

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 09, 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 – ABSENT
COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN TINA LOMANNO – PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – ABSENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF - PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT

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.

PROCLAMATION: The Mayor read a Proclamation for Nutri Serve Food Management for their kind donation for lunches for over 300 attendees at the 2024 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and for supplying food items for future events. A representative was present to accept the Proclamation.

Miss Stratford 2024 Briana Schwartz and Little Miss Stratford 2024 Carly DeHaven were both present to accept gifts from the Stratford Parks Commission. Violet Longmire, Commission Co-Chair was present. The 2024 winners were introduced to members of Council.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilman Gilligan 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.

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 April 2024.

4/6 Afternoon hours, officers sought to arrest a man wanted on warrants in parking lot of Stratford Diner. The male fled on foot and was eventually encountered along the fence of a nearby office on Berlin Road. Male resisted arrest with force and was eventually taken into custody. He was a 35-year-old transient from Cherry Hill. He was sent to the County Jail on warrants and new charges.

4/7 During evening hours, officers responded to a home on Vassar Ave for a report of an unconscious female, who was found to be an overdose. Narcan was used to revive the woman, who was transported to Jefferson Hospital.

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4/8 During the afternoon, police responded to a home in Laurel Mills for a report of a depressed suicidal man holding a rifle. Luckily the man called 911 for help and came out of the home unarmed. The 55-year-old was transported to Crisis Center and the weapon was seized for safekeeping.

4/9 During the evening, police responded to Vassar Ave for a report of a group of juveniles fighting near JP2 school. This was a prearranged fight all captured on social media. A 14 year old girl from Laurel Springs and 15 year old from Stratford were entered into the station house adjustment program to perform community services.

4/9 Same evening school officials received a tip, that a named student at Yellin School had brought a knife to school. That evening, the Chief visited the family and the parents conducted a search for the weapon. Mom located the knife, a rather menacing knife the boy was still carrying it concealed in his waistband. The student was suspended for a considerable period of time and he too was entered into the station house adjustment program.

4/13 During afternoon hours, police were alerted to a major power outage at Jefferson Hospital, with only 33% power in the building. Evacuation was a possibility due to certain life saving systems were not working due to heat. Fire Chief Lemmerman loaned one of the department's heavy duty discharge fans which was quite effective in cooling the MRI area. Full power was restored to the facility overnight.

4/14 A car stop made by Ptl. Brunett along the Pike let to the arrest of a Camden man, who possessed a stolen car and was in possession of a 9mm handgun. He was remanded to the County Jail on some serious charges. Very good work by the officer.

45/16 The owners of Multani Palace restaurant on the Pike, was tricked by a scammer into sending bit coin payments electronically or PSEG was going to turn his electric off. Obviously, it was a scam, his loss was about \$1000. The victim was reminded his electric is with Atlantic City Electric.

4/17 An interesting domestic on Winding Way overnight where no arrests were made. In this case a wife was upset with her husband for the amount of time he spent at the bar. Upon his arrival home, she unleashed fury using her home-grown chicken coop eggs, pelting him with a dozen eggs.

4/18 During the afternoon, police were called to the Rite Aid for a shoplifting taking place. Luckily the officers were stationed at their school crossing and were able to stop the couple fleeing in a vehicle. \$1000 in over-the-counter meds were recovered. A male and female from Audubon Park were released pending court dates.

4/19 Several sightings of a man occurred, walking through various back yards and front yards in the Estates, Laurel Mills and Old Stratford. He was never located, but nothing was reported stolen in any of the calls.

4/22 Evening hours, a home just off the Pike was burglarized through the back door. We have liquor store video of the man on a bike, we have yet to identify or locate him. Some costume jewelry and collectible items were stolen. WE have DNA and fingerprints at the lab.

4/23 During the afternoon hours, officers responded to a domestic violence call at a home on Warwick Road. In this case a 60-year-old man was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, with strangulation of his 30-year-old daughter. He was sent to county jail.

4/24 During the afternoon hours, a female having a seizure left the highway along the Pike and crashed into the brand-new Zale's sign and flower box. This driver was put in for a driver medical evaluation for the second time. No injuries.

4/30 During the afternoon, police responded to a sudden death at Sterling Arms. A 65-year-old sickly male of natural causes. At the same time police were called to a doctor's office on Laurel Road where a 35-year-old pregnant female was overdosing. She was narcanned and sent to Jefferson.

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Submission was made for a COPS Hiring Grant in the amount of \$250,000 and a grant for a DOJ Federal Bullet Proof Vest Grant for \$7168.44.

Reminder DARE Graduation is on Wednesday, May 22 at 2:00 pm at Yellin School.

FIRE REPORT: Deputy Chief Bove presented the Fire Report for April 2024. He did also thank Councilman Gandy for the electrical work he did at the Fire Station in installing lighting in the stairways.

ENGINEER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 04, 2024 AGENDA MEETING

April 09, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all members present voting aye by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES
ORD. 24:05 TITLE 39 FOR STRATFORD COMMONS HOA – NO PARKING

ORD. 24:06 AMENDING CH. 10.44 TRAFFIC SCHEDULES – NO PARKING

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #2 UPCOMING INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
ORD. 24:07 AUTHORIZE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT – 72 BERLIN ROAD, B. 52, L. 15

ORD. 24:08 2024 BOND ORDINANCE

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:68 through 24:72 were approved as a consent agenda.

RES. 24.68 MAINTANCE LIEN 40 LONGWOOD DR, B. 98, L. 1
RES. 24.69 APPOINT ALTERNATE TOWING VENDOR FOR 2024 AND 2025, W/OPT TO 2026
RES. 24.70 SUPPORT DEPT OF JUSTIC FY2024 COPS HIRING PROGRAM APPLICATION - \$250,000
RES. 24.71 SUPPORT DEPT OF JUSTICE 2024 BULLETPROOF VEST GRANT APPLICATION
RES. 24.72 EXECUTIVE SESSOIN – FAIR SHARE HOUSING CENTER V STRATFORD BOROUGH AND
LAUREL MILLS V STRATFORD BOROUGH

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gilligan – nothing to report.

Councilwoman Martin –

On April 26, I had the pleasure of hosting our Miss and Little Miss Stratford Pageant. I was in awe of the confidence, camaraderie and kindness of our contestants. Pageantry is not about winning the crown, it is

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about learning how to be true to oneself in the most unrealistic situations and presenting this self to the world, prepared to take whatever the response to it may be with poise, grace and confidence.

Congratulations to our Miss Stratford Pageant winner, Briana Schwartz, her first runner up, Jaylen Gordon and Miss Congeniality- Tyler Elizabeth Forsyth and our Little Miss Stratford winner, Carly DeHaven, 1st runner up was Camryn Smith, 2nd runner up Ava Keenan and 3rd runner up Alayna Rosario. We are proud of all the pageant contestants and hope they participate again next year.

I would also like to recognize Kadence Dira, an eighth-grade student from Yellin Intermediate School who sang our National Anthem. Kadence has graciously agreed to sing again at our Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 10am at Memorial Park. If anyone is interested in watching the pageants, a YouTube link is available on our borough Facebook page and the borough website.

A special thank you to the businesses who offered financial donations and services for the pageant, the Stratford School District for their help with facilities, Mr. Conn Stratford's music teacher for his assistance, Dan Bove for DJing, Councilman Jim Kelly- our MC, Haley Lucier- 2023 Miss Stratford for her help with our pageant practices and Councilmen Gandy and Tolomeo and Councilwoman Lomanno. As always, thank you to the Stratford police department, Patrolman Deitz and Mayor Hall for their continued support at our public events. Most of all, thank you to the residents of Stratford for the continued support and participation in our events.

Councilwoman Lomanno - Thanked all involved with the pageant. You could see the confidence in the young ladies.

Councilman Kelly – Thanked Miss Stratford Committee and all who attended enjoyed themselves, and added a thank you to emergency services.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless of Union Avenue inquired to the upgrades to the pump station. Mr. Bach responded. Mr. Gentless also inquired to the basis at Stratford Commons. Mr. Bach stated he had inspected it, and it is operating as designed. Mr. Bach confirmed the plans showing details prior to construction show the adjacent areas were lower than the HOA. Mr. Gentless inquired to the budget, and Mr. Keenan responded it would be on the May 14, 2024 meeting agenda, and there was a tax increase.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Kelly to close the public portion with all Council voting aye.

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno 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 Councilwoman Lomanno, 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 Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin with all Council voting aye to adjourn the meeting.

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Respectfully submitted:

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