

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 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.

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 – PRESENT
STEPHENIE CIANFRANI, DEPUTY CLERK – PRESENT
CHRISTOPHER NORMAN, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, CHIEF POLICE EXECUTIVE/OEM – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN JR, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilman Gilligan motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

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 presented the report for:

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

Total number of properties inspected – 6

Total number of notices – 4

Total number of summonses – 9

Councilwoman Lomanno provided the June Finance Reports.

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2024

Balance as of 7-31-2024 – \$3,587,605.80

Total Receipts – \$1,825,987.46

Total Disbursements – \$3,701,071.29

Balance as of 7-31-2024 – \$1,712,521.97

Total in other Funds - \$2,592,398.28

Councilman Kelly presented the report for:

POLICE - The reports are as follows:

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August 2024:

27 Adult arrests	1 Juvenile arrests,
1 Assaults to Police	6 Simple assaults Complaints,
16 Criminal Mischief Complaints	10 Harassment complaints,
689 Other investigations and complaints	1 Burglary
0 Robberies	9 thefts in the amount of \$27,921.00
\$1,692.00 in stolen property recovered	0 motor vehicle thefts,
6 D.W.I. arrests	9 Narcotics arrests,
301 Traffic summonses issued	16 Motor vehicle accidents,
6 injuries from accidents	24 Alarm activations

With 87 Total Crime Reports Taken, and 696 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 44 Alarms 2 Drills in the month of August 2024.

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Building Fires	1	28
Alarm Systems	12	68
Dwelling Fires	2	21
Investigations	7	37
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	4	45
Wires, Trees Down	7	24
Brush Fires	2	9
Car Fires	1	1
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	5	38
Drills	2	19
Helicopter Standby	3	28

Stratford Ambulance: August 2024

Councilman Toloemo presented the report:

There were 97 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 619.

OEM Report for August 2024

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Farrell attended a Camden County Office of Emergency Management meeting. The county will be issuing guidance related to 2024 polling locations throughout the county. The Emergency Management Coordinator placed no parking signs and traffic cones for the JP2 Carnival.

PUBLIC WORKS AND LIGHTING

Councilman Tolomeo gave the DPW report for August 2024:

Prepare for National Night Out by collecting the books at the Library to be given away, assemble newly purchased games for children, assemble new popcorn machine, and deliver these and other items to Yellin School in advance of the event. Subsequently the event was cancelled due to weather.

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During the month, continued to cut grass regularly at the borough buildings, parks, playgrounds, and railroad corridor.

Weed garden beds around town.

Install several new 'Welcome to Stratford' signs on major roadways. These large colorful signs depict various locations and organizations in Stratford.

Replace two street signs, one parking sign at Community Center, and install no dumping signs at the alleyways at Suburban Terrance and Laureba Avenue.

Painting of the diesel tank and one DPW facility exterior building was completed.

Courtesy treatment of three hornet nests located within the municipal roadways were remediated.

Routine maintenance of equipment and vehicles.

3 trash trucks were taken to mechanic for periodic servicing.

The chipper has been repaired and is back in operation. This was an investment of over \$5000 into a very good machine. A new similar machine would have cost approx. \$50,000. The chipping schedule is every two weeks and is noted on the town calendar as a reminder too.

Remember yard waste will end at the end of October for this year.

Sewer August 2024 Report

1 call out to clog at a business location.

3 call outs for residential sewer vent issues.

Pump stations were checked at least once a week. Please note that only toilet tissue paper should be flushed down toilets. There are many products which are labeled "flushable". Just because it is flushable, it is not necessarily good for your drain lines. Most homeowners' sewer clogs are caused by these other products.

Councilwoman Martin presented the report for:

PUBLIC EVENTS – The September 2024 report is as follows:

I'd like to wish the students and teachers in Stratford a wonderful school year. I'm excited to announce some new fall activities for our residents to participate in. The first activity will be our "Stratford Selfie with a Scarecrow" contest which will begin on October 1. Participating Stratford businesses will create and display a scarecrow that represents their company. On September 30, a list of participating businesses will be posted for residents to visit and take a selfie with the scarecrow. For each selfie emailed to councilwoman Martin, a raffle ticket will be submitted to win one of five gift certificates to our local establishments. A video of the selfies will be created and shared with residents. Our house decorating contest will also begin on October 1st and registration will end on October 18th. Participating households will submit a photo of their decorated house. The addresses and photos of participating houses will be shared with residents and residents will be able to vote for the favorite three houses online. This allows residents who are unable to view the houses in person to participate as well as residents who like to view the houses in person. The winners will be announced at our Halloween parade and festivities on October 30th at Yellin School from 6-8pm.

Upcoming Events in Stratford

Sept 17-19 Youth Knight Cheerleader Clinic for ages K-8 at Sterling High School \$20 per cheerleader and includes a t-shirt

October 1 and 2 Tarkill Picture Night at Samuel S Yellin School

Stratford Senior Events:

September 11 Zumba Class 1-2pm

September 18 Bingo 1-2pm

September 25 Craft 1-2 pm

September 27 Paint and Sip 4-6 pm

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We would like to thank Bratton Law, Laurel Manor, Town Square Marlton, Zelma and Jackie Sauders from Berkshire Hathaway, Fox and Roach for donating their time and expertise to providing engaging activities for the Seniors of Stratford.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Tabled from September 05, 2024 meeting.

RES. 24:119 APPOINT LABORER – LEAD CDL DRIVER – JAMES OVERPECK

Councilman Tolomeo made a motion to adopt conditioned upon letter of employment from the Solicitor, seconded by Councilwoman Martin with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Keenan reviewed the proposed Resolutions 24:124 as a consent agenda. Motion was made by Councilwoman Martin to adopt, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all Council voting aye by Roll Call Vote.

RES. 24:124 SAFE AND SECURE GRANT PARTICIPATION 2025-2026

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Wire checks	501729	through	501740		
Payroll checks	59947	through	60066	and	
Automated checks	38864	through	38946		
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 Lomanno seconded the motion, with all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Tolomeo – Thanked all first responders and the office staff for the day to day operation. DPW and the Trash Team for keeping the town looking good.
- Councilman Gilligan – Spoke about the Park Commission needing new interested residents to join the Commission. As school is in session, please be careful of the students.
- Councilwoman Lomanno – Thanked those who came out for the presentation for Frank Hartman’s family last Thursday’s meeting, and the Fire Department for help in preparing for the event, and sympathy to the Hartman family.
- Councilwoman Martin – Thanked the police and the DPW for preparing the town for the start of the school year, and back to school night is upcoming. Tarkill Soccer season has started too.
- Councilman Kelly – Thanked the residents who attended last Thursday’s in person meeting, and participating in a good conversation. He also made note for everyone to remember 9/11 anniversary occurring tomorrow and those who lost their lives. Welcome to Stephenie Cianfrani the new Deputy Clerk.
- Mayor Hall – Encouraged residents to come out to the Council meetings and in 2025 the Council is reviewing the meeting schedule, and hope to announce a new schedule soon. The remaining meetings this year for the Thursday meeting will take place on the first floor in the former court room. She also

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confirmed her and Councilman Gandy were present for the Tarkill Soccer Friday Night Lights event, and thanked all the parents and players who came out, as well as the Tarkill Soccer Board of Directors for a fun night event.

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GOOD AND WELFARE:

Councilman Tolomeo motioned to open the meeting to the public for Good and Welfare. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote. Mr. Gentless of 111 Union Ave inquired to the any action which may have occurred after the Executive Session last Thursday's meeting. Mr. Keenan stated there was action on a Fireman Membership application which was missed during the first part of the public meeting, for Frank Hallworth of Lindenwold which was approved. He inquired to the annual payment from Rowan, which was conformed it was received. The status of the tax appeal with the prior Methodist Church, which is still pending at the State level. He reminded everyone the prior Construction Official Chris Mecca passed away recently. Inquired to any news on the Exxon site or 30 Strikes Bowling, and response was no new information. Councilman Kelly made a motion to close the public session, with Councilman Gilligan making a second, with all Council voting aye by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

Councilman Tolomeo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Lomanno 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