

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Linda Hall 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 – ABSENT
COUNCILMAN JIM KELLY – ABSENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER - PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF/OEM – PRESENT
BOB BOVE, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – ABSENT
STEPHENIE CIANFRANI, DEPUTY CLERK - PRESENT

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Deputy 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:

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo to open the public portion for comments on agenda items only, with all Council voting aye by voice vote.
Deputy Clerk Cianfrani asked if anyone had any comments pertaining to items on the agenda. Seeing and hearing none, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Lomanno to close the public portion with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

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

- 10/4 During the afternoon hours, we were called to Yellin School for a report of a student with a plastic toy gun in his possession. In this case, the student had the toy gun in his back pack.

- 10/6 Overnight, a vehicle was stolen from Bishop Court Apartments. The next day, a 35 Lindenwold Man was arrested in the vehicle, in North Philadelphia by the Philadelphia Police Department.

- 10/13 During the evening hours, our Officers responded to PATCO, on the platform to assist DRPA Police with a combative suspect. While assisting PATCO, the male was able to kick Officer Butler off the platform and onto the tracks. Fortunately, the officer was not seriously injured or worse.

- 10/14 Overnight the UPS trailers began appearing at the old Bradlees Parking lot. Over the course of a few days, the number of trailers grew to 50. Velocity was cited with 50 Trailer Ordinance

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Violations and one count of a zoning / site plan violation. Velocity made no effort to resolve the issue. However, UPS was compliant, and had the trailers removed within a few days.

- 10/16 Overnight, we had 4-5 unlocked vehicles entered with various property stolen on Harvard and West Harvard Avenue. With good video footage, we put a bulletin out focusing on the suspects very distinctive sneakers. The next night, a DRPA officer stopped a male for jumping the turn-style, he noticed the sneakers and made the arrest. He was turned over to our department and much of the stolen items were still in his backpack. A 33-year-old Camden Man and career criminal was charged with several counts of burglary and theft. He was sent to CCJ where he remains.
- 10/18 In late 2022, we had arrested a 45-year-old man from Warwick Rd after two victims had reported being drugged and sexually assaulted in the home. He was found guilty of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to 9 years in prison,
- 10/21 During the afternoon hours, a reckless driver north bound on Laurel RD, third laning into the intersection of Warwick and Laurel against a red light. The driver struck a senior citizen from Sterling Arms, forcing her vehicle into a traffic light standard. The reckless driver was uninsured, he caused \$13,000.00 in damage to our traffic light and totaled the victim's vehicle as well.
- 10/25 Overnight, Officers responded to Cornell Manor for an unconscious 44-year male overdosing. Narcan was administered; the male was revived and sent to Jefferson for treatment.
- 10/26 The next day, the same male overdosed outside the Burger King, Narcan was used again by another bystander. This time the male stormed off, upset his high was again disrupted.
- Missing** person case, our detectives are working the case of our missing 22-year-old known to be last seen in Mexico. We've had commendable cooperation from the Diplomatic Security Services in Juarez Mexico
- Officers are again participating in No Shave November with a generous donation being made by the officers to support the DARE Program.
- 10/20 Two More Grants were applied for and received by the department, \$30,000.00 grant was received for enhanced patrols on WHP and \$36,000 for DWI patrols
- Tele-Health Professionals**, over the next 2 months, our officers will receive training as Tele-Health technicians for field crisis and mental health evaluations. Our officers will be trained in mental health screening protocols; they will have an option of performing field evaluations to remotely connect an OAKS Integrated Care Professionals This will reduce time spent transporting citizens and arrestees to the Cherry Hill Crisis Center.

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In November and December, we are again beefing up our patrols, using grants and overtime to extend some shifts to 12 hours from 10 and adding additional manpower during peak time.

OEM REPORT:

The Stratford OEM Coordinator is preparing annual calls for service reports and invoicing for our Large Facility Ambulance Subscribers: ***Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine, Rowan Offices, Jefferson Hospital, Laurel Manor Nursing Home*** for Municipal Ambulance Services for the year 2025. Stratford Deputy Coordinator Tom Farrell attended one county meeting and one underground gas line explosion drill.

FIRE REPORT: Deputy Chief Bove presented the Fire Report for October 2024. Deputy Chief Bove had just returned from a working fire in Voorhees and wanted to remind everyone that we are at a High Wildfire Risk. As a safety reminder: - Do not light any outdoor bonfires. Be mindful of how you discard smoking materials. Avoid parking on leaf piles. Blow leaves away from your house.

ENGINEER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OCTOBER 3, 2024 AGENDA MEETING

OCTOBER 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo 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:

Deputy Clerk Cianfrani reviewed the proposed resolutions.

No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda. Resolutions 24:142 through 24:150 were approved as a consent agenda by motion of Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilwoman Martin, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

RES.24:142 AUTHORIZE BOROUGH ADVERTISE & RECEIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2025 PROFESSIONALS

RES.24:143 ACCEPTING THE 2024-2025 DWI TASK FORCE GRANT FOR \$30,000

RES.24:144 ACCEPTING THE TECHNA-PRO CONTRACT

RES.24.145 AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED STATE CONTRACT VENDORS

RES.24.146 AUTHORIZE 2024 BUDGET TRANSFERS

RES.24.147 APPROVE 2025 CAMDEN COUNTY DWI TASK FORCE GRANT (\$47,175.00)

RES.24.148 APPROVE 2025 PEDESTRIAN STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT GRANT (\$30,000.00)

RES.24.149 APPROVE NJDLPS DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND GRANT (\$36,162.21)

RES.24.150 ACCEPTING NJDLPS DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND GRANT (\$36,162.21)

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Deputy Clerk Cianfrani presented RES.24.151 EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCERNING MATTERS OF POSSIBLE LITIGATION. Councilwoman Lomanno motions to approve, seconded by Councilman Gilligan, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

BUSINESS LICENSE:

Dominican Salon - 416 North White Horse Pike

Motion was made to approve the license by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

Wah Gi Wah - 205 S. White Horse Pike

Motion was made to approve the license by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo, with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Tolomeo – Councilman Tolomeo extended Congratulations to the winners of the election.

Councilman Gilligan – Councilman Gilligan extended Congratulations to the winners of the election. He shared that he has made contact with Emily Hoffman of the Community Service Committee and they are setting up a group to assist our Parks Commission with cleaning up our parks on a regular basis. The Parks Commission is still in need of volunteers.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Councilwoman Lomanno extended Congratulations to the winners of the election. Also Thank you and Great job to Dawn Martin for a great turnout at our Halloween event. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Councilwoman Martin – Councilwoman Martin thanked everyone for the congratulations and praise from the election and the Halloween event. Thank you to the “Selfie with a Scarecrow” contest participants, the House Decoration contest participants and the candy donations for Herk’s Heroes. The Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be on Friday December 6th from 6pm to 8pm. Luminary Bags are on sale now through the Stratford Fire Department to light the way for Santa. We are also still looking for Vendors for this event. Email Councilwoman Martin at dawnmartin@stratfordnj.org for an application.

Mayor Hall – Mayor Hall extended Congratulations to Dawn Martin, and Steve Gandy on their reelection. Also congratulations and Welcome to Bob Bove, who was newly elected to Council. Congratulations and great job to Dawn Martin and everyone who helped and participated in the Halloween event. It was a great success. Thank you and great job to the Stratford Police Department, with handling the situation with Velocity quickly and efficiently. Thank you to our Fire Fighters who were out in Voorhees today assisting with a large fire. Girl Scout Troop 30862 planted two trees at Saratoga Park last month along with Mayor Hall. They did research on tree species and will be monitoring the trees’ growth.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

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John Gentless of 111 Union Avenue extended Congratulations to the winners of the Election. He inquired if there were any updates on the mansion property, to which there are none. Mr. Gentless also inquired about Princeton Ave. He stated that, this property is a duplex and is required to be able to house 4 vehicles. There are 2 driveways but Mr. Gentless does not believe there is enough room and is concerned that this will effect street parking. He inquired as to why the original longer driveway that was approved for this property was not completed. Mr. Gentless also inquired as to whether we have anyone lined up as a new tenant for the old Bradlees location. A motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to close the Good and Welfare portion with all Council voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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. Comment was made that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

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

Respectfully submitted:

Stephenie Cianfrani
Borough Deputy Clerk