

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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 – ABSENT
CHRIS NORMAN, 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 why Res. 137 was not included in the meeting packet. Mr. Keenan stated it wasn't ready. Mr. Gentless asked why Res. 146 did not mention both discussion items listed on the agenda. Mr. Bray stated both items were listed in the resolution.

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 September 2023.

SEPT. 2 - Police responded to Stratford Swim Club for the report of a car break in. Police suspect this was an act of an organized criminal group that targeted swim clubs in South Jersey this weekend.

SEPT. 3 – A masked man entered the Wells Fargo Bank vestibule where he kicked several holes into the drywall. A suspect has not been identified.

SEPT. 5 & 9 – Police responded to Jefferson Hospital on both dates for reports of staff being assaulted by psychologic patients. Police charged a 40-year-old Lindenwold woman and a 40-year-old Pine Hill man with assault on the medical staff.

SEPT. 7 – Police investigated the theft of \$840,000 for a Borough resident by his now ex-girlfriend. The suspect tried to withdraw the victim's money, which he legally won via online sport betting, from his bank account. Police were able to freeze the account before the transfer was completed.

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SEPT. 11 – During the overnight, 6 unlocked vehicles were entered in the Estates section by unknown suspects looking for the keys, finding a set for a Ford Escape which was then taken from the home. Police recovered the stolen vehicle on Sept. 29 in Broomall Pa. The suspect had installed window tint and used the vehicle to steal packages in Delaware County, Pa.

SEPT. 12 – Police responded to Bishop Court Apartments for the theft of a vehicle’s entire exhaust system from the manifold to the tailpipe.

SEPT. 12 – Police responded to a home for a wellness check and found a 75-year-old man deceased from natural causes.

SEPT. 14 – Police responded to Saratoga Road for the report of an unconscious 52-year-old male. Police attempted CPR but the man, who had a history of health issues, had died of natural causes.

SEPT. 15 – Police observed a known drug dealer leaving a home on Hillside Road and departing in an Uber. Police found there was an outstanding warrant for the suspect, stopped the vehicle near Yellin School and the 36-year-old Voorhees mas was found in possession of 30 bags of heroin with intent to distribute. The suspect was sent to the county jail on the outstanding warrant from a prior drug distribution charge.

SEPT. 18 – A driver lost control of their vehicle which left the roadway and became airborne before crashing into five vehicles at Echelon Ford. The driver was cited for reckless driving.

SEPT. 15 – Police observes an elderly woman in her vehicle on Stratford Avenue. Approximately 30 minutes later, Police observed the woman again and performed a wellness check, discovering that she had passed out in the hot vehicle. The police officer is credited with likely saving her life.

SEPT. 20 – Police responded to assist Somerdale Police for a disturbance at the Little Spot Bar when Officer Brunnett was assaulted. The officer suffered bruising to his face.

SEPT. 28 – Police responded to Columbia Avenue and the White Horse Pike for the report of a deranged female who climbed to the top of a ladder set up by Comcast which was performing work in the area. Police were able to convince the woman to climb down and family member stated they would take her for a psychological evaluation.

SEPT. 28 – Police responded to Jefferson Hospital for a bomb threat. Police determine the threat was made by a 35-year-old Camden man being guarded by Gloucester Township Police who had arrested and charged him with assault of a NJ Transit bus driver. Police charged him with making terroristic threats and false public alarm. While the event was settled quickly, the hospital was put on divert which impacted the delivery of care to numerous patients.

SEPT. 29 – Police issued a notice of violation for an unlicensed massage parlor that opened in the former Mary Kents. The letter provided information on the approval process.

Mr. Morello stated New Jersey has a new Police Licensing requirement effective Jan. 1, 2024. Mr. Morello stated the departments rules and regulations will need to be revised to be in alignment with the new requirements.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated contracts were executed for the CDBG reconstruction of Byrant, Coolidge and Wellington with preconstruction meeting set for the week of Oct 20. Mr. Reilly stated contract for the Central & Kirkwood Phase II will go out this week for execution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 AGENDA MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote except Councilman Kelly who abstained from the August 8 minutes and Councilman Gandy who abstained from the September 22 minutes because they were absent from the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Bray stated there is none.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Bray stated ORD. 23-10 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL & REPLACE CHAPTER 16.30-STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANCE would be up for introduction at Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Bray stated the ordinance is mandated by the NJDEP and is its boilerplate ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. Mr. Bray stated John Laberte was added to Res. 143. Mr. Bray stated there was one bidder for the firehouse polymer floor project, Engine Bay Floors in the amount of \$67,997.75 for the base bid and option 1. Mr. Bray stated Jeff Riebel was added to Res. 141. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:132 through 23:146 were approved as a consent agenda.

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| RES. 23-132 | AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE STRATEGIC PLAN GRANT |
| RES. 23-133 | AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT & ACCEPT CC RECREATION FACILITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT |
| RES. 23-134 | APPROVE CHAPTER 159 BUDGET AMENDMENT – CCRFEG |
| RES. 23-135 | AWARD ROOT CONTROL CONTRACT |
| RES. 23-136 | APPROVE HALLOWEEN CURFEW |
| RES. 23-137 | AWARD FIRE STATION FLOORING CONTRACT |
| RES. 23-138 | AWARD CONTRACT FOR FY22 NJDOT ROAD RESURFACING CONTRACT |
| RES. 23-139 | APPOINT DUTY CREW MEMBER |
| RES. 23-140 | APPROVE CHAPTER 159 BUDGET AMENDMENT – Municipal Alliance Grant |
| RES. 23-141 | APPOINT DUTY CREW MEMBER |
| RES. 23-142 | APPROVE DEER CARCASS REMOVAL AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN COUNTY |
| RES. 23-143 | APPOINT CROSSING GUARD |
| RES. 23-144 | AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION - NJHTS DWI HOLIDAY CRACKDOWN GRANT |
| RES. 23-145 | APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION – BILL SCULLY MEMORIAL RUN/WALK |
| RES. 23-146 | AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation Stratford vs Laurel Mills LLC; Borough Clerk |

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gandy stated he had no comment.

Councilman Kelly stated he had no comment.

Councilwoman Hall stated several residents reached out to her about a hand-delivered letter sent to residents on East Laurel Road regarding the redevelopment study. Councilwoman Hall stated the letter present numerous false claims. Councilwoman Hall stated the residents were angered that someone would try to disseminate misinformation.

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Councilwoman Lomanno stated Employee of the Year would be recognized at the December meeting.

Councilman Gilligan stated he had no comment.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless – 110 Union Ave., Mr. Gentless asked if there was an update on the Berlin Road sewer pump station upgrades. Mr. Reilly stated the contractor pulled out of the project and they are working to secure a new contractor. Mr. Gentless stated the bowling alley is for sale. Mr. Gentless stated there is a rumor that Historic Commission members will be replaced.

There were no further comments.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Norman stated the Executive Session is anticipated to last approximately 45 minutes and no action is expected afterwards but Council reserves the right to take action if needed.

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

Council entered Executive Session at 7 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:44 p.m.

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

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Gilligan with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk