

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024
6:30 P.M.

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

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.

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 – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, CHIEF POLICE EXECUTIVE/OEM – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CLERK – PRESENT

Deputy Borough Clerk John Keenan stated there was an add on Resolution 24-118 to authorize an agreement with RealAuction.com LLC for electronic tax sale this year.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

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

John Gentless - 111 Union Ave. – inquired about Ordinance 24:11 about the tax abatement. Mr. Platt informed Mr. Gentless about the process of how any developer/owner could make an application after the Ordinance is in place to negotiate with Council for a Financial Agreement.

Mr. Gentless also inquired to what the Ordinance 24:12 was, and Mr, Keenan reminded him of the discussion at the Thursday meeting for \$34 left in the old ADA bond, and \$73,000 left in old LED lighting bond. Mr. Gentless asked what streets were included in the DOT project. Mr. Keenan stated he would email him the streets.

Mr. Mancini of 3 Winding Way Road inquired about the Ordinance 24:11 related to losing money. Mr. Platt inquired to how Mr. Mancini calculated the amounts he was claiming, Mr. Mancini responded he was comparing the site to Laurel Manor, and over the 5 years he calculated the loss. Mr. Keenan explained he would email to him the way the taxes are calculated on the tax abatement 5 year plan.

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

REPORTS:

Councilman Gilligan presented the report for:

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY - Code Inspection Report for the month of June 2024.

Total number of properties inspected – 7

Total number of notices – 7

Total number of summonses – 1

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Councilwoman Lomanno provided the June Finance Reports.

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT – July 2024

Balance as of 6-30-2024 – \$3,637,139.71
 Total Receipts – \$3,975,226.96
 Total Disbursements – \$949,089.97
 Balance as of 7-31-2024 – \$3,587,605.80
 Total in other Funds - \$2,588,558.17

Councilman Kelly presented the report for:

POLICE - The reports are as follows:

July 2024:

35 Adult arrests	5 Juvenile arrests,
0 Assaults to Police	7 Simple assaults Complaints,
6 Criminal Mischief Complaints	11 Harassment complaints,
671 Other investigations and complaints	1 Burglary
0 Robberies	12 thefts in the amount of \$25,535.00
\$37,200. in stolen property recovered	2 motor vehicle thefts,
7 D.W.I. arrests	11 Narcotics arrests,
319 Traffic summonses issued	19 Motor vehicle accidents,
11 injuries from accidents	21 Alarm activations

With 91 Total Crime Reports Taken, and 702 Total Calls for Police Service

Councilman Tolomeo presented the Emergency Services reports:

Fire Department the report submitted is as follows:

The Stratford Fire Department responded to 43 Alarms 3 Drills in the month of July 2024.

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Building Fires	3	27
Alarm Systems	11	56
Dwelling Fires	3	19
Investigations	4	30
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	7	42
Wires, Trees Down	3	17
Brush Fires	3	7
Car Fires	0	0
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	2	33
Drills	3	17
Helicopter Standby	8	25

Stratford Ambulance: July 2024

Councilman Toloemo presented the report:

There were 90 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 522.

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OEM Report for June 2024

PUBLIC WORKS AND LIGHTING

Councilman Gandy gave the DPW report for July 2024:

Prepare for July 4th Parade/Activities with parade route cleaned of any trash or yard waste at the curb, cut the Yale Avenue Athletic Complex and deliver and set up stage, tables, chairs and trash cans to the field. Install no parking signs along the route, and drop traffic cones/barrels to specific locations for traffic control.

During the month continued to cut grass regularly at the borough buildings, parks, playgrounds, and railroad corridor.

Remove two dead trees along the railroad tracks, one dead tree on Union Ave behind fire station, and remove partial dead tree branches from tree at war memorial park.

Trim up lower sections of trees along Vassar Avenue at the recreation courts, and around the perimeter of the Yale Avenue Athletic Complex.

Trim shrubs at the Borough Hall, Library, War Memorial, and at the two Laurel Mills entrance walls.

Weed garden beds around town.

3 trash trucks were taken in for periodic servicing.

Power wash the Community Center and Borough Hall brickwork, and the War Memorial Park pavers and granite headstones.

2 call outs for a sink hole on Wright Avenue and sink hole near drain inlet on Parkview Road. Sewer July 2024 Report there were 5 sewer call outs for residential clogs.

Councilwoman Martin presented the report for:

PUBLIC EVENTS – The August 2024 report is as follows:

Good evening, 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 began last night. \$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.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION:

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ORD. 24:11 ORDINANCE 24:11 AMEND CH. 3.16 FIVE YEAR TAX EXEMPTOIN AND ABATEMENT LAW

Councilman Kelly motioned to introduce Ordinance 24:11. Councilman Gilligan seconded the motion, with all Council voting aye by Voice Vote.

Public hearing is set for September 05, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Ord. 24:12 ORDINANNCE 24:12 AMEND BOND ORDINANCE 2015:06

Councilman Gandy motioned to introduce Ordinance 24:12, and Councilman Tolomeo seconded, with all Council voting aye by Voice Vote.

Public hearing is set for September 05, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed Resolutions 24:112 through 24:118 as a consent agenda. Motion was made by Councilwoman Tolomeo to adopt, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye by Roll Call Vote.

- RES. 24:112 AWARD FY 2023 NJDOT RESURFACE OF CENTRAL AVE – PHASE 3
- RES. 24:113 CH.159 – CAMDEN COUNTY REGIONALIZED DWI ENFORCEMENT SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT
- RES. 24:114 CH.159 – 2024 CLICK IT OR TICKET
- RES. 24:115 CH.159 – 2024 POP-UP PARTY PREVENTION & RESPONSE INITIATIVE
- RES. 24:116 DESIGNATION SCHOOL CROSSWALKS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
- RES. 24:117 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
- RES. 24:118 AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT – REAL AUCTION.COM LLC – ONLINE TAX SALE

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Wire checks	501718	through	501728		
Payroll checks	59814	through	59946	and	
Automated checks	38785	through	38863		
Various electronic transfers and potential interim payments to Atlantic City Electric, Constellation Energy, PSE&G, and South Jersey Gas					

Councilman Gilligan motioned to approve the payment of the bills. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, with all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

See detailed bill list attached to the end of the minutes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Tolomeo – Thanked all first responders. He noted yard waste is heavy the past few weeks, please be patient.
- Councilman Gilligan – Nothing to report, other than welcoming to the staff Miss Cianfrani.
- Councilwoman Lomanno – Welcome also to Stephenie Cianfrani who will be joining the office staff on September 9.
- Councilwoman Martin – thanked DPW, Police and Fire for preparing for National Night Out.
- Councilman Gandy – Welcome to Stephenie Cianfrani, and the DPW chipper is back fixed, and will be chipping this week.
- Councilman Kelly – Sorry National Night Out had to be cancelled but it was a good call. Thankful as always to Police, Fire, Emergency Services who all do a lot for Stratford.

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- Mayor Hall said to please be aware with school starting, the school buses, and students, and Fall sports beginning. Mindful of the crosswalks. Also to support the volunteers and organizations in town.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Councilman Gandy motioned to open the meeting to the public for Good and Welfare. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

Mr. Gentless of 111 Union Ave inquired to the sale sign at the gas station, and Mr. Keenan responded about Luk Oil working with the School Board for their site, but he was inquiring to the Exxon on the Pike. Mr. Keenan stated he had no information on that site. He inquired to the prior Executive Sessions. Councilman Tolomeo spoke about the sessions. Mr. Platt confirmed no action is ever taken in Executive Session.

Stephenie Cianfrani spoke about thanking everyone for the warm welcome to Stratford. She is excited to start on September 9, and has worked for 2 years in Clementon.

Tom Speer of 8 College Circle inquired to when a copy of the Ordinance would be available. Mr. Platt explained by law they are available 10 days prior to the meeting as in posted, and asking at the Clerk's Office, or by OPRA.

Councilman Gilligan made a motion to close the public session, with Councilwoman Tolomeo making a second, with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

Councilwoman Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at approx. 7:12 PM. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

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