

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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 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 – ABSENT
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – PRESENT
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – ABSENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – PRESENT
DONNA PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, CHIEF POLICE EXECUTIVE/OEM – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CLERK – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Mr. Keenan explained there was an added Resolution 24-76 to authorize and support a police grant for \$20,000.

Councilman Kelly 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.

John Gentless - 111 Union Ave. – Inquired to the 2024 budget and the impact to the homeowner. Mr. Keenan explained the borough portion was a 9.4 cent increase with the average home of \$157,200 seeing a \$148.00 increase.

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

REPORTS:

Councilman Gilligan present the report for:

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

Total number of properties inspected – 14

Total number of notices – 14

Total number of summons – 4

Councilwoman Lomanno stated she would give her monthly report at the June meeting.

Councilman Kelly presented the report for:

POLICE - The reports are as follows:

April 2024:

31 Adult arrests

2 Juvenile arrests,

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0 Assaults to Police	15 Simple assaults Complaints,
3 Criminal Mischief Complaints	14 Harassment complaints,
672 Other investigations and complaints	1 Burglary
0 Robberies	12 thefts in the amount of \$5,245.00
\$7,725 in stolen property recovered	0 motor vehicle thefts,
6 D.W.I. arrests	6 Narcotics arrests,
457 Traffic summonses issued	20 Motor vehicle accidents,
9 injuries from accidents (1 pedestrian)	21 Alarm activations
With 89 Total Crime Reports Taken, and 701 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 40 Alarms 3 Drills in the month of April 2024.

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Building Fires	8	17
Alarm Systems	8	21
Dwelling Fires	4	8
Investigations	4	15
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	8	23
Wires, Trees Down	1	13
Brush Fires	1	1
Car Fires	0	0
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	2	27
Drills	3	10
Helicopter Standby	4	4

Stratford Ambulance: April 2024

Councilman Toloemo presented the report:

There were 61 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 272.

Councilwoman Martin presented the report for:

PUBLIC EVENTS – The April 2024 report is as follows:

Congratulations to all the winners of our recent Miss and Little Miss Stratford pageant! Their hard work, dedication, and grace really shone through. Their achievements are inspiring and their journey as pageant contestants serves as a testament to the power of perseverance, confidence, and the ability to impact the world positively.

To Briana Schwartz, Miss Stratford and Carley DeHaven- Little, Miss Stratford; the borough hopes your reigns will be filled with memorable experiences and opportunities to make a difference.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize all of our pageant contestants because they truly are wonderful representatives of our community.

Little Miss Stratford contestants were- Camryn Smith-1st runner up, Ava Keenan- 2nd runner up and Alayna Rosario- 3rd runner up as well as Aria Reid, Madelyn Lemmerman, Amelia and Julianna Broughton, Xena Anderson, Lilah Bednarik, Haileigh Redstreak, Peyton Morlack-Norcross and Charlotte Kehoe.

Miss Stratford contestants were- Jaylen Gordon-1st runner up, Kylee Damiano, Tyler-Elizabeth Forsyth and Adaria Kehoe.

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Once again, congratulations to each of our contestants for representing our community with such elegance and pride!

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, Tolomeo and Councilwoman Lomanno for their help. 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 their continued support and participation in our community events.

Upcoming Events in Stratford

Tarkill online registration is open and if you register prior to May 15, you'll receive a \$25 discount on each participant
May 18- 11-4 pm Food Truck and Craft Show

Sponsored by the Stratford Swim Club

May 22- DARE Graduation 2:00 at Yellin School

May 23-25 John Paul II Carnival 6:00-11:00

May 27- Memorial Day Ceremony 10:00am at Memorial Park

June 1- SAO All Star Day

June 14th- Sterling graduation

June 17th- 8th grade graduation at Yellin

June 19th Tarkill in person fall registration and fundraiser at Lena's Water Ice 6:30-8:30

Stratford Senior Events:

May 15th 1:00-2:00pm BINGO with prizes hosted by Laurel Manor

May 24th 4:00-6:00 Trivia Night

May 29th 1:00-3:00 Social Hour Bring your own food and drink and join neighbors for a casual meeting place.

If residents plan to participate, please RSVP by email StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com or by phone to **(856) 783-0600**.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION:

ORD. 24:05 ORDINANCE 24:05 TITLE STATUTES STRATFORD COMMONS HOA – Councilman Kelly motioned to open the public hearing on Ordinance 24:05. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

No one from the public spoke.

Councilman Gilligan motioned to close the public hearing on Ordinance 24:05. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote. Councilman Kelly made a motion to adopt 24:05. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor by Roll Call Vote.

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD ORDINANCE #24-05

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENFORCEMENT OF TITLE 39 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO BE APPLIED TO THE PROPERTY OWNED BY STRATFORD COMMONS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. LOCATED IN THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD

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WHEREAS, Stratford Commons Homeowners Association, Inc. has requested that the Borough enforce Subtitle 1, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey at the property located at Block 53.01, known as Sydney Lane in the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 39:5A-1 authorizes the enforcement of Subtitle 1, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey, the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Statutes, on private property, quasi-or semi-private property upon receipt of a written request; and

WHEREAS, the Stratford Commons Homeowners Association, Inc. requested, by letter dated April 5, 2024 that the Borough of Stratford enforce Title 39, of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey within its property, to include Municipal Ordinances for related offenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey:

Section 1. The request made by Stratford Commons Homeowners Association, Inc. in the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey to have Subtitle 1, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey be applied to its property located as the entire Block 53.01 in the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey is hereby approved.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or the application of this ordinance to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Revealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions inconsistent or in opposition to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 4. Effective. This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage in accordance with law.

ORD.24:06 AMEND CH. 10.44 TRAFFIC SCHEDULES

Motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo to open the public hearing on this Ordinance, with all Council voting aye by voice vote. Motion made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to close the public hearing, with all Council voting aye by voice vote. Motion made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt Ordinance 24-06, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE 24-06

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10.44, ENTITLED TRAFFIC SCHEDULES OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford (the "Borough") is a municipal corporation organized and operating under the laws of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the Governing Body is authorized to enact and amend ordinances as deemed necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon the Municipality by law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford that the Code of the Borough of Stratford is hereby amended, revised and/or supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.44 entitled Traffic Schedules, 10.44.030 entitled Schedule III – No Stopping or standing of the Code of the Borough of Stratford is hereby supplemented:

Name of Street	Sides	Location
Sydney Lane	All	Entire length

SECTION 2. Except as set forth in Section 1 above, the balance of the Code of the Borough of Stratford shall not be affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

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SECTION 4. If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting, publication, and final passage in the manner prescribed by law.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORD. 24:07 AUTHORIZE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT – 72 BERLIN RD, B. 52, L. 15

The Solicitor Mrs. Platt stated this Ordinance would be introduced conditioned to a new PILOT application to change the entity’s name. The owners are the same, but the Urban Renewal entity’s name has changed. Motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to introduce this Ordinance, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote. Public Hearing will be held on June 11, 2024.

ORD. 24:08 2024 BOND ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Gilligan, to introduce this Ordinance, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote. Public Hearing will be held on June 11, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed resolutions. No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:73 through 24:76 were approved as a consent agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by Roll Call Vote.

RES.24:73 APPOINT FIRE DUTY CREW MEMBER – MEGAN MOHAN

RES.24:74 INTRODUCE 2024 BUDGET

RES.24:75 ESTIMATED TAX RATE 2024

RES.24:76 AUTHORIZE & SUPPORT NJ POP-UP PREVENTION & RESPONSE INITIATIVE FOR POLICE \$20,000

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Wire checks	501683	through	501694		
Payroll checks	59342	through	59529	and	
Automated checks	38518	through	38623		
Various electronic transfers and potential interim payments to Atlantic City Electric, Constellation Energy, PSE&G, and South Jersey Gas					

Councilman Kelly motioned to approve the payment of the bills. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion, with all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote, with the exception of Councilwoman Martin abstaining from Check # 38574 made out to herself.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Tolomeo – Thanked all involved in the Miss Stratford Pageant. It was a great turnout and Councilman Kelly did a great job as the Master of Ceremonies.

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- Councilman Gilligan – Informed the residents Saratoga Park new equipment has been installed and it looks great with over \$35,000 being used, most funded by a grant. He said the Park Commission also had new playground mulch installed at Vassar and Coolidge Avenue Playgrounds. He thanked the Park Commission for all their work. He also congratulated the new Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford.
- Councilwoman Lomanno – Congratulated Councilwoman Martin for doing a great job with the Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford Pageants.
- Councilwoman Martin – Thanked Mayor Hall and the members of Council who assisted her at the Miss Stratford Pageant event. She said the next event will be Memorial Day, and then July 4th.
- Councilman Kelly – Said the Miss Stratford event was a great time. Thanked the Mayor and all the families who attended and supported the event. He said he looks forward to Memorial Day, and thanked the Parks Commission for their work on Saratoga Park.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Mr. Gentless inquired if the change in the entity referenced for the Financial Agreement at 72 Berlin Road was the same group. Solicitor Platt confirmed it is the same members, just the name is being changed. Mr. Gentless also inquired if there was any new interest in the East Laurel Road Redevelopment area. Mr. Keenan confirmed there has been no interest in the area.

ADJOURN:

Councilman Gilligan motioned to adjourn the meeting at approx. 6:56 PM. Councilman Kelly 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