

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 08, 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 – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN – ABSENT
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – ABSENT
JUSTIN STRAUSSER, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
BOB BOVE, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Deputy 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 Gandy 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 of 111 Union Avenue inquired about Ordinance 24:11. The Clerk stated it would be discussed at the public session during the September 5, 2025 meeting.
Mike Mancini of 3 Winding Way Road inquired to the Ordinance 24:11 but wanted to hear from Council. Councilman Kelly and Mayor Hall responded.
Councilman Tolomeo 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: Ron Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for July 2024:

- 7/5 During the evening hours, a parked vehicle on Rolling Road was smashed pretty good, by a hit and run vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The victim's vehicle was pushed approximately 60 feet and across the road, the striking vehicle fled toward Parkview Road never to be located.
- 7/8 During the morning hours, officers again responded to a series accident on White Horse Pike & Wright Avenue. In this case, a vehicle approaching Wright and the White Horse Pike stopped passed the stop sign. An east bound vehicle, swerved, struck the vehicle, overturned and spun for 65 feet across 3 lanes. Fortunately, all injuries were not terribly serious.
- 7/11 During the afternoon hours, we were called to Aldi's for a report of a female shoplifter fleeing the store. Officers located a 50-year-old vagrant running down Cooper Avenue with \$200.00 in stolen merchandise. She was arrested and charged with shoplifting, drug offenses and theft after officers recovered a stolen Amazon delivery from a home on Colby Avenue.

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- 7/11 An arrest was made for counterfeiting, another homeless drug addict passing counterfeit \$20.00 bills at Hortons, Dollar General Goodwill. 40-year-old male was arrested the next day coming across Berlin Road toward the Somerdale Methadone Clinic. Luckily, he was wearing the same clothes with \$100.00 in funny money on him.
- 7/13 A resident of Clementon reported a road rage that begin on White Horse Road in Voorhees concluded when another driver pointed a handgun at the motorists near White Hall. No suspects, and a bad license plate was obtained.
- 7/14 The next day, another road rage that resulted in a female being maced by another female driver at Weber's. That attacker fled west on WHP, again no suspects.
- 7/16 During the afternoon hours, a pedestrian was struck while walking east on WHP. In this case, a driver intending to turn right, began to move without seeing the pedestrian who walking in front of the vehicle. He suffered broken bones.
- 7/17 During the evening hours, we recovered a stolen vehicle on the 300 block of Princeton that was taken in Somerdale.
- 7/18 At 5:30am, the bandits involved with the Princeton Avenue car case, arrived on Hillside Road.....
- 7/21 Overnight, thieves in a white cargo van stolen a motorcycle from the parking lot of White Hall and went on to steal 3 other cycles in Lindenwold and Clementon.
- 7/22 A big break in our May burglary on Overhill Road. In this case, ring from South America was traversing the country. The stolen property was recovered and is in our possession.
- 7/27 During the afternoon, we were called to meeting with Loss Prevention from Pep Boys regarding an employee embezzlement case. Investigation revealed an assistant manager was pocketing bank deposits over a period of time. A 55-year-old resident of Stratford was arrested and charged with embezzlement related crimes.
- 7/28 Four juveniles from Oak Ridge Apartments were unidentified by video footage, they caused thousands of dollars in damage to the pool at Under the Sun. They forced their way into the pool shed and dumped every ounce of chemicals and liquids they could find into the pool. Because of their age, they will enter in to our Stationhouse Adjustment Program and hope the parents make restitution.

One full school year has passed since we decommissioned the staffed crossing post at Laurel and Atlantic. Based on our assurances that we would revisit the location, a recent parental survey was conducted, and we will staff the location again based upon survey responses that children will be using the crosswalk this year

FIRE REPORT: Deputy Chief Bove presented the Fire Report for July 2024.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Bach stated the written report was submitted to Council. He highlighted some of the work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 02, 2024 AGENDA MEETING

July 09, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by roll call vote, with the exception of those who were not present at any of these meetings, abstained.

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OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #2 UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
ORD. 24:11 AMEND CH. 3.16 FIVE YEAR TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT LAW
ORD. 24:12 AMEND BOND ORDINANCE 15:06 \$76,283.98 LED STREET LAMPS/ADA RAMP TO
MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:108 through 24:111 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES.24:108 APPOINT SLEO I AND SUB CROSSING GUARD
RES.24.109 AUTHORIZE SHARED SERVICE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL – MT. EPHRAIM
RES.24:110 EXECUTIVE SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS ICP STRATFORD GP, LLC/PERSONNEL
RES.24:111 GRANT ACCEPTANCE SFY 2024 POP-UP-PARTY PREVENTION & RESPONSE \$20,845.90

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Tolomeo – Nothing to report.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Nothing to report.

Councilwoman Martin – I'd like to thank the Emergency Management Team and Chief Morello for collaborating with council on the decision to cancel National Night Out. After months of planning and organizing, it was a very difficult decision to make however; it was the only decision that would guarantee the safety of our residents, participants and vendors. I'd like to recognize and thank Officer Speer, the Stratford Fire Department and Public Works for the time they spent preparing for this event. I'm looking forward to incorporating a few of our National Night Out activities into our Halloween and Tree Lighting events. Please stay tuned to our Borough website and Facebook page for more exciting events that will be held throughout the year.

Upcoming Events in Stratford

August 12,13 and 14 6pm-8pm - Soccer Training Camp hosted by Sterling High School and Tarkill Soccer Club. \$40 per participant, No pre-registration required

August 17 @10:30 am- Wiffle Ball Tournament hosted by the Stratford Swim Club. More information is available on the Swim Club's website.

Stratford Senior Events:

August 14th 1-3pm Shell Painting Craft

If residents plan to participate, please RSVP by email

StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com or by phone to (856) 783-0600.

Councilman Gandy – Nothing to report.

Councilman Kelly thanked Police and Fire for their work.

Mayor Hall stated she thanked everyone who assisted in preparing for National Night Out.

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GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

Tom Speer of 8 College Circle spoke of his concern with the stream bed behind his home and two times last month people were digging in the soils looking for fossils.

Motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to close Good and Welfare with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo to enter into Executive Session, with all Council voting aye. Mr. Platt was present for the Executive Session, and Mr. Strausser left. Mr. Platt explained the session should take about 60 minutes, and no action was planned after the session, but reserved the right to take action after the session. Councilman Gilligan phone into the Session.

The Personnel portion of the Session Chief Morello and Mr. Keenan left the session.

Motion made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to come out of Executive Session with no action taken in Executive Session. All Councilmembers voted aye.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilman Gandy with all Council voting aye to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

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