

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF

ADVERTISEMENT:

PRAYER & PLEDGE

OF ALLEGIANCE:

Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post, and Record Breeze along with being posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

MAYOR JOHN GENTLESS

STEVE VENUTO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

WALT BAXTER, COUNCILMAN

HOLLY TATE, COUNCILWOMAN

JULIE GALEZNIAK, COUNCILWOMAN

MICHAEL SANTORO, COUNCILMAN

BEN ANGELI, COUNCILMAN

JEFFREY BARON, SOLICITOR

JOHN D. KEENAN, JR. BOROUGH CLERK

PRESENTATION:

Best Decorated House Contest Winners –

1st James Miller of 68 Winding Way Rd.

2nd was Tom Hopper, 25 Winding Way Road

3rd Mark Brumbach, 33 Swarthmore Avenue

Honorable Mention, Michael DiGiacomo, 35 Pennsylvania Ave.

PROCLAMATION:

To Thomas Campbell, shipper of Silly String to the Servicemen and women in Iraq.

Sgt. Todd J. Shriver

Captain Kevin Bradley

**MEETING OPENED
TO THE PUBLIC:**

Meeting is opened to the public for a maximum of 10 minutes to discuss anything appearing on tonight's agenda. You may also speak at the end of the meeting under Good and Welfare. Nothing was discussed at this time.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:**

December 06, 2007 Agenda Meeting

Not ready at this time

December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting

Not ready at this time

December 27, 2007 Special Meeting

Not ready at this time

On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman S. Venuto with all ayes on the vote, the approval of minutes will take place at the February 12th meeting.

REPORTS:

FINANCE &

REVENUE:

Councilman B. Angeli read the Finance report for December 2007, as submitted by the CFO, as follows:

BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2007 1,352,195.50

Total Receipts 332,887.47

Total Disbursements 1,109,629.77

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2007 575,453.20

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNT BALANCES DECEMBER 31, 2007

Municipal Alliance 34,421.26

Animal Control	883.84
Public Assistance I	2,400.13
K-9	186.45
General Capital	1,259,347.27
Developers Escrow	28,670.10
POAA	1,414.00
Special Law Enforcement Trust	10,586.40
UCC/LEA Trust	42,851.77
Uniform Fire Safety	7,586.63
Tax Title Lien	233,516.23
Trust Other	28,536.91

Councilman B. Angeli also gave information on SEDC and some ideas this group is working on.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Councilman Michael Santoro read the Fire Company and Ambulance reports as follows:
FIRE:
AMBULANCE: The Volunteer crew responded to 19 Alarms and held 1 Drill; the Paid Crew responded to 80 Alarms for the month

POLICE:

Councilman Steve Venuto read the Police Report for the year end 2007 as follows:

Adult Arrests	45	Juvenile Arrests	03
Assaults to Police	01	Simple Assault Complaint	01
Criminal Mischief Complaints	06	Harassment Complaints	134
Other Investigations & Complaints	761	Burglaries	

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Councilwoman Holly Tate reported there will be a Blood drive on January 28th at the Senior Citizen Building from 2 – 8PM. Call 1-800-Give-Life for more information. She will be contacting residents who are servicing in the war and reaching to get them involved in future parades.

PUBLIC WORKS & LIGHTING:

Councilwoman Julie Galezniak read the Department of Public Works as submitted by Ken Ryker. The picking up of leaves are continuing, including overtime to help. Pot hole repair will begin once leaves are done. Snow plows are ready for the snow. Senior grounds cleaned. Senior luncheon took place for the Holidays and thanked all those who helped. Sixty (60) seniors attended.

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY:

Councilman Walt Baxter reported that there are nine (9) resolutions and two (2) on for tonight’s meeting. He also reported that repairs to the cell door at the police department was made, bulbs were replaced at the Borough Hall, and an estimate is coming for electrical work.

**OLD BUSINESS:
NEW BUSINESS:**

Res.2008:20 Resolution 2008:20 – Defer School Tax 2008
 On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:20

WHEREAS, the regulations provide for the deferral of not more than 50% of the annual levy when school taxes are raised for a school year and have not been requisitioned by the school district; and
 WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services requires that a resolution be adopted by a majority of the governing body prior to February 13th of the year subsequent to the deferral, authorizing an increase in the amount of the deferral; and
 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey to increase the amount of Regional School deferred taxes by \$37,227.84.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford that the amount of Regional School Taxes deferred be increased to \$1,703,881.02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Res.2008:21 Resolution 2008:21 – Authorize Engineer to Design, Spec and Bid PA Avenue
On motion of Councilman B. Angeli, seconded by Councilman S. Venuto with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:21

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has been awarded a NJ Department of Transportation Grant of \$150,000. for the Pennsylvania Avenue Project; an
WHEREAS, the Engineer is ready to begin the design and specifications for the Pennsylvania Avenue Project;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Engineer to begin design, specifications and bid the Pennsylvania Avenue Project.

Res.2008:22 Resolution 2008:22 – Authorize Downpayment for LED Sign \$4,000.00
On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:22

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has authorized a contract with Artcraft Signs of Pine Hill, NJ for a new LED sign; and
WHEREAS, Artcraft Signs has requested a deposit of \$4,000. which is less than 25% of the cost of the sign; and
WHEREAS, it has been confirmed with Artcraft Signs that the new sign includes a five (5) year warranty period which does not begin until the sign is installed and turned on,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to authorize a \$4,000. deposit be made to Artcraft Signs of Pine Hill, NJ for the new LED sign.

Ord.2008:01 Ordinance 2008:01 – Rate CAP Ordinance 3.5%
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by Councilman W. Baxter, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:

Councilman W. Baxter	yes	Councilwoman J. Galezniak	yes
Councilman M. Santoro	yes	Councilman B. Angeli	yes
Councilman S. Venuto	yes	Councilwoman H. Tate	yes

MOTION CARRIED

Res.2008:23 Resolution 2008:23 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2008:01 February 12, 2008
On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman W. Baxter with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:23

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2008:01

BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 12th day of February, 2008 8:00 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2008:01 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 12th day of February, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

Ord.2008:02 Ordinance 2008:02 – Amend Sewer Rates
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:

Councilman M. Santoro	yes	Councilwoman J. Galezniak	yes
Councilman W. Baxter	yes	Councilman B. Angeli	yes
Councilman S. Venuto	yes	Councilwoman H. Tate	yes

MOTION CARRIED

Res.2008:24 Resolution 2008:24 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2008:02 February 12, 2008
 On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all
 ayes on the vote.

**RESOLUTION 2008:24
 PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2008:02**

BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of
 Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 12th day of February, 2008
 8:00 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2008:02 and;
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 12th
 day of February, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

Res.2008:25 Resolution 2008:25 – Accepting Grant - Dept. Homeland Security Tech. Transfer Prog. \$13,500.
 On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with all ayes
 on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:25

WHEREAS, the Stratford Police Department has been awarded a grant from the
 Department of Homeland Security Technology Transfer Program; and
 WHEREAS, the grant is for a G2 Sentenial Video Surveillance System valued at
 \$13,500.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to accept this
 Department of Homeland Security Technology Transfer Program Grant for a G2
 Sentenial Video Surveillance System valued at \$13,500.

Res.2008:26 Resolution 2008:26 – Accepting Grant - FEMA Direct Assistance Program \$15,500.
 On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all
 ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:26

WHEREAS, the Stratford Police Department has been awarded a grant from the FEMA
 Direct Assistance Program; and
 WHEREAS, the grant is for a XOA Electronic Body Wire & Hard Drive Recording
 System valued at \$15,500.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to accept this FEMA
 Direct Assistance Program for a XOA Electronic Body Wire & Hard Drive Recording
 System valued at \$15,500.

Res.2008:27 Resolution 2008:27 – Accepting Grant – US Dept. Justice Dept. \$5,000.
 On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with
 all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2008:27

WHEREAS, the Stratford Police Department has been awarded a grant from the U.S.
 Department of Justice; and
 WHEREAS, the grant is for Child Abduction Advanced Training for cooperating police
 departments which will include training, travel, and lodging for 4 Stratford Police
 Officers and 6 out of town police officers valued at \$5,000.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to accept this U.S.
 Department of Justice for Child Abduction Advanced Training for cooperating police
 departments which will include training, travel, and lodging for 4 Stratford Police
 Officers and 6 out of town police officers valued at \$5,000.

Res.2008:28 Resolution 2008:28 – Award Mount Construction
 On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all
 ayes on the roll call vote as follows:

Councilman M. Santoro	yes	Councilwoman J. Galezniak	yes
Councilman W. Baxter	yes	Councilman B. Angeli	yes
Councilman S. Venuto	yes	Councilwoman H. Tate	yes

RESOLUTION 2008:28

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has awarded a contract to South State Inc. for the Parkwood Project; and

WHEREAS, there is a punch list of concrete items which South State has not completed; and

WHEREAS, quotes were received by the Borough Engineer to complete these outstanding concrete items; and

WHEREAS, the recommended quote is with Mount Construction in the amount of \$19,400.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to award the concrete items outstanding on the Parkwood Project to Mount Construction in the amount of \$19,400.

RAFFLE LICENSE: St. Luke Home and School Association #485 Bingo
On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman W. Baxter with all ayes on the vote, the Raffle License was approved.

St. Luke Home and School Association #486 Raffle
On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilwoman H. Tate with all ayes on the vote, the Raffle License was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Be it resolved to approve payment of bills numbered from #17813 to #17912; Animal Control #1234.

On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman W. Baxter with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:

Councilman M. Santoro	yes	Councilman S. Venuto	yes
Councilman B. Angeli	yes	Councilwoman H. Tate	yes
Councilwoman J. Galezniak	yes-except	Councilman W. Baxter	yes-except
	(#17857 Abstain)		(#17822 Abstain)

GOOD AND WELFARE: -Agnes Moore concerned with the puddling on Coolidge Avenue near the paving on Stratford Avenue. The Engineer explained it will be done next week.
-Jerry McKee of Laureba Avenue commented how fine the concrete work was on Suburban Terrace and the Engineer did a fine job.
-Christine Gagliardi of Knoll Road commented how upset she was to the literature that went out in the last election involving her family.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman B. Angeli, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote, the meeting was adjourned.

John D. Keenan, Jr., RMC