

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY JUNE 11, 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 (Absent)	RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF/OEM COORDINATOR
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY	BOB BOVE, JR, ACTING FIRE CHIEF
COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN	MICHELLE HACK, RMC BOROUGH CLERK/ADMIN
COUNCILMAN MIKE TOLOMEO	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 14, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES & EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

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

PROCLAMATION

Wear Orange for Gun Violence by Mayor Hall accepted by Denise Sellers

POLICE PROMOTIONS

RESOLUTION #96-2026 APPOINTMENT OF POLICE SERGEANT TOM FARRELL

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

OATH OF OFFICE Conducted by Mayor Hall. Bible held by Wife, Kate Farrell

RESOLUTION #97-2026 APPOINTMENT OF POLICE SERGEANT TIMOTHY BUTLER

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

OATH OF OFFICE Conducted by Mayor Hall. Bible held by Son, Colby Butler

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR:

Motion: Councilman Gandy

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Second: Councilman Tolomeo
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Gene Ciecka Requested clarification on Ordinance 07-2026 as his residence is within 200 feet of the overlay zone.

John Gentless Asked questions and opined on certain resolutions, and asked questions related to the municipal budget and the capital expenditures

MOTION TO CLOSE THE FLOOR:

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

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

- 5/5 During the evening hours, officers responded to a home on Buttonwood Rd to check on the well-being of an individual who had not been heard from in a week. Officers were able to enter thru an unlocked window and located the resident long deceased in an upstairs bedroom. The death was of natural causes, and was quite a difficult removal of the corpse due to length of time of between the death and removal.
- 5/7 Two juveniles were arrested and charged with weapon offenses and assault after the juveniles used pellet guns on other neighborhood children with pellet guns.
- 5/8 During the morning hours, Officers responded to the area of Echelon Ford for a report of a naked man running across White Horse Pike. This man had been observed beginning on Route 561 thru Voorhees, Somerdale, to Stratford and was finally approached by one of our officers on the Campus of Rowan University. The male resisted arrest and was ultimately taken into custody and transported to Jefferson as he was under the influence of a laced marijuana. He remained unidentified for about 6 hours until his parents reported him as a missing person.
- 5/12 Overnight, a group of juveniles in a stolen car began a rash of thefts from vehicles in Gloucester Twp, Runnemede, Magnolia, Somerdale and to Stratford where they found a vehicle on Drexel Avenue with keys inside. An off-duty officer heard his brother's car start and ran toward the car as it was fleeing. The suspects bailed from the stolen car and fled in their original stolen car. The suspects were chased by Berlin Twp Police across the Walt Whitman Bridge. The same patterns of crimes have continued nearly nightly throughout the tri-county area.
- 5/13 Overnight, our officers were called to Jefferson Hospital for a removal of a patient who refused to leave after discharge. During the encounter, the suspect attempted re-admission by threatening to kill himself. When that did not work, the suspect proceeded to assault one of our young officers. He was ultimately arrested and charged with aggravated assault on law enforcement. He was a 40-year-old Lawnside man.
- 5/15 Overnight, a Dr. and ER nurse were battered by a combative intoxicated patient, upset over his bedding arrangement in the ER. A 29-year-old Stratford man was charged with aggravated assault on a healthcare worker.

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- 5/21 Overnight, we were called to the 200 block of Cornell Avenue for a report of a hit and run involving 4 parked cars. Using video footage, the next day we located the suspect and vehicle parked at a home in Somerdale. A 28-year-old man from Somerdale was charged with numerous offenses.
- 5/29 During the afternoon hours, Officers responded to a Yale Avenue home for an overdose. A 21-year-old overdosing who was revived and transported to Jefferson for treatment.
- Over the course of the month, we have realized a new influx of homeless arriving around Stratford. It seems as though a purging from the streets of Philadelphia has occurred in preparation of the World Cup and 250th Celebrations. The new population has been arriving by train.
 - The carnival went off with no real issues; the weather seemed to be a factor. They were able to squeeze out an extra 45 minutes each night, to help offset their losses for Saturday's rain out.
 - Over the course of the past few months, we lent assistance to the State Police regarding a large-scale Human Trafficking Drag net, that snared a 40-year-old female resident of Stratford. The female resided in an apartment above Catalina Windows; she was involved in with drugs and prostitution in Mercer and Burlington Counties.
 - 4 Additional E-Bike Warnings were issued to juveniles, who were engaging in dangerous and reckless operation of their E-Bikes

OEM REPORT:

1. During the month of May 2026, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator attended one County Meeting.
2. The Emergency Management Coordinator and a Deputy set up and broke down the No Parking Signs and Traffic set up for PJP-2 Carnival.
3. The Emergency Management Coordinator spent one day on vehicle and property maintenance at the Stratford Ambulance

FIRE REPORT:

The Stratford Fire Department for May 2026 is as follows:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
BUILDINGS	0	15
ALARM SYSTEMS	7	45
DWELLINGS	4	11
INVESTIGATIONS	7	34
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS/RESCUE	6	30
WIRES, TREES DOWN	1	14
BRUSH	3	4
VEHICLE	1	2
ASSIST EMS/POLICE/PUBLIC	3	22
DRILLS	2	12
SARs	1	2
	<u>Alarms:</u>	<u>Drills:</u>
Monthly:	34	2
Year to Date:	179	12

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 May 2026.

Total number of properties inspected: 180
Total number of notices: 150
Total number of summonses: 0
Total number of emails: 90
Total number of phone calls: 45

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Tolomeo provided the May 2026 Finance Reports.

Balance as of 4-30-2026: \$ 315,538.49
Total Receipts: \$ 3,806,499.62
Total Disbursements: \$ 2,675,700.29
Balance as of 5-31-2026 \$ 1,446,337.82
Capital, Sewer and Trust Funds: \$ 2,945,927.44

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Councilman Gandy presented the report for Stratford Ambulance for May 2026:
There were 93 calls for ambulance service, with a total for the year of 408.

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

Adult arrests	19	Juvenile arrests	2
Assaults to Police	1	Simple assaults Complaints	5
Criminal Mischief Complaints	2	Harassment complaints	19
Other investigations and complaints	596	Burglary	0
Robberies	0	Thefts (13) in the amount of \$	11,225
Stolen property recovered \$	6,225	Motor vehicle thefts	1
D.W.I. arrests	5	Narcotics arrests	7
Traffic summonses issued	366	Motor vehicle accidents	26
injuries from accidents	11	Alarm Activations	21
Total Crime Reports Taken	79	Total Calls for Police Service	605

PUBLIC WORKS AND LIGHTING:

Councilman Gandy presented the DPW and the Sewer Reports for May 2026:

Stormwater Compliance

1. DPW cleaned storm inlets 2 times in the month of May.

DPW

1. DPW repaired 7 potholes throughout the town using EZ Street Cold Patch in May.
2. Brush Pickup was done 2 times in the month of May. (Every Other Week.)
3. Metal and Electronic Pickup was done 3 weeks in May, besides the week of Memorial Day.
4. DPW received and installed their newly purchased chipper cap at the end of May.
5. Yard Waste, Brush Chipping, Metal/Electronics and Recycling were all paused for the week of Memorial Day. All Services Resume in June.

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Trash and Recycling Tonnage/Tipping Fees

- Solid Waste Tonnage – 275.22 Ton resulting in \$27,117.44 in tipping fees at Reworld.
- Single Stream Recycling – Single Stream Recycling records were not yet available

Vehicle Maintenance

1. Both Sanitation Trucks went in for new dumpster cables at Bellmawr Truck.
2. DPW dump trailer had two tires/wheels replaced at Franklin Trailer.
3. DPW Landscaping Equipment is cleaned and maintained after each week.
4. All vehicles driven have their fluids and lights checked each morning before leaving the DPW Facility.
(Any issues or repairs needed are documented by Ross Beck)

Facility maintenance

1. Employees clean DPW Facility on a weekly basis.
2. Playground inspections done weekly by DPW.
3. The DPW mulched at the Borough Hall, Stratford Library, Memorial Garden, and other Public Buildings through Stratford.
4. ALL Fire Extinguishers in Public Buildings were also inspected in May.
5. DPW conducted Building Inspections in May 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. DPW performed 101 HERO Banner installations through town using a boom-lift rented from Sunbelt Rentals. Three DPW Employees also received training on the boom-lift at Sunbelt in April.
2. The Stratford Memorial/Garden was pressure-washed, weeded/mulched, and new flowers planted prior to the Memorial Day Ceremony. Flowers were purchased from Mr. Green Jeans in Hammonton.
3. New Flags were raised at Veteran's Park and Stratford Memorial in May.
4. DPW performs grass cutting weekly during spring/summer months at 17 locations in Stratford.

Sewer Call outs

1. There were 12 sewer call outs total in the month of May, with all 12 of them being resident related issues. There were Zero (0) Pump Station related emergencies in May. Two 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:

The Memorial Day ceremony was well attended despite the rain. Mr. Gentless delivered an informative address honoring Stratford residents who gave their lives in service to the nation, and several organizations participated in the flag placement for the first time. On June 22, Miss Stratford and volunteers from the Stratford Library will deliver utensil packets to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden and tour the facility. The Committee is preparing for the Fourth of July Parade, with participant lineup at Yellin School beginning at 9:15 a.m. and step-off at 10:00 a.m. Activities at the field will follow until 1:00 p.m. The Borough announced that Town Historian Carole Dadino and her husband, Larry Dadino, will serve as Grand Marshals of this year's semi quincentennial parade.

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MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2026

MOTION RESOLUTION #83-2026 AUTHORIZING THE SELF-EXAM 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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

MOTION TO: Open the Floor for Public Hearing on 2026 Municipal Budget

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

MOTION TO Close the Floor for Public Comment

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

**MOTION RESOLUTION #84-2026 ADOPTING THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY AND
CONFIRMING THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN HELD**

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

ORDINANCES:

**ORDINANCE #05-2026 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, REGULATING DUMPSTERS, ENTITLED
Second Reading HEALTH & SAFETY OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD**

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #05-2026

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

ORDINANCE #06-2026 **ORDINANCE APPROVING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DESIGNATED
Second Reading** **REDEVELOPMENT AREA REFERRED TO AS THE "EAST LAUREL ROAD
REDEVELOPMENT AREA" AND IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 36 LOTS 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16; BLOCK 40 LOTS 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10; and BLOCK 41
LOTS 2, 2.01, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF
STRATFORD**

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #06-2026

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

ORDINANCE #07-2026 **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AMENDING
Second Reading** **TITLE 17 ZONING TO INCLUDE A NEW CHAPTER 17.22 "R-5 INCLUSIONARY SINGLE
FAMILY ATTACHED OVERLAY AS SET FORTH HEREIN**

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC

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

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MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #07-2026

Motion:

Second:

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

ORDINANCE #08-2026 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THEBOROUGH OF STRATFORD, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$440,409.00 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$418,388.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Second Reading

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion:

Second:

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Gene Ciecka asked what the capital expense included for this ordinance.

John Gentless asked which road was planned for the road work.

Orum Snow asked if alternative materials were being considered for the road project.

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC

Motion: Councilman Gilligan

Second: Councilman Tolomeo

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #08-2026

Motion: Councilman Gandy

Second: Councilman Bove

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

RESOLUTIONS:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ BY TITLE ONLY CONSISTING OF
RESOLUTIONS #85-2026 - #95-2026**

Motion: Councilman Tolomeo

Second: Councilman Bove

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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- 85-2026 AUTHORIZE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
- 86-2026 TO AUTHORIZE ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR 2026
- 87-2026 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ABC LICENSE FOR RIDHIR, INC.
- 88-2026 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ABC LICENSE FOR LA MARTINIQUE BOWLING ACADEMY, INC
- 89-2026 AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF CANCELLED CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND BUSINESS LICENSE FEES
- 90-2026 AUTHORIZING APPLICATION BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GRAND AVENUE, PHASE 3 & UNION AVENUE
- 91-2026 AMENDING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON A FOR ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE OFFICIAL/INSPECTOR SERVICES
- 92-2026 AUTHORIZE LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS
- 93-2026 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM APPLICATION #: EMW 2025 FG 00725
- 94-2026 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT APPLICATION # EMW 2025 FF 00165
- 95-2026 APPROVING A BLOCK PARTY APPLICATION FOR MEADOWLARK ROAD

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS #85-2026 - #95-2026:

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

APPOINTMENT TO JOINT LAND USE BOARD

- Steve McBride, unexpired Class 1 term ending December 31, 2026.

MOTION TO APPROVE CLASS I JLUB APPOINTMENT: STEPHEN MCBRIDE
(Unexpired term ending 12/31/2026)

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

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APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

MAYOR LINDA HALL – thanked the Police Department for their guidance in managing traffic control during the road closure at White Horse and Berlin Roads. She noted she is pleased with the progress on the Stratford Square project. She also thanked everyone who attended the police sergeant promotions, expressed appreciation to Robin for her budgeting expertise, and thanked all who participated in the Memorial Day events.

COUNCILMAN GILLIGAN – Commented that he was excited to see tonight's Police Department promotions, and thanked Chief Morello for providing excellent training.

COUNCILMAN BOB BOVE – Congratulated the Police Sergeant promotions. He gave an update that the Community Center rehab grant has been extended through April 2027, and announced the Borough is seeking volunteers for the Parks Commission.

COUNCILMAN STEPHEN GANDY – Expressed congratulations to the Police Sergeants and to Firefighter Jake Orr. Also thanked the Department of Public Works for all their Memorial Day preparations.

COUNCILWOMAN DAWN MARTIN – Thanked Robin for her assistance with the municipal budget process and the Fire Department for their help on Memorial Day. Stated that she is excited for the July 4th parade as planning is underway.

COUNCILMAN TOLOMEO – Congratulated the Police Sergeant promotions, and Firefighter Orr; thanked Robin for her budget guidance and asked residents to be mindful of placing out debris ahead of schedule.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

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

John Gentless Asked if there is a status on the Quaker Store repairs; if Stratford is concerned about Data Centers; asked for status on development on several private properties and commented on tree removals at the library and public space grant from SAO.

Orum Snow Inquired about the Borough having a Green Team and being able to hold a farm market at PATCO station and a community garden. He further spoke on holding a peaceful protest

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against ICE (He was advised who/how to contact); and last he gave some ideas for events at the Community Center.

Jackie Ciecka Inquired if Royal Farms is still in the plans to come to Stratford on the WHP.

Denise Sellers Thanked Mayor and Council for the Wear Orange Proclamation and inquired if the Vassar pickleball courts are the proper size.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE GOOD AND WELFARE PORTION:

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Hack, RMC
Borough Clerk and Administrator