

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

The Mayor opened the meeting, the Clerk took roll call showing Councilman Perez and the Solicitor not present.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR JOHN GENTLESS
BEN ANGELI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
STEVE VENUTO, COUNCILMAN
MICHAEL SANTORO, COUNCILMAN
HOLLY TATE, COUNCILWOMAN
MIKE PEREZ, COUNCILMAN – Late
JEFFREY BARON, SOLICITOR - Late
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., BOROUGH CLERK
RONALD MORELLO, CHIEF OF POLICE

The Mayor skipped over the Police Chief's report and the Public Section to go to Report #1.

REPORT #1:

COUNCIL VACANCY

Councilwoman Galezniak's resignation was for February 28, 2009 as her last day. Acceptance of her resignation is in order, as well as the three names to be submitted from the Stratford Republican Club.

The Mayor read the email from Councilwoman Galezniak stating she was resigning effective February 28, 2009. He asked for a motion to accept the resignation which was made by Councilman Venuto, and seconded by Councilman H. Tate with all members voting aye. He read the letter from the Stratford County Republican Chair Pat Walsh with the three names to fill the vacancy, which were John Capone, William Grover, and Paul Schukay. A motion was made by Councilwoman Tate, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli to appoint John Capone. The Clerk asked the Mayor if he was going to wait for all of Council. The Mayor responded he had a quorum and proceeded. Vote was taken with Councilwoman Tate and Councilman Angeli voting yes for John Capone, and Councilman Santoro and Councilman Venuto voting No. The Mayor broke the tie vote by voting aye for John Capone. The Mayor swore in John Capone as Councilman to fill the vacancy. Councilman Perez walked in shortly after. Subsequently the Solicitor arrived in a few minutes.

There was a discussion with the Solicitor about the way in which the appointment was made. The Solicitor stated there was nothing illegal in the way it was done, but if he was present he stated it would not have happened in that manner. Councilman Perez was very upset the Mayor did not wait for him for his vote. He also stated he had spoken to the Mayor that afternoon and he informed the Mayor he would be present for the meeting.

Res.2009:55

Resolution 2009:55 – Accept Julie Galezniak's Resignation from Council.

RESOLUTION 2009:55

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Julie Galezniak submitted her resignation with an effective date of February 28, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a Council position of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:16 regulates the Municipal Vacancy Law and states within 15 days after the occurrence of the vacancy the municipal committee of the political party shall present to the Governing Body the names of three nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, within 30 days after the occurrence of a vacancy, the Governing Body shall appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the council vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

I, John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C. certify the above resolution was adopted on March 5, 2009.

Res.2009:56 Resolution 2009:56 - Appointment of Councilman J. Capone

RESOLUTION 2009:56

WHEREAS, the Councilwoman Julie Galezniak submitted her resignation with an effective date of February 28, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a Council position of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:16 regulates the Municipal Vacancy Law and states within 15 days after the occurrence of the vacancy the municipal committee of the political party shall present to the Governing Body the names of three nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, within 30 days after the occurrence of a vacancy, the Governing Body shall appoint one of the nominees as the successor to fill the vacancy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to appoint

JOHN CAPONE

to fill the Council vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

I, John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C. certify the above resolution was adopted on March 5, 2009.

POLICE CHIEF Chief Morello read his report for February, 2009 as follows:

REPORT:

- a 2 year old was wandering on Laurel Rd. near Grand Ave. was taken back to the sitters
- natural death on Temple Avenue
- Saratoga playground – a 2 year old fell off the play ground equipment – expected recovery
- SIDS death at a day care
- bank –bad check person found
- two windows broke at Laurel Mills Center
- warnings at Laurel Mills Center given since signs went up
- Sgt. Frank Gagliardi returned to work

PUBLIC PORTION:

Suzi –Fall Festival – issue with business vendor background checks, and asked why is this a policy. The Solicitor gave reasons of liability for the Borough.
Joe Schiavo of Temple Avenue questioned the process as an existing business. The Solicitor explained thy do not need the license if the business is there to present coupons to promote the business.

REPORT #2: REDEVELOPMENT

The JLUB adopted the resolution required at their meeting on February 26. The new date for the Council Redevelopment Meeting is March 12, 2009 at 7 pm. Notice to papers and owners have been completed. UMDNJ has offered to meet with Stratford to discuss their future plans and Stratford's future plans. The date has not been set at this time. A timeline should be created for goals moving forward after Redevelopment is completed on March 12.

The Solicitor explained the importance of the resolutions the JLUB failed to adopt and has now adopted. Letters go out to owners to communicate interest in redeveloping their property. Then RDP and RDQ's will go out.

REPORT #3: NEWSPAPER

The newspaper was sent to all households last week. The next issue is to be early May, with deadline of information required by the end of April. This issue cost us nothing to print and mail with the assistance of the businesses taking ad space.

Informational

- REPORT #4: ABC
 The Solicitor has provided the ordinance for the ABC licenses. It will be introduced on March 12, after the redevelopment study and plan are adopted.
The Solicitor went over a letter from the Attorney for LaMartinique Bowling about some changes to the draft ABC ordinance. This would be introduced on March 12 if the Redevelopment is approved.
- REPORT #5: RECYCLE BANK
 Councilman Venuto was asked by the Mayor to be the contact person for RecycleBank. There were some concerns and inquiries asked of RecycleBank by Councilman Venuto. I have not seen a response to his questions from RecycleBank.
*Mr. D'A explained and updated council regarding their program. The Business Association will be spoken to and see if they are interested.
 Joe Schiavo of Temple Avenue questioned tonnage and Magnolia. The Clerk explained tonnage savings at the dump is the fee the recycle bank will charge.*
- REPORT #6: AMEND FLOOD HAZARD ORDINANCE CH. 15.20
 The NJ DEP has sent information requiring an amendment to our Code Book due to the Flood Map Panels changing for this area. An amendment will be introduced at the March 10 meeting, with the public hearing and final action at the April meeting.
Informational
- REPORT #7: VETERAN RECOGNITION
 Thomas L. Homan, Jr. a vet returning from Iraq will be presented with a resolution at the March 10 meeting. He is a resident from Warwick Road.
Informational
- REPORT#8: HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
 The Commission has recommended Marty Hanson to fill the position vacated by Earl Wightman to expire December 2009.
Resolution on for Regular Meeting.
- REPORT#9: SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
 A partnership between the NJ League of Municipalities' Mayors Committee for a Green Future, NJ Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University, Municipal Land Use Center at the College of NJ, NJ DEP, Rutgers Center for Green Building, NJ Board of Public Utilities and a coalition of NJ non-profits, state agencies, and experts in the field. A resolution that states the municipality's intent to pursue Sustainable Jersey certification, and designate a representative to serve as our agent and contact. By becoming part of this we will receive updates on new grants, training and events and news about the latest resources to assist us in becoming a sustainable community.
Resolution on for Regular Meeting.
- REPORT #10: 18 SUMMIT STRUCTURE
 The structure that was denied by the JLUB has been requested be removed by the construction official. The owner has written to the construction official that he plans on moving the structure to the ground. The structure he states was a gift from Stratford families to his daughters when they lost their mother to cancer. He states his is unable to move the structure due to the cost of over \$4,600. to move the structure. The construction official had given him 15 days to remove or modify the structure. The owner has requested an extension of time. Since the homeowner's original response, friends and neighbors have come forward to donate the crane required to move the structure. He will not be able to do this until March 14. The construction official has asked council will you allow the homeowner this extension of time?
Council agreed to time extension.

REPORT #11: RECYCLING GRANT FOR 2008 TONNAGE
Each year the Borough is required to apply for the NJ Recycling Grant based on our prior year tonnage. The NJDEP standard resolution will be on for adoption to allow for the application to be made.
Resolution on for Regular Meeting.

REPORT #12: BERLIN ROAD STREETScape PROJECT
The Borough of Lindenwold is making application to the State of NJ for a Streetscape Grant to improve Berlin Road with decorative brick sidewalks, street lighting, planters, benches, etc. to help link the PATCO station with Lindenwold's redevelopment area on Gibbsboro Road. They are seeking a resolution of support from Stratford. Lindenwold is holding a public hearing on the application on March 11, 2009 at 7 pm at their Borough Hall for anyone interested to attend.
Resolution on for Regular Meeting.

REPORT#13: TOTALLY DISABLED VET – TAX EXEMPT
The Tax Assessor has approved the application for total tax exemption for the owner at 401 N. Kirkwood Avenue, B. 44, L. 6.01 due to his being certified by the VA as a totally disabled vet. A resolution will be on for action at the March 10 meeting.
Resolution on for Regular Meeting.

Executive Session Resolution 2009:57 – Executive Session
Resolution 2009:57 On motion of Councilman B. Angeli, seconded by Councilman M. Perez to go into Executive Session.

RESOLUTION 2009:57

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and
WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,
WHEREAS, the public body is required to adopt this resolution by a vote of three quarters of the members present,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stratford Borough Council as follows:

1. The meeting is required in order to deal with matters concerning personnel, more specifically top discuss:
PERSONNEL/LITIGATIONS
2. This meeting will be limited to the discussions with respect to the aforesaid matters.
3. Upon following adoption of this resolution for the purposes aforesaid, Borough Council will meet in closed session.
4. Notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board.
5. Generally speaking, it will be possible to disclose to the public results of these discussions as noted:

TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES

I, John D. Keenan, Jr., Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Agenda Meeting held on the 05th day of March, 2009.

On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilman M. Perez to come out of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman S. Venuto with all eyes on the vote, the meeting was adjourned.

John D. Keenan, Jr. RMC