

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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 – ABSENT
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:

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Gilligan seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless, 110 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked if there was any update on the Berlin Road sewer pump station upgrades. Mr. Reilly stated they are coordinating schedules with the vendor and work is anticipated to begin soon.

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 August 2023.

Aug. 1 – Police responded to Next Gen Daycare on Arlington Avenue for a report of a two-year-old who was dropped off by Division of Child Protection caseworker but not registered to attend. Police were able to identify the child’s proper daycare facility, Bundle of Joy also on Arlington Ave and the child’s grandmother, and transported them to the proper location.

Aug. 9 – Police responded to a home on Cooper Ave. for a neighbor dispute that began with comments on Facebook and escalated into an in-person confrontation. Police defused the situation between the adults.

Aug. 10 – Police responded to Ryan Homes worksite on Berlin Road for the report of a stolen work van. The male suspect was identified on surveillance video and he was arrested at the Somerdale Square Methadone Clinic the following day. The 35-year-old Berlin man was charged with auto theft and released.

Aug. 11 – Police responded to the area of the Stratford firehouse for the report of a deranged man who stole property from Stratford Tire. The suspect was a released crisis patient who allegedly stole a knife and loose

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change from a vehicle. The 40-year-old suspect waived the knife in the air before dropping it. The suspect was charged with burglary and theft.

Aug. 12 – Various Borough employees and officials responded to the Laurel Mills site and nearby streets for a large volume of muddy water draining from the site onto nearby streets. NJ DEP, and Camden County and cited the property owners. Stratford fire department and DPW performed cleanup work.

Aug. 16 – Police responded to a home on West Harvard for a road rage incident. The 19-year-old suspect confronted a 45-year-old Swarthmore Avenue resident after passing their vehicle which the suspect felt was moving too slow. The suspect challenged the other driver to a fight and punched and kicked her vehicle when they refused to engage. The suspect was charged with criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

Aug. 17 – Fire and police responded to Sleepy Hollow Road for an electrical fire. A contractor on location extinguished the fire.

Aug. 18 – A 30-year-old Lindenwold man was charged with drunken driving and Assault on Police after he pushed and punched Lt. Beasley in police headquarters.

Aug. 24 – Police responded to Penna Ave. after the alleged drunk drive crashed into his neighbor's parked car and tried to limp away. The suspect was charged with driving under the influence, open container and refusing breath test.

Aug. 26 – Police responded to Harry's Auto on Berlin Road for a burglary alarm activation. Officer Collins witnessed a vehicle leaving the scene. Officer Collins pursued the suspect and caught up to him at the Somerdale Methadone Clinic where they tried to run away. The 30-year-old Glendora man was arrested. Police later determine the suspect came off the train, broke out a window and stole the car keys from the business. Police also determine the suspect had suffered an overdose on New Road in 2023 and an employee at Harry's Auto had called 911 and saved his life. The suspect was sent to Camden County jail and released two days later pending trial.

Aug. 30 – A 40-year-old homeless male released from Jefferson crisis was charged with punching and grabbing Ptl. Deitz.

The Police Department is currently experiencing a staffing shortage due to an officer on leave due to a non-work-related surgery and Officer Rebecca deciding to take an early retirement.

The Department of Public Works Supervisor and staff did a great job preparing the town for the start of school. DPW painted yellow curbs near stop signs and crosswalks on Winding Way and near Parkview Road and Hillcrest to deter parking in unsafe or illegal locations.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly state the FY 2023 CDBG repaving project bids were received and a recommendation is made for award on Tuesday subject to the solicitor's review. Mr. Reilly stated the FY 2022 CDBG funded ADA improvements are underway. NJDOT funded repaving project, Central Kirkwood Phase II is out for bids which will be opened on September 22.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

AUGUST 3, 2023 AGENDA MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

Mr. Bray stated he received and made minor edits for the minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote except Councilman Tolomeo who abstained from the August 8 minutes because he was absent from the meeting.

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OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Bray stated there will be a public hearing and possible adoption of Ordinance 23-9 Revised Salary Ordinance at Tuesday’s Regular Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There were none.

BERLIN ROAD PHASE II REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. Platt stated the Recreational Storage Group LLC is interested in pursuing a project in the Berlin Road Phase II. Mr. Platt stated the MOU will be on Tuesday’s agenda for approval.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bray reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 23:116 through 23:125 were approved as a consent agenda.

- RES. 23-116 AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC TAX SALE AGREEMENT
- RES. 23-117 APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #2- ADA IMPROVEMENTS
- RES. 23-118 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND AGREEMENT
- RES. 23-119 AUTHORIZE CHAPTER 159 BUDGET AMENDMENT – CDBG
- RES. 23-120 APPOINT PART TIME DPW EMPLOYEES
- RES. 23-121 APPROVE DESIGNATION OF LABORER 3 – MORRIS
- RES. 23-122 ACCEPT PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE DWI GRANT
- RES. 23-123 ACCEPT 2022 MUNICIPAL AUDIT
- RES. 23-124 AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CURRENT FUND CHECKS
- RES. 23-125 AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION – STRATFORD vs LAUREL MILLS LLC

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: There were no comments

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.

John Gentless – 110 Union Ave., Mr. Gentless asked about the sale of the liquor license, and the Methodist Church property taxes. Mr. Keenan stated the liquor license had no bids and won’t be rebid this year. Mr. Platt stated the property must be owned by a religious organization for a religious purpose to qualify as tax exempt.

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 15-30 minutes and no action is expected afterwards but Council reserves the right to take action if needed.

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

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Council entered Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Hall, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk