

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 02, 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. Mayor Hall also acknowledged the passing of former Councilman Frank Hartman who also was a long-time volunteer firefighter. She asked for a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – PRESENT
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MICHAEL TOLOMEO – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – ABSENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – ABSENT
JUSTIN STRAUSSER, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, 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 Gilligan motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.
No one from the public had any comments.
Councilman Kelly 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 June 2024:

- 6/1 At around 8:15pm, we were called to assist Gloucester Twp. Police Department to manage the chaos that ensued during the Gloucester Twp. Day event along Chews Landing Road. We had one officer assisting for over 2-hours and a second officer for about an hour. Order was finally restored around 11:00pm.
- 6/3 During the overnight hours, officers responded to the rear of Tim Hortons for an unconscious 24-year-old man. This was a heroin overdose, Narcan was used to revive a male who was returning to Williamstown after purchasing drugs in Philadelphia.
- 6/7 During the afternoon hours, two officers were assaulted at Jefferson Hospital, one bitten in the bicep during a removal call. A 40-year-old Clementon woman was charged with Aggravated Assault among other charges. The officer was injured; fortunately, her teeth did not cut thru the officer's uniform and skin.

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- 6/12 A 30-year-old infectious disease patient at Jefferson from Monroe Twp. was charged with criminal mischief and drug charges after nursing staff found he had disabled a bathroom ceiling so he could smoke crack above the drop ceiling. They made the discovery after smoke detectors picked up the smoke. They basically found him climbing down from the bathroom ceiling.
- 6/14 Overnight, two suspects in operating a U-Haul Truck stole a Motorcycle that was parked on a walkway on Jefferson Avenue. The motorcycle has not been recovered.
- 6/17 During the afternoon hours, two juveniles were arrested and charged with robbery after pointing a toy gun (gel gun) at two other juvenile victims who were classmates. The two suspects, from Hi-Nella and Somerdale were sent to Lakeland on the charges. Nobody was injured in the theft and one offender missed 8th Graduation that evening.
- 6/18 During the evening hours, another bike was stolen, this time from D’Amico’s, Officers used video and witnesses to track the suspects. One juvenile from Berlin and Hammonton were arrested and the bike recovered. These were the suspects from the previously reported Rite Aid bike thefts. The juveniles were using public transportation to steal bikes from Lindenwold, Voorhees, Stratford, Somerdale.
- 6/21 During the afternoon hours, officers came upon a driver passed out behind the wheel of a smashed up pickup truck on Cornell Avenue. The driver, a 40-year-old resident of Cornell Avenue was charged with DWI, Heroine, Methamphetamine, Cocaine and paraphernalia charges.
Later that day, a tow truck driver for Hertz responded to pick up the smashed-up truck and when he lifted the truck onto the truck, a handgun wrapped in towel became dislodged and fell to the ground. That weapon has been sent to the lab for DNA and ballistics testing.
- 6/22 A 35-year-old homeless man was charged with Aggravated Assault after punching a ER nurse and holding the staff at bay, in a karate stance on top of an ER bed.
He was soon subdued by responding officers.
- 6/25 I received a status update that our application under the DOJ COPS hiring grant is in a second round of review. \$250,000.00 was applied for two fund two police officers.
Awards are expected in September.
- 6/28 As authorized in this year’s bond, we ordered, received and scheduled the installation of our jail cell toilet that has been out of service for about 5 years. The original unit was installed 24-years ago. The project total is about \$5000.00.
Our Lady of Guadalupe is considering a second Carnival during the third week of August. They were informed that they would be required to escrow around \$4000.00 for police protection and crossing guards. Obviously, we did not budget for nor anticipate two church carnivals this year.
Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lindenwold may be an option as well. I have not heard back on their decision.

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

ENGINEER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 05, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

June 06, 2024 AGENDA MEETING

June 11, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

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A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin with all members present voting aye by roll call vote, with the exception of Councilman Tolomeo who had to abstain due to being absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

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| REPORT #1 | UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES |
| ORD. 24:09 | AMEND SEWER RATE 2024 |
| ORD. 24:10 | 2024 SALARY ORDINANCE |

NEW BUSINESS:

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| REPORT #2 | UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES |
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RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:93 through 24:97 were approved as a consent agenda.

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| RES.24:93 | LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTOIN APPLICATION – RSG STRATFORD URBAN RENEWAL LLC |
| RES.24:94 | AUTHORIZING BACH ASSOC. DESIGN, SPECS, AND BID – MEADOWLARK ROAD |
| RES.24:95 | APPOINT CROSSING GUARDS |
| RES.24:96 | STATE CONTRACT – 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE |
| RES.24:97 | EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATIONS |

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Tolomeo – Nothing to report.

Councilman Gilligan – Nothing to report.

Councilwoman Martin – thanked DJ Dan and Chief Lemmerman from the Fire Department for getting music to play from a fire vehicle for the parade route. She stated she attended the Little Miss Magnolia Pageant which was very nice. She is working with Police Officers Speer and McBride with the plans for National Night Out.

Councilman Gandy commented when Councilman Hartman resigned due to health issues, Councilman Gandy was proud to be appointed and subsequently elected into the position. Frank’s family is in his prayers.

Councilman Kelly thanked Chief Morello, and Deputy Chief Bove for their work.

Mayor Hall stated she thanked the Fire Department and the surrounding towns’ Fire Departments for their representation at Councilman Hartman’s funeral. She commented about Council planning something special at the September meeting for Frank.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless of 111 Union Avenue spoke about Councilman Frank Hartman being not only a member of the Fire Company, but also the Ambulance Association. He noted tomorrow the Sheriff Sale for Cornell Manor was taking place, and Council should consider making the complex all affordable housing units for sale/rent. He inquired to July 5th the offices being closed, and Mr. Keenan stated it was not a holiday, each employee is taking a vacation day. He also commented possibly a traffic light be installed at Broadway and the Pike to help reduce accidents on the Pike.

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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 Gandy, seconded by Councilman Kelly to enter into Executive Session, with all Council voting aye. Mr. Platt explained the session should take about 30 minutes, and no action was planned after the session, but reserved the right to take action after the session.

Motion made by Councilman Gilligan, 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 Gilligan with all Council voting aye to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

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