

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keenan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Keenan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

PRAYER: Father Rene Canales or Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish led the opening prayer.

PRESENTATION: Borough Clerk Bill Bray read a Proclamation for Mayor Keenan.

***PROCLAMATION BY THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD
IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOSH KEENAN***

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan is a 59-year resident of Stratford Borough, and raised three sons with his late wife Madge; and

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan worked over three decades for the Edgewood Regional High School serving as its longtime Athletic Director, as well as serving on the NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Executive Committee, the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors Executive Committee and as the Former President of South Jersey Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan served on the Sterling High School Board of Education for 22 years as a past President of the Board and served 10 years as the district's Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan was elected Mayor of Stratford Borough on November 3, 2015 and re-elected on November 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan worked endlessly with the Governing Body and the Joint Land Use Board in a successful redevelopment mindset for the betterment of all the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Josh Keenan as a loyal and faithful guardian has left Stratford in a much better position than when he began,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford to recognize and thank Mayor Josh Keenan for his extraordinary lifetime of public service and leadership in service to the residents of Stratford.

Mayor Linda Hall

Council President Pat Gilligan

Councilman Steven Gandy

Councilwomen Tina Lomanno

Councilman James Kelly

Councilman Michael Tolomeo

Councilwoman Linda Hall presented Mayor Keenan with Proclamations from Borough Council and a gift. Councilwoman Hall thanks Mayor Keenan for his years of service and leadership for the Borough and Borough Council.

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Borough Council presented Mayor Keenan with a Proclamation from the Camden County Commissioners and a joint resolution from the New Jersey Legislature provided by Senator James Beach, Assemblyman Louis Greenwald and Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt. Congressional District Representative Melanie Rodriguez, from Congressman Donald Norcross's office, presented Mayor Keenan with a commendation from the US House of Representatives.

Mayor Keenan stated he enjoyed his 8 years as Mayor and met a lot of nice people. Mayor Keenan stated he is going to enjoy life.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Oath of office to Mayor Linda Hall was administered by Magnolia Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. Mayor Cowling-Carson congratulate Mayor Hall.

Mayor Hall took her place on the dais. Mayor Hall thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their support. Mayor Hall stated the Borough has a lot of projects coming up and thanked volunteers and Borough employees for their hard work. Mayor Hall thanked Father Canales for his invocation. Mayor Hall thanks Mayor Cowling-Carson for swearing her in and for her support and inspiration that helped prepare her to be mayor. Mayor Hall stated she looks forward to working with Mayor Cowling-Carson and Somerdale's new mayor, Mayor George Badey to improve all three communities. Mayor Hall thanked the Stratford Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, Borough Hall employee and all of the volunteers for their hard work that makes it possible to have an amazing town to represent. Mayor Hall thanked her family for their support over the past 7 years. Mayor Hall thanked the residents of Stratford for their support for which she is humble and grateful. Mayor Hall stated it is an honor to become the 16th Mayor of Stratford Borough. Mayor Hall stated the position comes with great responsibilities and she is up to the challenge. Mayor Hall stated with every decision she will keep the residents first.

Oath of office to Councilman-elect Patrick Gilligan was administered by Commissioner Jonathan Young.

Oath of office to Councilman-elect Michael Tolomeo was administered by Commissioner Jonathan Young.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – PRESENT

PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT

MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT

TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – ABSENT

STEPHEN GANDY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT

JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN - PRESENT

RON MORELLO, POLICE/OEM COORDINATOR – PRESENT

JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT

BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

RES. 24-01 APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY ON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Bray stated he received the letter of resignation from Councilwoman Hall and a letter from the Democratic Party Chairwoman nominating three people as replacements. Mr. Bray stated unless Council wished to discuss the issue, a motion could be made to adopt the resolution. Councilman Gandy made a

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motion to appoint Dawn Martin to fill the vacancy on Borough Council. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote.

Oath of office to Councilwoman Appointee Dawn Martin was administered by Police OEM Coordinator Ron Morello.

SELECTION BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

Council President Councilman Gilligan nominated Councilman Michael Tolomeo as President of Council, and was seconded by Councilman Gandy. There were no other nominations. Councilman Tolomeo was elected all members present voting aye.

OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Oath of office to Council President Michael Tolomeo was administered by Borough Clerk Bill Bray.

APPOINTMENTS OF 2023 COUNCILMATIC COMMITTEES

FINANCE AND REVENUE

DIRECTOR Tina Lomanno
Assoc. Member Pat Gilligan
Assoc. Member Dawn Martin

EMERGENCY SERVICES

DIRECTOR Michael Tolomeo
Assoc. Member Stephen Gandy
Assoc. Member Tina Lomanno

POLICE

DIRECTOR James Kelly
Assoc. Member Pat Gilligan
Assoc. Member Stephen Gandy

PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR Stephen Gandy
Assoc. Member Michael Tolomeo
Assoc. Member James Kelly

PUBLIC EVENTS

DIRECTOR Dawn Martin
Assoc. Member Tina Lomanno
Assoc. Member Michael Tolomeo

ORDINANCE/PROPERTY

DIRECTOR Pat Gilligan
Assoc. Member James Kelly
Assoc. Member Dawn Martin

Councilman Gandy made a motion to approve the Councilmatic Committee appointments. Councilman Kelly seconded the Motion with all members voting aye.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR WITH CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Hall appointed the following Fire Line Officers for a one-year term:

- Chief – Michael Lemmerman
- Deputy Chief – Robert Bove
- Deputy Chief – Jeffrey Riebel
- Captain – Brian Worthington
- Captain – Daniel Camburn
- Chief Engineer– Gary Riebel, Sr.
- Safety Officer – Vincent Jess
- Safety Officer – Stephen Gagliardi

Councilman Gandy motioned to approve the appointments of the Fire Line Officers. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote

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Joint Land Use Board, Class III – Tina Lomanno	One Year Term
Board of Education Liaison – Dawn Martin	One Year Term
Park Commission Liaison – Jim Kelly	One Year Term
Police Matrons – Kristina Rauer, Patricia Riebel	One Year Term
Deputy OEM Coordinator- Robert Kelly	Three Year Term

Councilman Gilligan made a motion to approve the Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Committees. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR WITH NO CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL REQUIRED

Borough Clerk Bray read the following Mayoral appointments into the record:

Joint Land Use Board, Class I Mayor’s Designee – Josh Keenan	Four Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Class II – <i>Ron Morello</i>	One Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Class IV – <i>Michael Mancini</i>	Four Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Alternate – <i>Michael Chicalo</i>	Two Year Term
Joint Land Use Board, Alternate – <i>Ken Walton</i>	One Year Term
Parks Commission – <i>Violet Marley, Kimberly Gilligan</i>	Five Year Term
Board of Health – <i>Gerald Deuriarte</i>	Three Year Term
Board of Health – <i>John Keenan, Jr.</i>	Two Year Term
Board of Health – <i>Josh Keenan</i>	One Year Term
Municipal Coordinator of Aging – <i>Josh Keenan</i>	One Year Term

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS 24:01 THROUGH 24-027 WILL BE DONE AS A CONSENT AGENDA

Council can at this time request to remove any of the resolutions form the consent agenda and they can be voted on separately.

- RES. 24:02 Appointment of Solicitor – Stuart Platt, Platt Law Group P.C.
- RES. 24:03 Appointment of Engineer – Steve Bach, Bach Associates
- RES. 24:04 Appointment of Auditor – Scott Barron, Bowman & Company
- RES. 24:05 Appointment of Court Personnel
- RES. 24:06 Appointment of Police Chaplain – Fr. Rene Canales
- RES. 24:07 Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer – Bill Bray
- RES. 24:08 Appointment of Town Historian – Carole Dadino
- RES. 24:09 Appointment of Redevelopment Planners – Bach Associates
- RES. 24:10 Award of Contract for Affordable Housing Planner Consultant Services - LFB Land Planning
- RES. 24:11 Appointment of Risk Management Consultant
- RES. 24:12 Appointment of Statewide Fund Commissioner
- RES. 24:13 Appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officers
- RES. 24:14 Depositories for Borough Funds and Cash Management Plan
- RES. 24:15 Time and Place for Meetings
- RES. 24:16 Publication of Legal Notices
- RES. 24:17 Parliamentary Procedures
- RES. 24:18 Temporary Budget for 2024
- RES. 24:19 Custodian for Borough Facilities

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- RES. 24:20 Authorize Tax Assessor Settle Certain Appeals
- RES. 24:21 School Crossing Guards
- RES. 24:22 2024 Annual Holidays
- RES. 24:23 Appoint Temporary Police Officer – Ethan McBride
- RES. 24:24 Appoint Municipal Department Heads
- RES. 24:25 Appoint Municipal Administrator
- RES. 24:26 Approve Bank Signatories
- RES. 24-27 Award Contract for Berlin Road Pump Station Modifications

Councilman Tolomeo made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo wished Mayor Hall good luck. Councilman Tolomeo stated he hoped everyone has a good year and Happy New Year.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan wish Mayor Hall good luck and stated whatever she need the Council is there for her. Councilman Gilligan thanked Mayor Keenan for his leadership, and guidance.

Councilman Gandy – Councilman Gandy stated Mayor Keenan had confidence in him when he came on Borough Council. Councilman Gandy thanked Mayor Keenan for his help, guidance and leadership. Councilman Gandy stated Mayor Hall has the support of Council and Council couldn't be happier to have her as Mayor. Councilman Gandy stated he appreciated having another year to serve with them. Councilman Gandy stated Council also appreciates the residents and they are the reason they serve.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly stated Mayor Keenan gave him three things he needed to do when he joined Council, be reasonable, be consistent and don't be a politician. Councilman Kelly stated Mayor Keenan is a good role model and he treats every person the same and that is a true compliment. Councilman Kelly stated Mayor Hall will do a sensational job as well and they are thrilled to serve with her. Councilman Kelly thanked Ron Morello, John Keenan, Cheryl Perkins, Robin Sarlo and Bill Bray for their service for the Borough.

Councilwoman Martin – Councilwoman Martin thanked Council for the appointment and new beginning. Councilwoman Martin stated she was proud to serve with Mayor Hall.

Mayor Hall – Mayor Hall thanked everyone again and said it is truly an honor. Mayor Hall thanked Robin Sarlo, Cheryl Perkins and Alicia Sims for their work for the Borough. Mayor Hall stated Public Events will be bigger and better with the help of Councilwoman Martin. Mayor Hall thanked Mayor Keenan, Ron Morello, and John Keenan and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Councilman Kelly motioned to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Gandy seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless, 110 Union Avenue - Mr. Gentless stated the Borough Professionals were not stated when the Consent Agenda was adopted. Mr. Gentless asked who the members are for the Council subcommittees. Mr. Platt stated the Borough will get him the information.

Camden County Commission Jonathan Young - Commission Young congratulated everyone on the dais for their election and Mayor Hall for making history and the first woman mayor of Stratford. Commissioner Young

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stated whatever you need from the County they are always here. Commissioner Young thanked Mayor Keenan for his service to the community and it has been a pleasure to serve with him.

Councilman Tolomeo motioned to close this portion of the meeting. Councilman Gilligan seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote

ADJOURN:

Councilman Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Bill Bray, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk