

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 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 – ABSENT  
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT  
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT  
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
DONNA 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. Councilwoman Lomanno seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless, 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked what is the purpose of Ord. 23-6. Mr. Bray stated the ordinance would allow the Borough to reorganize how departments are managed and created the position of department head.

There were no further comments.

Councilman Tolomeo 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 April 2023.

April 5 – Police responded to an apartment for the report of an unconscious 62-year-old woman. Police determined she had fallen, struck her head and was deceased.

April 6 – Police arrested and charged a Stratford Ave man with aggravated assault after he allegedly strangled his ex-girlfriend. The suspect was taken to the county jail.

April 9 – On Easter police responded to the Apartments at Whitehall for the report of a bathtub running for 24 hours. Police found the 70-year-old man deceased in the bathroom. Police contacted the next of kin.

April 11 – A Camden man was charged with aggravated assault after he threw a Playstation at his mother who he was visiting at her Bishop Court home. The suspect remains at large.

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April 12 – Police responded to Rite Aid for the report of a large-scale shoplifting that had occurred. Police stated the organized group entered the store, distracted employees, and stole fragrances.

April 15 – Police responded to Laurel Road after a Sicklerville man being transported to Jefferson Hospital jumped out of the vehicle. Police said the man was injured and taken to the hospital for treatment,

April 16 – Police responded to the Woods and Leaves section of the Borough for a report of a drug overdose where they administered Narcan to a 30-year-old resident who was then taken to Jefferson Hospital for treatment.

April 17 – Police spotted a suspicious U-Haul trolling Borough streets and determined it was reported stolen from West Depford. Police stopped the vehicle and a 30-year-old Camden woman was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle.

April 19 – Police responded to a house fire on Yale Avenue and used a fire extinguisher to fight a kitchen fire until fire department arrived. The fire department extinguished the fire and there were no injuries.

April 22 – OEM members responded to the area of Landing Road and Atlantic Avenue after a power outage impacted two traffic lights in the area.

Mr. Morello stated DARE Graduation is scheduled for May 25, the same week as the JP II Carnival. Mr. Morello stated Somerdale Road will be closed in Gloucester Township in June and traffic on Warwick Road is anticipated to double during the closure.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated the Borough was notify there is high probability that the Borough will receive additional CDBG funding for its proposed paving project. Mr. Reilly stated the paving would need to be completed in 2023 calendar year. Mr. Reilly stated Lexa Concrete will begin the road resurfacing on Timber Creek, Rutgers Place, Swarthmore Avenue, Nancy Road and Winding Way Road soon. Mr. Reilly stated the CDBG funded ADA improvement project would also start soon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

APRIL 6, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

APRIL 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 11, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by roll call vote except Councilman Kelly who abstained from the April 6 minutes because he was absent from that meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

REPORT #1                   UPCOMING INTRODUCTION 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.

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:66 through 23:72 were approved as a consent agenda.

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| RES. 23-66 | AUTHORIZE INCREASE IN DEFERRED REGINAL SCHOOL TAX              |
| RES. 23-67 | APPOINT FIRE CHAPLAIN  |
| RES. 23-68 | APPOINT FIREFIGHTER  |
| RES. 23-69 | AWARD CONTRACT FOR CDBG FUNDED ADA IMPROVEMENTS                |
| RES. 23-70 | AUTHORIZE 3-YEAR CDGB COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN COUNTY |
| RES. 23-71 | ACCEPT FEMA GRANT – WRITING SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT             |
| RES. 23-72 | ACCEPT NJ DCA RECREATION CENTER GRANT                          |

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

**BUSINESS LICENSES:** EL PULGARCITO DE AMERICA RESTAURANT – 205 South White Horse Pike. Mr. Bray stated the application was reviewed and approved by the police department. Councilman Tolomeo made a Motion to approve the Business License, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Kelly – Nothing at this time.

Councilwoman Hall – Councilwoman Hall stated she had the opportunity to attend the ribbon cutting at Stratford Commons and the townhouse built by Ryan Homes are beautiful. Councilwoman Hall stated the builder is very appreciative of the support it has received for the Borough.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Nothing at this time.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan asked everyone to remember Rev. Dawson who recently passed away.

Councilman Tolomeo – Nothing at this time.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo 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 anyone looked at Hillside Lane Road conditions. Mr. Keenan stated that road will be repaved next year. Mr. Gentless asked if anything is being done about the potholes on West Atlantic Ave. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough had filled them and hopes to add some hot asphalt material should there be any left over from the paving projects this year. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough had any information with the church sale. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough does not know who is buying the church but the deadline to make an offer has passed.

There were no further comments.

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

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk