

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Administrator, 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 – PRESENT  
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – PRESENT  
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT  
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – PRESENT  
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – PRESENT  
JUSTIN STRAUSSER, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT  
STEPHEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT  
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF/OEM – PRESENT  
MICHAEL LEMMERMAN, FIRE CHIEF- PRESENT  
BOB BOVE, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF – PRESENT  
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT  
STEPHENIE CIANFRANI, DEPUTY CLERK - ABSENT

**STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT:** John Keenan 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:**

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Kelly to open the public portion for comments on agenda items only, with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

John Gentless- 111 Union Ave inquired to what was the reasons for executive session this evening. Mr. Keenan responded with the reasons.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Gandy to close the public portion with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief Ron Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for November 2024:

- 11/3 Overnight, an officer attempted to stop a vehicle with a fake license plate along the White Horse Pike. The driver did not agree and fled west bound at a high rate of speed. That pursuit was terminated due to the risks involved.
- 11/4 The next day, the same vehicle, east bound, same outcome.
- 11/11 During the afternoon hours our officers responded to a home on Longwood Drive for a report of a burglary in progress on Longwood Drive. In this case, a resident of Hillside Road smoked an amount of marijuana, causing him to fall into a manic state, and hallucinating that his children were being abused inside a neighbor’s home. He forced his way inside, and was arrested upon police arrival.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

11/18 During the morning hours, our officers responded to a traffic accident at Laurel & White Horse Pike. In this case, the driver of a stolen car that caused the crash fled on foot armed with two 9-inch kitchen knives. The 32-year-old female threatened two officers and attempted to carjack another motorist. A Taser was deployed by a Somerdale Officer, which thankfully took her down. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with Auto Theft, Car Jacking, Weapons Offenses. She was a one woman crime wave, having eluded the State Police, Cherry Hill and Burlington Police over a 24-hour period.

11/23 Overnight, Saturday, a suspect used a landscape rock to break in the side window of True Line Tattoo on the White Horse Pike. In this case, the suspect made off with tattoo guns, and game systems. We were able to get some very good video. Luckily, the next evening, we were called to an office on Laurel Road for a burglary in progress. Responding officers arrested our suspect inside the office, arresting a 35-year-old Pennsauken man. Detectives were able to recover the stolen items. The suspect was sent to CCJ on two counts of Burglary and Theft.

11/24 During the afternoon hours, officers responded to a home on Laurel Avenue for a report of a male kicking in the backdoor. As they arrived, the suspect ran and was apprehended on the side of the bowling alley. This was a domestic incident where the male was trying to break into the wrong home, in violation of a restraining order.  
A 40-year-old Camden man was arrested and charged with Violation of Restraining Order, and Criminal Trespassing.

11/24 During the afternoon hours, we responded to the Goodwill Store for a report of a fight involving store employees. Sunday is \$1.00 rummage sale day and it's normally chaotic. On this day, a security guard got into it with a female while checking sales receipts. The security officer was beat up by a pack of angry women, lumped him up pretty good. All involved were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. The combatants, all females were from Philadelphia, Pine Hill, Lindenwold, Moorestown.

11/30 During the evening hours, Officers attempted to stop a speeding vehicle on White Horse Pike. The occupants bailed out of the car near G& G Pizza. As we searched for the occupants, Lindenwold broadcasted the car had been stolen from their Wawa. One 16-year-old from Chester PA was located in the woods off Somerdale Road. He was ultimately turned over to Lindenwold Police for the auto-theft.

Just an important Follow-up on Ordinance 24:02 which established new rates and fees for Utility Contractors paid to the municipality for outside traffic control.

Under the new ordinance, year to date, the municipality has received as revenues \$34,915.00, for the various traffic control services our officers rendered to the companies from 1/1/24 until 12/1/24.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

These outside funds paid for our entire vehicle repair line (\$21,000) for 2024 and about 25% of our fuel budget for the entire year.

**OEM REPORT:**

All EMS Subscribers have OPTED in for our 2025 Ambulances Services. Each entity has processed their payments. There was no increase for 2025, however each entity was notified that there would be a fee increase for the year 2026.

Deputy Coordinator and EMS Chief Tom Farrell attended three days of EMT, CPR and Defibrillator recertification courses.

The OEM Coordinator performed two 911 validation reports, and spent one day cleaning the Ambulance, performed vehicle maintenance, and property maintenance and leaf removal at the Ambulance Hall.

**FIRE REPORT:**

The Fire Chief requested the appointment of one of the volunteers to title of Fire Police. The Deputy Chief spoke about the house fire in Voorhees.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

NOVEMBER 7, 2024 AGENDA MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno 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.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Administrator John Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions.

No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:152 through 24:159 were approved as a consent agenda by motion of Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

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| RES.24:152 | AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS OR DELINQUENT AMOUNTS LESS THAN \$10.00 |
| RES.24:153 | CHAPTER 159 FY2024 COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT \$250,000.00                                |
| RES.24:154 | APPROVE CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES - 2025                                      |
| RES.24.155 | ACCEPTANCE FOR 2024 HOLIDAY CRACKDOWN GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7000.00                   |
| RES.24.156 | AUTHORIZE 2024 BUDGET TRANSFERS  |
| RES.24.157 | AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR 19 SIDNEY LANE                                   |
| RES.24.158 | AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION -12-5-24   |

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

RES.24.159                    AUTHORIZE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE OFFICIAL AND INSPECTOR WITH THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MICHAEL TOLOMEO: Thankful all the local first responders are safe and hope all residents have a nice holiday. He encouraged all to attend the tree lighting.

COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN: Nothing to report.

COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO: Nothing to report.

COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN: "I'd like to extend an invite to all residents to our Annual Tree Lighting Event tomorrow at Yellin Intermediate School. I'm excited to announce that this year we added a few crafters and vendors to the event and I hope to continue to increase the amount of crafters each year. The tree lighting will begin at 6pm and the Yellin chorus will begin to sing at approximately 6:15pm. Please join us inside Yellin for photos with Santa, a hot chocolate bar and opportunities to shop and support our local crafters and vendors.

Just a reminder that this is the last week to support the Fire Companies luminary bag fundraiser. Orders can be placed through the fire department's Venmo account and at the tree lighting. If you have any questions, feel free to email Chief Lemmerman: chief@stratfordfire.com

Please remember to register for our Holiday House Decorating Contest by December 18th. Online voting will begin on December 19th via a google link that will be shared on all social media outlets like we did for the Halloween decorating contest.

**Upcoming Events in Stratford**

**December 6-** 6:00-8:00 Annual Tree Lighting and Crafter/Vendor Event

**December 14** - Stratford Mom's Food Drive

**December 18-** Holiday Sing-A-Long at the Stratford Library

**December 30-** 10:30am Story time with Miss and Little Miss Stratford at the Stratford Library

COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY: He stated DPW is doing a good job collecting the leaves with only one machine.

COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY: Thanked both the police chief and fire chief for their time, and wished all a very Merry Christmas.

MAYOR LINDA HALL: Spoke of the Sterling High School boy's soccer team winning the State Champs and how the Stratford Fire Department led the team motorcade to Sterling High School the night they won, as well as the 3 police departments. She read a thank you note from School Superintendent Matt Sheehan.

**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.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

John Gentless of Union Avenue spoke about the affordable housing numbers recently coming out and how the towns should group together to fight it. He inquired about the storm pipe sink hole on Harvard Avenue. Mr. Keenan responded with the history and plans for future repair.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Gandy to close the Good and Welfare portion with all Council voting aye.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno to enter into Executive Session, with all Council voting aye. Mr. Strausser stated this session could take about 30 minutes, with no action being taken afterwards, but reserved the right to take action.

Motion made by Councilman Gilligan seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno to come out of Executive Session with no action taken in Executive Session. All Councilmembers voted aye. Comment was made that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

**ADJOURN:**

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

Respectfully submitted:

Stephenie Cianfrani  
Borough Deputy Clerk