

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Hall led the Pledge and said an opening prayer.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: The Borough Clerk read the following statement:
In compliance with The Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, public notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and The Retrospect and is posted on the Official Bulletin Board Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR LINDA HALL	JEFFREY BRENNAN, BOROUGH SOLICITOR
COUNCILMAN PATRICK GILLIGAN	STEVE BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER
COUNCILMAN BOB BOVE	
COUNCILWOMAN JESSICA FARRELL	RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF, OEM COORDINATOR
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY (Absent)	DANIEL CAMBURN, CAPTAIN
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN	MICHELLE HACK, RMC BOROUGH CLERK/ADMIN
COUNCILMAN MIKE TOLOMEO	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 9, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstain: Councilwoman Farrell

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion: Councilman Gilligan
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

John Gentless Questioned various resolutions and if any were added on. Which #122-2026 was added.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

107-2026 PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NJSA 10:4-12 (CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS; LITIGATION)

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MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell
Second: Councilman Tolomeo
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

The executive session lasted approximately 30 minutes. No formal action occurred as a result of this session.

MOTION TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

POLICE REPORT JULY 2026:

- 6/30 Unreported in June, we assisted the NJ Attorney General's Office with a Child Pornography Distribution case with an early morning Search Warrant. A 32-year-old resident was arrested and sent to CCJ on Child Pornography Distribution Charges.
- 7/1 During the afternoon hours, a traffic stop was conducted on White Horse Pike for a speeding violation. The driver initially stopped, however as soon as the officer neared the window of the rental car, the driver fled on the White Horse Pike. The vehicle was rented to a female from Macon GA, and was overdue by 6 weeks. The driver did not match the renter's description.
- 7/3 During the evening hours, officers responded to Jefferson for a report of a disorderly man in the parking lot. This was person was released from care and was not happy about having to leave Jefferson. As soon as the officer made contact with the man, he was assaulted. A 33-year-old Philadelphia man was sent to the Camden County Jail.
- 7/5 During the overnight hours, we were called to Jefferson for another psychological patient who eloped from the Emergency Room. The officers located him in the center of Laurel Road with a metal frame from a yard sale sign in his hand menacing the officers and passing cars. He was surrounded and eventually an office was able to sack him to the asphalt from behind and he was taken back into custody.
- 7/10 Overnight, several unlocked cars on Green Tree Road were entered overnight, loose change and other small items were stolen. 48 hours later, the same street, different suspects entered several other unlocked cars. As Officers arrived, they pursued a stolen vehicle, containing 3 or 4 juveniles on Winding Way to Longwood. The pursuit was discontinued due to the high speeds and risks involved. NJ State Police also lost the vehicle near the AL-JO Curve and RT 42.
- 7/13 The construction fencing surrounding the old Freebird Chicken Construction site was stolen. We have no suspects in this case.
- 7/13 A resident on morning walks recovered two bags of suspected heroin in the roadway on Longwood Drive and on July 16th on Sunnybrook Rd. A different resident found an uncapped syringe on Overhill and Knoll Rd.
- 7/14 During the afternoon hours we were called to assist Somerdale Police with man who ran naked from his home at Green Valley Apts. He was located, in some stolen clothing at Hagerty Playground.

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The suspect attempted to flee on foot however was quickly corralled and turned over to Somerdale PD for a crisis run.

- 7/14 Overdose inside the Burger King. 44-year-old Winslow Man treated with Narcan and sent Jefferson.
- 7/19 The first day of the New E-Bike laws took effect, we arrested and charged a 29-year-old Laurel Springs Man after he fled from officers on the Bike after fleeing the scene of a domestic violence incident. He was charged with eluding and the new E-Bike statutes.
- 7/21 During the afternoon hours, we charged a 21-year-old man from Bridgeton with 2 counts of lewdness for exposing his private parts to his treating nurse and doctor. The suspect has a history of lewd and offensive behavior.
- 7/24 A perspective purchaser at the old Sterling Veterinarian discovered the AC Unit was stolen from the side of the building.
- 7/26 During the afternoon hours, a child was struck on her bicycle in a crosswalk, near Family Dollar. The driver involved immediately stopped and called 911. The child was transported to Jefferson, and was treated and released. The driver was issued a summons for the crosswalk violation and the child received a warning for crossing against the red light.
- During the month of July, we completed another survey to determine the need for a staffed crossing post on Laurel & Atlantic. Again, we received a half of dozen positive responses for crossing either morning or afternoon at that location so we will continue to staff it.

OEM REPORT:

1. During the month of July 2026, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator attended one County Meeting.
2. The Emergency Management Coordinator applied for a \$5000.00 grant in support of the Stratford Emergency Medical Services.
3. The Emergency Management Coordinator spent parts of two days performing property maintenance at the Stratford Ambulance Hall.

FIRE REPORT:

The Stratford Fire Department for July 2026 is as follows:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
BUILDINGS	3	23
ALARM SYSTEMS	9	63
DWELLINGS	5	18
INVESTIGATIONS	4	46
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS/RESCUE	7	42
WIRES, TREES DOWN	1	17
BRUSH	1	7
VEHICLE	0	2
ASSIST EMS/POLICE/PUBLIC	2	24
DRILLS	2	17
SARs	0	3
ALARMS	32	245

ENGINEER REPORT:

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Mr. Bach provided a written report that was submitted to Council and is on file in the Clerk's Office.

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY REPORT:

Councilman Bove presented the Code Inspection Report for July 2026.

Warning Notices Issued	42
Violations Corrected After Warning	16
Summonses Issued	11

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Tolomeo provided the July 2026 Finance Reports.

Balance as of 6-30-2026:	\$ 645,208.02
Total Receipts:	\$ 2,362,433.83
Total Disbursements:	\$ 2,193,848.52
Balance as of 7-30-2026	\$ 813,793.33
Capital, Sewer and Trust Funds:	\$ 3,031,233.15

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Councilwoman Farrell presented the report for Stratford Ambulance for July 2026:
There were 76 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 556.

POLICE - Councilman Gilligan presented the reports for July 2026 are as follows:

Adult arrests	26	Juvenile arrests	0
Assaults to Police	1	Simple assaults Complaints	7
Criminal Mischief Complaints	2	Harassment complaints	21
Other investigations and complaints	639	Burglary	0
Robberies	0	Thefts (13) in the amount of \$	12,870
Stolen property recovered \$	7600.00	Motor vehicle thefts	1
D.W.I. arrests	5	Narcotics arrests	6
Traffic summonses issued	442	Motor vehicle accidents	22
injuries from accidents	4	Alarm Activations	19
Total Crime Reports Taken	92	Total Calls for Police Service	693

PUBLIC WORKS AND LIGHTING:

Councilman Bove presented the DPW and the Sewer Reports for July 2026:

Stormwater Compliance

1. DPW cleaned storm inlets 4 times in the month of July.

DPW

1. DPW repaired 25+ potholes throughout the town using EZ Street Cold Patch in July.
2. Brush Pickup was done 2 times in the month of July. (Every Other Week.)
3. Metal and Electronic Pickup was done 4 weeks in July.
4. Five (5) DPW employees received Confined Space Training from the New Jersey State Insurance Fund, held at Stratford Community Center and also Stratford Sewer Station #2 for hands on training.

Trash and Recycling Tonnage/Tipping Fees

- **Solid Waste Tonnage** – 303.96 Ton resulting in \$29,949.15 in tipping fees at Reworld Camden.

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- **Single Stream Recycling** – 44.11 Ton resulting in \$1,266.39 in tipping fees at Omni Recycling in Pitman.

Vehicle Maintenance

1. DPW Landscaping Equipment is cleaned and maintained after each week.
2. All vehicles driven have their fluids and lights checked each morning before leaving the DPW Facility.
(Any issues or repairs needed are documented by Dept. Head)

Facility maintenance

1. Employees clean DPW Facility on a weekly basis.
2. Playground inspections done weekly by DPW.
3. The DPW had pulled weeds growing at the Borough Hall, Stratford Library, Memorial Garden, and other Public Buildings and Landmarks through Stratford.
4. ALL Fire Extinguishers in Public Buildings were also inspected in July.
5. DPW conducted Building Inspections in July at ALL public buildings.
6. DPW, Sanitation, and Sewer Vehicles are cleaned out at the end of each week and washed in-house monthly.

Seasonal Services

1. Two DPW employees assisted with 4th of July Parade and Festivities, which was held at Mancini Field at Vassar Park. Both, the Parade and Festivities, went well and were a success!
2. DPW cleaned and organized everything from the Festivities the following week.
3. DPW performs grass cutting weekly during spring/summer months at 17 locations in Stratford. All locations are maintained weekly.

Sewer Call Outs

1. There were 13 sewer call outs total in the month of July, with EIGHT (8) of them being resident related issues. There were FIVE (5) Pump Station related emergencies in July. One of the residents' house calls required Jetting Services, due to Stratford's Sewer Main being impassable at those times. All blockages were cleared after Jetting Operations. All Jetting Operations are documented and recorded.
2. Stratford Sewer employees run and test the on-site generator at Station #2 bi-weekly, as well as the Tow-Behind Generator at DPW shop.
3. TWO Stratford Employees inspect all three (3) pump stations Weekly, documenting any issues/work performed.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

National Night Out on August 4 was a well-attended and successful community event, with residents engaging with Stratford's police, fire, and Magnolia Ambulance personnel. Officer Dietz, Deputy Chief Bove, and their teams were recognized for coordinating an enjoyable, family-friendly evening. Planning for the Fall Festival is progressing, with 18 food trucks, 105 crafters, and multiple organizations already registered and vetted following last year's strong community response. The first volunteer meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Ambulance Building, with a volunteer call going out on social media. The committee looks forward to another positive community event supported by residents and volunteers.

ORDINANCE # 09-2026
First Reading

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOROUGH CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE
REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF A "POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG" LICENSE**

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MOTION TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #09-2026

Motion: Councilman Bove
Second: Councilman Gilligan
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Second reading and Public Hearing on this ordinance shall be duly noticed for September 9, 2026.

**ORDINANCE # 10-2026 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF
First Reading STRATFORD TO REVISE THE KNOX BOX RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL OCCUPANCIES**

MOTION TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #10-2026

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell
Second: Councilwoman Martin
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Second reading and Public Hearing on this ordinance shall be duly noticed for September 9, 2026.

RESOLUTIONS:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ BY TITLE ONLY CONSISTING OF
RESOLUTIONS #108 - 2026 THROUGH #122 – 2026 with the removal of 119-2026**

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

108-2026	AWARD 2026 BID FOR SEWER ROOT CONTROL SERVICES
109-2026	APPOINT SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARDS
110-2026	CHAPTER 159 – 2026 CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT (\$16,743.76)
111-2026	CHAPTER 159 – ALCOHOL, EDUCATION, REHABILITATION GRANT (\$495.84)
112-2026	CHAPTER 159 – 2023 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT (\$9,521.73)
113-2026	AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ELECTRONIC TAX SALE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH REALAUCTION.COM LLC
114-2026	APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND REPEALING ALL PRIOR APPOINTMENTS MADE IN 2026*
115-2026	TO APPOINT DUTY CREW MEMBERS (BRUMBACH)
116-2026	AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR STRATFORD OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, APPLICATION FOR THE 2026 PRIDE IN SERVICE GRANT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EMS FUNDING FOR THE STRATFORD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION L.L.C.
117-2026	AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION, 2026 STRATFORD BOROUGH TOY EXPRESS GRANT APPLICATION
118-2026	AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY TO APPOINT A POLICE OFFICER FROM THE REGULAR REEMPLOYMENT LIST PURSUANT TO N.J.S 4A:4-7.10 & N.J.S. 11A:4-6

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120-2026 IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AR149 DEMONSTRATING
SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
121-2026 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
122-2026 TO REAPPOINT A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE UNDER A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS #108-2026 - #118-2026, #120-2026 – #122-2026:

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS #119-2026:

119-2026 AUTHORIZING A SALARY INCREASE FOR ADAM KAY, PUBLIC WORKS LABORER, SEWER DEPT
Motion: Councilman Gilligan
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: 4
Opposed: 1 (Councilwoman Farrell)

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS THAT ARE IN ORDER:

Motion: Councilman Gilligan
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

MERCANTILE LICENSE APPROVALS:

- CASE# 2026-0546 Solar Landscape 222 S WHP

MOTION TO APPROVE MERCANTILE LICENSE:

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – Thanked the former Code Enforcement Officer, Terry for her service to the Borough and welcomed Officer McBride to the role. Also expressed thank you to the new Parks Commission and Historical Commission. Commended everyone who helped make the National Night Out a success, especially Police and OEM. Updated on the Passive Recreation Grant and Laurel Mills site.

COUNCILMAN GILLIGAN – Thanked the Police Chief and the Public Events Committee for hosting National Light Out, it was a great night.

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COUNCILMAN BOB BOVE – Thanked Police, Fire, OEM, DPW and Mayor and Council for making National Night Out a successful, fun event.

COUNCILWOMAN JESSICA FARRELL – Thanked Stratford PD, especially Officer Deitz for the work on National Night Out; and also acknowledged the newly form Parks Commission and Historical Commission. Looking forward to the Fall Fest and the start of a new school year.; encouraged drivers to avoid Warwick and Vassar on school days to lessen traffic.

COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – Thanked the Stratford Board of Education, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Knights of Columbus for their continued partnership in Borough community events. Appreciation was also extended to members of the Parks Commission and Historical Commission for their volunteer service and contributions to preserving and advancing the community. Additionally, sincere thanks were offered to the Stratford Police Department, Stratford Fire Department, and Magnolia Ambulance for their ongoing dedication to resident safety and community well-being.

COUNCILMAN TOLOMEO – Shared that he also appreciated the work on National Night Out and appreciates the volunteers for the Parks Commission and Historical Commission.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Gilligan
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

John Gentless	Asked about status of an AED machine being placed at the Borough Hall, status of dentist office being built on Berline Road, expenditures of Clean Communities Grant/street sweeping, Dead tree at Grand and Jefferson, offered advice on Quaker Store grant funding through County and use of the property; grants available from US Tennis Association, Buddhist Church being used as a school.
Kim Berdine	Advised that Magnolia Ambulance just received the new ambulance that Stratford participated in a shared service to purchase. Expects to be in service approximately 3 weeks. Excited to for the Stratford Historical Commission, looking forward to sharing information via social media (advise not to start own page, to use Borough's current social accounts) and entering the Quaker Store. Mr. Bach stated entering the building is not permitted by the public at this time due to the need for a structural assessment. He described the conditions at the building. He is working with the Borough to stabilize for public access.
Ginny Baskerville	Recognized the members of the newly formed Historical Commission.
Orum Snow	Would like to have input on how Clean Communities grants, and all grant funds, are utilized and questioned the details of Resolution 120-2026.

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MOTION TO CLOSE THE GOOD AND WELFARE PORTION:

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion: Councilwoman Martin
Second: Councilman Bove
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Hack, RMC
Borough Clerk and Administrator