic City Electric substation. The suspect has not yet been identified.

May 8- Police responded to the PATCO station to assist in a strong-arm robbery of a purse. Officer Burnett arrested the suspect at CVS and recovered the purse. The 45-year-old Blackwood man was turned over to PATCO Police.

May 9 – A misunderstanding between neighbors escalated into alleged cyber harassment after a mix-up in mail delivery. One neighbor noticed they received their neighbors mail and found their mail in the neighbor’s mailbox. After switching the mail to the proper recipient, the second neighbor accuse them of theft and posted a video online. Charges may be signed for cyber harassment.

May 13 – Police responded to Wine Nova for a report of a man punching out a car window during a domestic dispute. Police found the suspect, a 30-year-old Vorhees resident on White Horse Road near the PATCO station and charged them accordingly.

May 18 – Police responded to Family Dollar for a report of man down on the sidewalk. Police revived the 62-year-old Somerdale man with Narcan and transported him to Jefferson Hospital.

May 19 – A man crashed his bicycle and suffered serious injuries during an annual bike ride tradition hosts by his friends. Alcohol was a factor in the crash which did not involve an automobile.

May 28 – Police responded to United Check Cashing for a report of a woman attempting to cash a forge check in the amount of \$26,000. Police intercepted a 25-year-old Philadelphia woman before she could flee and subsequently arrested and charged her with attempted theft.

Mr. Morello stated the JP II Carnival was held and residents heeded calls to walk or bike to the event due to limited parking since the demolition of Laurel Mills Shopping Center. The event was well under control except of an incident with some out-of-town teens.

Mr. Morello stated the department is gather data and contacting parent to determine the continued need for a crossing guard at Laurel and Atlantic Aves.

Mr. Morello stated the department confirmed the Somerdale Road Bridge replacement is now on hold with no new start date.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated the municipal funded Road Reconstruction is underway. Mr. Reilly stated the ADA Improvement project is also proceeding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MAY 4, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

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MAY 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote except Councilman Gandy who abstained from the May 4 minutes and Councilman Tolomeo who abstained from the May 9 minutes because they were absent from those meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES

ORD. 23-6 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2.04 – ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

ORD. 23-7 2023 SALARY ORDINANCE

Mr. Bray stated there are two ordinances up for introduction at the regular meeting. Mr. Bray stated Ord. 23-6 was discussed earlier and Ord. 23-7 is the annual salary ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #2 UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. Mr. Bray stated that Resolutions 23:84 and 23:85 were being held until after the Executive Session meeting. Mr. Platt noted both were slightly amended to revise unit 8 to 8.11. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:76 through 23:83 and 23:85 through 23:89 were approved as a consent agenda.

- RES. 23-76 AUTHORIZE NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT STUDY – EAST LAUREL ROAD
- RES. 23-77 AUTHORIZE AUCTION FOR PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE
- RES. 23-78 APPOINT PART-TIME LABORERS
- RES. 23-79 APPOINT DPW LABORER
- RES. 23-80 APPROVE RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE
- RES. 23-81 APPROVE RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE
- RES. 23-82 AUTHORIZE MOU WITH SBOE FOR SROs
- RES. 23-83 APPROVE TEMPORARY SALARY INCREASES FOR CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES
- RES. 23-86 APPOINT GRANT ADMINISTRATORS
- RES. 23-87 AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF SURPLUS PROPERTY
- RES. 23-88 AUTHORIZE NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT APPLICATION – CENTRAL & KIRKWOOD IV
- RES. 23-89 AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - BRANDYWINE

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy stated the carnival was a great event.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly stated the Memorial Day event was solemn and well organized. Councilman Kelly thanks the various groups for their efforts and participation.

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Councilman Gilligan – Nothing at this time.

Councilman Tolomeo – Nothing at this time.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

Walt Baxter – 201 S Atlantic Ave. – Mr. Baxter asked about the Quaker Store Building sale. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough has never intended to purchase the building. Mr. Platt stated the Borough policy is to preserve the building.

John Gentless – 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked how can the Borough preserve a building it doesn't own. Mr. Platt stated the Borough has saved and improved the building for 30 years without owning it. Mr. Gentless stated the Borough should ban firepits during the dry weather. Mr. Gentless asked about the Municipal Budget and the future former church near his home and Laurel Mills Shopping Center.

There were no further comments.

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Kelly 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 15 minutes and action is expected afterwards.

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

Council entered Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 23-84 AUTHORIZE ASSIGNMENT & ASSUMPTION OF RDA

RES. 23-85 APPROVE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Councilman Gilligan made a Motion to adopt Res. 23-84 and Res. 23-85. Councilman Kelly Seconded the Motion which was approved with all Council voting

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilman Gandy with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk