

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 04, 2024
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Borough Deputy Clerk John Keenan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Hall led the Pledge and said an opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – PRESENT
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MICHAEL TOLOMEO – ABSENT
COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF - PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – 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.

PROCLAMATION: Mr. Keenan explained the Stratford Senior Group recommended the Mayor and Council recognize Laurel Manor Healthcare for the ongoing support to their group, and the town. Mayor Hall read a proclamation thanking Laurel Manor for their support to the Senior Group, and to the town with such items as their bright holiday light display and night with Santa, their annual flower give aways, and continuing to give back to the town. David Klugmann, the Administrator for Laurel Manor was present, also with Sara DeAngelis.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilwoman Martin 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 from Union Avenue had comments referring to Ord 24-04.

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

POLICE/OEM REPORT: Ron Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for March 2024.

3/6 During the afternoon hours, our officers were called to a home on Buttonwood Rd to investigate a neighbor report that mail was piling up outside the home. The neighbor noticed a 4-inch stack of medical bills piling up and notified police. Officers forced entry, and found a 54-year-old female deceased in the bed. The female had many health issues; the death was of natural causes. This was a 4 hour call, as their was no next of kin located.

3/7 During the morning hours we were called to Jefferson for a report of a Gun Shot victim. A domestic violence case; the female shot her boyfriend in the groin. The crime occurred in Clementon. The female was arrested without incident.

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- 3/8 After the last council meeting, we handled a slight disruption at the student faculty game at Yellin School. High school students caused a disruption at the overcrowded, under staffed building, attempting to enter with face masks and making menacing gestures towards staff. The situation was resolved, the students beat the faculty that night.
- 3/9 During the afternoon hours, we responded to a home on Liberty after a man was found deceased in the bedroom. The deceased was an unwell 63 year old male, died of natural causes.
- 3/9 During the afternoon hours, an organized retail theft ring hit our Rite Aid store making off about a \$1000.00 of skin care products. They are a band of gypsies working about the region.
- 3/14 During the afternoon, a patron of the Stratford Laundry Mat had her wallet stolen as she was doing her wash. We identified, and arrested a 20 year Stratford resident and charged him with theft. We recovered the wallet, however not the cash. The suspect was wearing Stratford Police DARE shirt in the mugshot.
- 3/15 Overnight, an intoxicated driver traveling at a high rate of speed west bound on White Horse Pike made it thru town but tragically crossed the double yellow line past Wawa resulting in a fatal head-on crash. Over the past three months Somerdale has had three fatal accidents and we had another.
- 3/19 A 16 year old juvenile from Gloucester Twp was charged with Criminal Mischief and Careless driving after he drove his electric motorcycle into Rite Aid and proceeded to burn-rubber in place damaging the door mat and floor.
- 3/21 A resident and parent of Stratford was issued a reckless driving ticket on Yellin School property. Basically in front of the Vassar Avenue Crossing Post Officer, the driver did not want to wait for stopped cars, left the driveway, onto the grass and overtook vehicles before hopping back in the car line. The department later received citizen's information that she bragged of her maneuver on the FB. We have those posts as evidence.
- 3/22 A 22-year-old resident of Laurel Mills went missing overnight. Basically the young man disappeared with his mother's vehicle without a trace leaving his phone behind and telling nobody a thing. Detective's tracked him to South Carolina, where he fled on foot from a Trooper. He was located a few hours, where he basically came to his senses. He was reunited with his father who flew to Raleigh. The family was most appreciative of our efforts.
- 3/23 Over a weekend, a new door, insulation and 1 window were stolen from a home under construction at Ryan homes. The property was sort of located, behind PATCO in the woods, the homeless built a fairly nice shelter, mostly of construction scraps, including the door and window.
- 3/24 During the afternoon hours a reckless driver traveling west bound on the White Horse Pike left the road in front of CVS, drove straight over the traffic signal,, caused quite a highway hazard and left the scene. No leads.
- 3/27 A pretty bad car crash at WHP and Laurel Road closed the highway for a time. A reckless driver crossing the double yellow line causing the accident. That driver fled with her baby on foot but was apprehended a short distance away. One 52-year-old Stratford resident was taken to Jeff in Philadelphia with a broken sternum. The 30 year old Lindenwold women was charged with a host of offenses.
- 3/30 During the afternoon hours, we responded to a home on Wright Avenue for a report of a missing 17 year old boy, non-verbal, with a disability. The child had wandered from the home with a one-hour head start. Fortunately, within about 30 minutes of the canvass, a resident of Write Avenue

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awoke to find the boy sitting on his couch. Police were contacted and the juvenile was re-united with his parents and entered into our Special Needs registry.

During March, we received no less than 12 complaints from victims who purchased vehicles, generally thru financing and have been unable to claim their license plates or vehicle titles. Our Detectives are working with Motor Vehicles Commission Investigators to revoke their dealer's license.

Our WHP traffic enforcement initiative started this week and will run thru October 1st. I have already applied for continued funding. For this cycle we are looking at around \$30,000.00 in grant funds.

Saturday April 27th from 9-11AM we will be holding another Drug Take Back event at Headquarters. A flyer will follow.

DARE Graduation Wednesday May 22, 2024 2:00pm at Yellin School.

Towing Application was received and is being reviewed.

FIRE REPORT: Chief Lemmerman presented the Fire Report for March 2024.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated the written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated the final paving for Beaver Circle and the NJDOT project for Central/Kirkwood will occur in April. He confirmed the Bryant/Coolidge/Wellington paving is complete, with only outstanding item left is the installation of the sod.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 7, 2024 AGENDA MEETING

March 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES

ORD. 24:04

TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

Mr. Keenan stated the public hearing is Tuesday. Mr. Keenan stated the proposed ordinance is required by NJDEP as part of the Stormwater Regs.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #2

UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Mr. Keenan stated an ordinance is being drafted to help enforce no parking the entire length of Sydney Lane at Stratford Commons on Berlin Road.

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RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:60 through 24:63 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 24:60 OVERPAYMENT OF SEWER FEE 222 S. WHITE HORSE PIKE, UNIT 15 \$54.45

RES. 24:61 AUTHORIZE APPLICATION 24-25FY STATE WHITE HORSE PIKE PED SAFETY INITIATIVE GRANT IN AMOUNT OF \$19,250

RES. 24:62 AUTHORIZE APPLICATION 24-25FY STATE DEPT OF HIGHWAY&TRAFFIC SAFETY DWI TASK FORCE IN AMOUNT OF \$40,600

RES.24:63 DECLARE AREA IN NEED OF NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT – EAST LAUREL ROAD

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gilligan – Confirmed he would be attending the April 5, 2024 Camden County meeting on homelessness.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Nothing at this time.

Councilwoman Martin – Councilwoman Martin thanked Councilman Gandy, Gilligan, Mayor Hall for attending the event and everyone else for their help and assistance in making her first public event, Easter Egg Hunt at Parkview School a great success. There were about 300 people in attendance. Thanked the fire department for driving the Easter Bunny to the event, and DPW for moving all the supplies to the event too. At this time there are 4 Miss Stratford and 7 Little Miss Stratford contestants with tomorrow being the last day to apply.

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy thanked Councilwoman Martin and Mayor Hall for such as great Easter Egg Hunt.

Councilman Kelly – thanked Councilwoman Martin and all who helped make the event a success.

Mayor Hall – reminded everyone SAO Opening Day is this Saturday, April 6 at 9 am. Come out and support this all volunteer organization.

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.

No one spoke.

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

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

John D. Keenan, Jr. RMC
Borough Administrator
Borough Deputy Clerk