

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY JULY 9, 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	CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER
COUNCILMAN BOB BOVE	
COUNCILWOMAN JESSICA FARRELL	TOM FARRELL, DET/SERGEANT, DEPUTY OEM COORDINATOR
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY (Absent)	BOB BOVE, JR, ACTING FIRE CHIEF
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN	MICHELLE HACK, RMC BOROUGH CLERK/ADMIN
COUNCILMAN MIKE TOLOMEO	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 11, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

PROCLAMATION

Honoring Stratford resident, Erika Rodriquez, in celebration of her 100th Birthday, presented by Mayor Hall.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No one came forth to speak.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

POLICE REPORT: Police Chief Morello provided the following report of the Stratford Borough Police Department Activities for June 2026:

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- 6/2 At school dismissal we were called to D'Amico's and again to the Swim Club for a growing group of teenagers acting disorderly. In this case some former residents of town used Ride Share's from Gloucester Twp and Pennsauken to arrive in town with the purpose to fight.
- 6/3 Two Officers were assaulted on Ramp of the ER while responding to a report of a disorderly man. As they arrived, the man tried to push past the responding officers and a struggle ensued.
- 6/6 During the afternoon hours, we responded to the Dollar Tree for a report of a robbery. Two juveniles assaulted others and took off with their cotton candy. Two juveniles from the Unity Estates section were arrested and charged with robbery.
- 6/9 During the afternoon hours, we were called to a report of a burglary in progress to an occupied home on Berlin Road. Responding Officers located and arrested the PATCO resident as he attempted to enter the train station. 40-year-old male charged with attempted burglary and criminal trespassing,
- 6/12 A disruptive, fighting 8th grade student at Yellin caused a disruption resulting in the school to be placed in a shelter in place for some time. The SRO had the student contained.
- 6/13 During the afternoon, officers assisted the Fire Department with the dwelling fire on Wright Avenue. Cause of the kitchen fire was a leg of lamb. No injuries
- 6/22 During the evening hours, while monitoring the crossings on Warwick Road for the 8th grade graduation, two motorcyclists were observed traveling recklessly toward Laurel Springs. A brief pursuit was called off due to the danger involved. Both suspects were located in the parking lot of Villari's bar removing their licenses plates. A Stratford resident and Winslow man were charged with Eluding Police, Brass Knuckles and traffic charges.
- 6/25 During the afternoon hours, we were called to Laurel Rd and WHP for a report of a psych patient who jumped from an ambulance. This was also a PATCO resident fled out the back of the rig and was quickly apprehended by our officers.
- 6/25 A few minutes later, we responded to the Burger King for a report of two combatants, fight each other with branches and stones in the rear parking lot. The incident did occur but only the witnesses remained, these were also PATCO residents that fled behind Kirkwood Lake.
- 6/26 Two elderly residents of Beverly Lane at Sterling Arms called 911 after a male entered their screened in patio and tried to open their door. The male fled toward Family Dollar where he convinced a good Samaritan to give him a ride to Gibbsboro. Officers located the man in the area he was drove to and arrested the 25-year-old Gibbsboro man for two counts of criminal trespassing.
- 6/28 During the afternoon hours, a wanted man fled from the scene of a motor vehicle stop for which he was a passenger. During the stop, he forced his 75-year-old mother from the car roadside and fled in the car on WHP at a high rate of speed to avoid arrest. A 35-year Winslow man now wanted on numerous other charges.
- 6/30 During the early morning hours, we assisted The Attorney General's Office with a search warrant on Longwood Drive. A 45-year-old resident was charged with Child Porn charges and sent to CCJ.
- 6/30 Application for a Department of Justice Grant was applied for \$150,000.000 to purchase technology (STOP APP) and district wide radio communications, also the funding is dedicated to implement and continually audit safety and security procedures in the public schools and participating private and pre-schools in the town.

OEM REPORT:

1. During the month of June 2026, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator attended one County Meeting.

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2. The Emergency Management Coordinator conducted a 911 validation at the USA Gas Station a 1 N. While Horse Pike
3. The Emergency Management Coordinator received a grant in the form of a water donation from Shoprite in support of the 4th of July Parade, National Night Out and the Christmas Tree Lighting 2026

FIRE REPORT:

The Stratford Fire Department for June 2026 is as follows:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
BUILDINGS	5	20
ALARM SYSTEMS	9	54
DWELLINGS	2	13
INVESTIGATIONS	8	42
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS/RESCUE	5	35
WIRES, TREES DOWN	2	16
BRUSH	2	6
VEHICLE	0	2
ASSIST EMS/POLICE/PUBLIC	0	22
DRILLS	3	15
SARs	1	3
	<u>Alarms:</u>	<u>Drills:</u>
Monthly:	37	3
Year to Date:	213	15

ENGINEER REPORT:

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 June 2026.

Total number of properties inspected: 152
Total number of notices: 111
Total number of summonses: 0
Total number of emails: 40
Total number of phone calls: 75

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Tolomeo provided the June 2026 Finance Reports.

Balance as of 5-31-2026: \$ 1,446,337.82
Total Receipts: \$ 469,672.30
Total Disbursements: \$ 1,270,802.10
Balance as of 6-30-2026 \$ 645,208.02
Capital, Sewer and Trust Funds: \$ 2,665,113.35

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Councilwoman Farrell presented the report for Stratford Ambulance for June 2026:
There were 72 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 480.

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

Adult arrests	24	Juvenile arrests	2
Assaults to Police	2	Simple assaults Complaints	5
Criminal Mischief Complaints	3	Harassment complaints	21
Other investigations and complaints	624	Burglary	0
Robberies	0	Thefts (7) in the amount of \$	2775
Stolen property recovered \$	775	Motor vehicle thefts	0
D.W.I. arrests	4	Narcotics arrests	8
Traffic summonses issued	483	Motor vehicle accidents	15
injuries from accidents	4	Alarm Activations	23
Total Crime Reports Taken	89	Total Calls for Police Service	679

PUBLIC WORKS AND LIGHTING:

Councilman Tolomeo presented the DPW and the Sewer Reports for June 2026:

Stormwater Compliance

1. DPW cleaned storm inlets 3 times in the month of June.

DPW

1. DPW repaired 2 potholes throughout the town using EZ Street Cold Patch in June.
2. Brush Pickup was done 2 times in the month of June. (Every Other Week.)
3. Metal and Electronic Pickup was done 4 weeks in June.

Trash and Recycling Tonnage/Tipping Fees

- Solid Waste Tonnage – 297.52 Ton resulting in \$29,314.67 in tipping fees at Reworld.
- Single Stream Recycling – Single Stream Recycling records were not available at the time of typing this report

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. ALL Fire Extinguishers in Public Buildings were also inspected in June.
4. DPW conducted Building Inspections in June at ALL public buildings.
5. DPW, Sanitation, and Sewer Vehicles are cleaned out at the end of each week and washed in-house monthly.

Seasonal Services

1. DPW assisted with 4th of July Parade preparations in the last days of June consisting of stage cleaning/painting, Vehicle Washing, Cone Placement, and placing No Parking Signs.
2. DPW performs grass cutting weekly during spring/summer months at 17 locations in Stratford.

Sewer Call outs

1. There were 7 sewer call outs total in the month of June, with FIVE (5) of them being resident related issues. There were TWO (2) Pump Station related emergencies in June. 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.

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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:

Due to extreme heat on July 4, the committee canceled games, inflatables, and field activities at Mancini Field to protect public health and safety. However, the Parade proceeded as scheduled at 10:00 a.m. and was well attended by residents and local organizations. Carole and Larry Dadino were recognized as the 2026 Parade Marshals for their longstanding community service. Following the parade, attendees gathered at Mancini Field for award presentations and refreshments. The Miss Stratford Court continued its community service efforts by volunteering at the Unforgotten Haven earlier in July, are preparing to assist BookSmiles, and volunteering at National Night Out. The committee also collaborated with Officer Dietz on planning the upcoming National Night Out, scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ BY TITLE ONLY CONSISTING OF
RESOLUTIONS #98 - 2026 THROUGH #106 - 2026**

Motion: Councilwoman Farrell

Second: Councilwoman Martin

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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|----------|---|
| 098-2026 | TO APPOINT DUTY CREW MEMBERS (ORR) |
| 099-2026 | AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE BODY WORN CAMERA SYSTEM AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT 17-FLEET-00738 |
| 100-2026 | APPOINTING PART-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL |
| 101-2026 | AUTHORIZING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) FY2026 COPS, SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT |
| 102-2026 | AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR 2024-STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY & TRAFFIC SAFETY, STATEWIDE LABOR DAY DWI CRACK DOWN \$7000.00 |
| 103-2026 | AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARDS |
| 104-2026 | AWARD 2026 BID FOR IT/COMPUTER SERVICES |
| 105-2026 | AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HI-NELLA BOROUGH SEWER SERVICE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE NEWLY CREATED LOT AT 35 PAWNEE ROAD AS AN APPROVED SEWER CONNECTION |

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106-2026 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY TO ACTIVATE A POLICE OFFICER REGULAR REEMPLOYMENT LIST PURSUANT TO N.J.S 4A:4-7.10 & N.J.S. 11A:4-6

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS #98-2026 - #106-2026:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – Commended Ms. Rodriguez and thanked everyone who came to support her, and helping bring this proclamation to life. Acknowledged all that assisted and participated in the July 4th parade; and the Police and Fire Departments, along with OEM for their work on the recent storms.

COUNCILMAN GILLIGAN – Thanked Councilwoman Martin and the Events Committee for their excellent work in planning the July 4th Parade and Awards.

COUNCILMAN BOB BOVE – Congratulated Ms. Rodriguez on reaching such a milestone, and offered reminders to drive slow and safely as our children are out of school and riding their bikes.

COUNCILWOMAN JESSICA FARRELL – Thanked Councilwoman Martin for her work to make July 4th a success, further acknowledging the Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Fire Department for always being a big part of the activities. Congratulated Ms. Rodriguez on receiving her proclamation; and to the 10U girls softball District championship.

COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN –extended appreciation to everyone who helped make 4th of July event a success, including volunteers, the Department of Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, the Knights of Columbus, parade participants, and all of the residents who came out to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. Stated appreciation to Mayor and Borough Council for their continued support of Stratford events, and looks forward to the National Night Out.

COUNCILMAN TOLOMEO – Stated that he enjoyed driving the backhoe in the parade, thanked the Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Fire Department for their work pulling off the parade.

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GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

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

John Gentless Commented on the appearance of the Quaker Store. Offered reminders to council about Quaker Store grant and 105 Vassar tree; asked for new business updates. Asked questions and opined about street sweeping process.

Kevin Saunta Inquired about any open space to lease for a garden, and potentially a community garden.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE GOOD AND WELFARE PORTION:

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Hack, RMC
Borough Clerk and Administrator