

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:
STATEMENT OF
ADVERTISEMENT: Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post, Inquirer and Record Breeze along with being posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and place of the meeting.

PRAYER & PLEDGE
OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: MAYOR JOHN GENTLESS
BEN ANGELI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JULIE GALEZNIAK, COUNCILWOMAN
STEVE VENUTO, COUNCILMAN
MICHAEL SANTORO, COUNCILMAN
HOLLY TATE, COUNCILWOMAN
MICHAEL PEREZ, COUNCILMAN
BARBARA REIFBERT, ALT. SOLICITOR
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR. BOROUGH CLERK
ABSENT
JEFFREY BARON, SOLICITOR

PRESENTATION: Presentation to Lt. Paul Kupiec was done by Mayor John Gentless

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 in this portion of the meeting.*

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES: December 04, 2008 Agenda Meeting
On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilwoman H. Tate with all ayes on the vote and Councilman M. Perez abstaining.

December 10, 2008 Regular Meeting
On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all ayes on the vote and Councilman M. Perez abstaining.

REPORTS:
FINANCE &
REVENUE: Councilwoman H. Tate read the Finance Report for December, 2008 as submitted by the CFO as follows:

BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2008	1,549,818.95
Total Receipts	427,887.37
Total Disbursements	1,079,853.71
BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2008	897,852.61
Schedule of Account Balances, December 31, 2008	
Municipal Alliance	37,357.54
Animal Control	4,746.25
Public Assistance I	2,400.13
K-9	186.45
General Capital	657,480.22
Developers Escrow	15,132.00
POAA	1,450.00
Special Law Enforcement Trust	14,493.43
UCC/LEA Trust	187,822.60
Uniform Fire Safety	9,486.53
Tax Title Lien	330,169.09
Trust Other	46,037.93

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Councilman Michael Santoro read the volunteer fire company report for December, 2008 as submitted by the Deputy Chief as follows:

FIRE REPORT:

They responded to thirty-one (31) alarms and held three (3) drills.

Total Alarms & Drills – 34; Total Man Hours – 287

Year To Date – Alarms: 404; Drills: 28; Man Hours 4511

AMBULANCE report for December, 2008 as submitted by the Captain SAA

The volunteer crew responded to twenty-four (24) alarms and held one (1) drill

The paid crew responded to sixty (60) alarms.

POLICE:

Councilman Ben Angeli read the Police Report for December, 2008 and the 2008 year end report as submitted by the Chief as follows:

Adult Arrests	41	Juvenile Arrests	06
Assaults to Police	01	Simple Assaults Complaints	02
Harassment Complaints	16	Criminal Mischief Complaints	08
Other Investigations and Complaints			88
Burglaries	08	Robberies	0
Thefts \$14,359.00	20	Stolen Property Recovered	\$4,049.00
Motor Vehicle Thefts	01	DWI Arrests	20
Narcotics Arrests	05	Traffic Summonses issued	350
Motor Vehicle Accidents	35	Injuries from Car Accidents 6 & 1 Pedestrian fatal	
Alarm Activations	36	Total crime reports taken	74
Total Calls for Police Service			681

2008 Year End Report as follows:

Adult Arrests	570	Juvenile Arrests	53
Assaults to Police	08	Simple Assaults Complaints	57
Harassment Complaints	144	Criminal Mischief Complaints	108
Other Investigations and Complaints			844
Burglaries	28	Robberies	5
Thefts \$320,552.00	231	Stolen Property Recovered	\$152,658.00
Motor Vehicle Thefts	18	DWI Arrests	149
Narcotics Arrests	84	Traffic Summonses issued	4861
Motor Vehicle Accidents	347	Injuries from Car Accidents 84 & 1 Pedestrian fatal	
Alarm Activations	340	Total crime reports taken	1156
Total Calls for Police Service			8335

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Councilwoman Julie Galezniak stated that the Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon was held at the UMDNJ. The local students sang and helped.

-The first Fall Festival meeting for 2009 will be held on February 3rd, at 7PM at the Yellin School Library.

-Miss Stratford pageant details are coming, and may have a “Little Miss Stratford for younger girls.

-Possible Easter Egg Hunt this year.

PUBLIC WORKS & LIGHTING:

Councilman Michael Perez reported there were twenty-nine call outs for the Sewer Department, the men checked man holes and the pump stations, cleaned out pumps at pump station #2, repairs done to pump #3, oversaw new drain pipe at Beaver Circle, and picked up trash at the Winding Way Road dead end, did miscellaneous building repairs.

He read an abatement report update for seniors living in Stratford.

The Department of Public Works continues to pick up metal every other week, chip Christmas trees until they are all taken, loaded sale into storage shed, cleaned up leaves at the Parks. The last time to pick up leaves will be the week of 1/19, with 200 tons of leaves to date.

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY:

Councilman Steve Venuto reported there are five (5) Ordinances, sixteen (16) Resolutions, and one (1) business license on for tonight’s meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Ord.2009:01 Ordinance 2009:01 – CAP Ordinance 3.5%
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:
Councilman S. Venuto yes Councilman M. Perez yes
Councilwoman H. Tate yes Councilwoman J. Galezniak yes
Councilman M. Santoro yes Councilman B. Angeli yes
MOTION CARRIED

Res.2009:23 Resolution 2009:23 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:01 – 2/10/09 – 7:30 PM
On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:23
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2009:01
BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 10th day of February, 2009, 7:30 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:01 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 10th day of February, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Ord.2009:02 Ordinance 2009:02 - Special Emergency Appropriation \$30,000 Planner
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:
Councilman S. Venuto yes Councilman M. Perez yes
Councilwoman H. Tate yes Councilwoman J. Galezniak yes
Councilman M. Santoro yes Councilman B. Angeli yes
MOTION CARRIED

Res.2009:24 Resolution 2009:24 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:02 – 2/10/09 – 7:30 PM
On motion of Councilman B. Angeli seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:24
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2009:02
BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 10th day of February, 2009, 7:30 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:02 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 10th day of February, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Ord.2009:03 Ordinance 2009:03 – Amend Shade Tree Ordinance Ch. 2.48
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:
Councilman S. Venuto yes Councilman M. Perez yes
Councilwoman H. Tate yes Councilwoman J. Galezniak yes
Councilman M. Santoro yes Councilman B. Angeli yes
MOTION CARRIED

Res.2009:25 Resolution 2009:25 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:03 – 2/10/09 – 7:30 PM
On motion of Councilman B. Angeli seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:25
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2009:03
BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 10th day of February, 2009,

7:30 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:03 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 10th
day of February, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Ord.2009:04 Ordinance 2009:04 – Red Light Camera
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by
Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the roll
call vote as follows:
Councilman S. Venuto yes Councilman M. Perez yes
Councilwoman H. Tate yes Councilwoman J. Galezniak yes
Councilman M. Santoro yes Councilman B. Angeli yes
MOTION CARRIED

Res.2009:26 Resolution 2009:26 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:04 – 2/10/09 – 7:30 PM
On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all
ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:26
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2009:04
BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of
Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 10th day of February, 2009,
7:30 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:04 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 10th
day of February, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Ord.2009:05 Ordinance 2009:05 – Repeal Ch. 9.20 Sex Offender
The Ordinance was read by title. A motion was made to approve on first reading by
Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the roll
call vote as follows:
Councilman S. Venuto yes Councilman M. Perez yes
Councilwoman H. Tate yes Councilwoman J. Galezniak yes
Councilman M. Santoro yes Councilman B. Angeli yes
MOTION CARRIED

Res.2009:27 Resolution 2009:27 – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:05 – 2/10/09 – 7:30 PM
On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all
ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:27
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2009:05
BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Members of Borough Council of the Borough of
Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the 10th day of February, 2009,
7:30 PM set for the date and time of the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2009:05 and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final reading and adoption shall be set for the 10th
day of February, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Res.2009:28 Resolution 2009:28 – Authorize Clerk to Advertise and Receive Bids – Tree Trim/Removal
On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilwoman H. Tate with all ayes
on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:28
WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has applied to the State of NJ for a grant to remove
and trim trees; and
WHEREAS, conditioned upon receiving such grant the borough would like to advertise
and receive bids for this contract; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to authorize the Borough Clerk to advertise
and receive bids for tree trimming and removal work to be conditioned upon receiving
the State of NJ grant funding.

Res.2009:29

Resolution 2009:29 – Support Amendment to N.J.S.A 40:54-8 Tax Levies for Free Public Libraries

On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all eyes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:29

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENT TO N.J.S.A. 40:54-8 REGARDING TAX LEVIES FOR FREE LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:54-8 requires the Governing Body of every municipality which is governed by the law concerning free public libraries to annually appropriate, and raise by taxation, an amount equal to one third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property within the municipality, based on the equalized valuation of such property; and

WHEREAS, this law was first enacted in 1944 and has only been amended once, that being in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the last amendment was over 23 years ago, and the initial law is now 64 years old, and

WHEREAS, the equalized value of property within New Jersey in 1944, as well as in 1985, was substantially less than the equalized value of property today, considering the rate of inflation and the boom in the real estate market in the mid-to-late 80's and again in the early-to-mid 2000's; and

WHEREAS, though the equalized values of real estate have increased many times over perhaps as much as 50 times the equalized values in 1944, and as much as two or three-fold since 1985 the state law (40:54-8) has not changed the fractional obligation of each municipality to contribute toward its free public library; and

WHEREAS, the amount each municipality is required to contribute under the current statute far exceeds the reasonable needs and requirements of the free public libraries in the municipality governed by this law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Stratford hereby urges the Legislature to revise the statutory requirements, in order to reduce the mandated financial obligations on the municipalities and their taxpayers under 40:54-8; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Stratford urges that N.J.S.A. 40-54-8 be amended to read as follows:

“The governing body or appropriate board of every municipality governed by this article shall annually appropriate and raise by taxation an amount of not less than one-sixth of a mill on every dollar of assessable property within such municipality based on the equalized valuation of such property as certified by the Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury. Nothing herein shall prevent the municipality from appropriating a greater amount where the governing body, in its discretion, determines that such amount is appropriate,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Senator, Assembly for the Borough of Stratford, the NJ State League of Municipalities and the Governor of the State of NJ.

Res.2009:30

Resolution 2009:30 – Defer School Tax 2009

On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all eyes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:30

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 decrease the amount of Regional School deferred taxes by \$43,960.92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford that the amount of Regional School Taxes deferred be decreased to \$1,659,920.10.

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

Res.2009:31 Resolution 2009:31 – Change to Reimbursable Unemployment
On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman S. Venuto with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:31

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford in prior years has participated in the NJ State Unemployment in a voluntary status; and
WHEREAS, the NJ State Unemployment Office has informed the Borough of Stratford that they may become a Reimbursable Participant in the plan; and
WHEREAS, the as a Reimbursable Participant the Borough of Stratford would save money; and
WHEREAS, the NJ State Unemployment Office requires the Governing Body adopt a resolution to memorialize their request of change,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to authorize the CFO to change the Borough of Stratford's participation in the State of NJ Unemployment Plan to a Reimbursable Participant.

Res.2009:32 Resolution 2009:32 – Authorize Execution of 2009 Animal Shelter Contract
On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:32

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has been using the Voorhees Animal Orphanage for many years as the borough shelter; and
WHEREAS, the 2009 contract has been submitted at a rate of \$500.00 per month,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to authorize the execution of the 2009 contract for shelter services with Voorhees Animal Orphanage at the rate of \$500.00 per month.

Res.2009:33 Resolution 2009:33 – Designate Community Development Representative – Michael Perez
On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilwoman H. Tate with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:33

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford participates in the Camden County Community Development Block Grant; and
WHEREAS, each municipality designates a Councilperson to be authorized to participate along with the Mayor,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to designate Councilman Michael Perez as the CDBG designee for 2009.

Res.2009:34 Resolution 2009:34 – Accept 2009 NJ Comm. Forestry Green Communities Grant \$3,000.
On motion of Councilman B. Angeli, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote.

**RESOLUTION 2009:34
GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BOROUGH OF STRATFORD
AND
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BY AND FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GRANT IDENTIFIER: PF09-092
GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION**

The governing body of the Borough of Stratford desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$3,000. to fund the following project:

Community Forestry Management Plan
2009 Green Communities Grant

Therefore, the governing body resolves that Jake Gambon or the successor to the office of Shade Tree Commission Chairman is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in an amount not less than \$3,000.00 and not more than \$3,000.00, and 9C0 to execute () any amendments thereto (X) any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

The Stratford Borough Council authorizes and hereby agrees to match 33.3% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified 100% of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by grant program requirements and the agreement).

The Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

Introduced and passed: January 13, 2009

Ayes: 6; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

*The portion of this form between the asterisks should only be completed if matching funds are required under the terms of the agreement. Where in-kind services are allowed and are stipulated by the Grantee, an attachment must be provided and appended hereto, breaking out the in-kind services to be provided by the Grantee.

Res.2009:35 Resolution 2009:35 – Appoint Site Plan Enforcement Officer - \$3600.00
On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:35

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford annually appoints a Site Plan Enforcement Officer;
and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to appoint Chris Mecca as the Site Plan Enforcement Officer for the year 2009.

Res.2009:36 Resolution 2009:36 – Economic Development Commissioner Appointment Expire 12/31/2013
On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:36

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has a vacancy on the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Commission has recommended the appointment of Charles Blount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to appoint Charles Blount as a Commissioner on the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2013.

Res.2009:37 Resolution 2009:37 – Remove Senior Citizen Tax Deduction – B. 68, L. 8
On motion of Councilwoman J. Galezniak, seconded by Councilman S. Venuto with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2009:37

WHEREAS, all eligibility requirements for a SENIOR CITIZEN tax deduction for the year 2009 have not been met due to the sale of the property by the following resident:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
68	8	Joseph Raffensberger	305 S. Atlantic Ave	250.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford that this tax deduction be removed from the tax duplicate.

MERCANTILE
LICENSE:

Dollar Ocean, LLC/Tat's Pizzeria, 25-41 S. White Horse Pike

On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman M. Santoro with all ayes on the vote, the Mercantile License was approved.

APPROVAL
OF BILLS:

Be it resolved to approve payment of bills numbered from #19176 to #19273, #19175 was a void and an additional check #19165 ; Animal Control #1285 to #1290.

On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the roll call vote as follows:

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

GOOD AND WELFARE:

-Bill Grover of Parkview Road asked that the actual Finance Report be read. Councilwoman H. Tate read the Beginning Balance, Total Receipts, Total Disbursements, End Balance.

Councilwoman H. Tate also stated there is a list of accounts and balances as well.

-Agnes Moore of Laureba Avenue inquired to the Resolution about Defer School Tax. The Clerk explained it was a bookkeeping item since school and borough fiscal years are different. She also asked about the repeal of the Sex Offender Resolution. The Attorney explained the courts overruled towns ordinances since the State has laws already in place regulating sex offenders.

-Joe Stripolli of the La Martinique Bowling Academy was concerned with the new Walgreens at the Puffer Belly location and the extreme capacity of traffic.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Councilman S. Venuto, seconded by Councilwoman J. Galezniak with all ayes on the vote. The meeting was adjourned.

John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk