

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 04, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR JOHN GENTLESS
MICHAEL SANTORO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
BEN ANGELI, COUNCILMAN
MIKE PEREZ, COUNCILMAN - Late
FRANK GAGLIARDI, COUNCILMAN
DAN BOVE, COUNCILMAN
ANTHONY COSTA, SOLICITOR
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., BOROUGH CLERK
RONALD MORELLO, CHIEF OF POLICE
MARK BASEHORE, JR., ENGINEER
ABSENT
HOLLY TATE, COUNCILWOMAN

POLICE CHIEF
REPORT:

-Sgt. McBride made an arrest of a person in a stolen car at the bowling alley
-break in at a home on Berlin Road – copper pipes stolen
-car stolen at Rent-A-Car on the White Horse Pike
-sledding accident in the woods by a child
-fines given to PNC bank for dumping snow into Princeton Avenue
-Laurel Road properties received summons for not shoveling
-Snow plow of the county hit the traffic control box at Laurel and Warwick Roads
-Laurel Mills woman attempted suicide
-Kennedy Hospital report given to council
-Special events application was submitted for a carnival July 3rd week with a beer garden
-no update on pending sex offender release to Stratford

ENGINEER
REPORT:

CDBG – Washington and Stratford Avenues – 90-95% complete – will walk job with Councilman M. Perez, the Public Works, and the Shade Tree Commission.

PUBLIC
PORTION:

Nothing was discussed in this portion of the meeting.

REPORT#1:

REDEVELOPMENT

Council is set to meet with the Tomkinson's on March 3 to discuss potential redevelopment of their property located on the White Horse Pike. A conference call meeting has been set with Laurel Mills LLC owner Manny Sethi for 6:30pm on March 15. Juster Development has updated Council that Shop Rite is not interested due to the Wal-Mart coming in Somerdale, and that Shop Rite has two new stores in Cherry Hill at Evesham and Springdale, and on Chews Landing Road. There has been no word from Juster on any other potential tenants, and no word regarding NexGen.
The meeting went well with the Tomkinson's.

REPORT#2:

OPEN SPACE GRANT APPLICATION

A resolution of support for the Park Commission's application to rehabilitate Coolidge Park has been requested. This will be placed for action at the March 09 meeting.
Informational

REPORT#3: QUAKER STORE RENOVATION BID
 Bids were received for work on a portion of the interior pine flooring. The low bid was received from C. Riley Construction LLC of Lindenwold. This company has just completed the handicap ramp work at the Quaker Store, and has been recommended by the Historic Commission for award of this bid. The amount is \$3900.00.
Informational

REPORT#4: PERMIT PARKING – WRIGHT AVENUE
 The public hearing for the ordinance to allow permit parking in front of the first few homes off the White Horse Pike due to businesses on the White Horse Pike parking there, will be on March 09. After the public hearing action will be taken by Council on the ordinance.
Informational

REPORT#5: EXECUTE AUDITOR CONTRACT
 Resolution will be ready for action on March 09 to authorize the execution of the Auditor Contract with Bowman.
Informational

COUNCIL REPORTS:
 -Councilman M. Santoro reported that the benefit for Steve Gagliardi’s son was very well received.
 -Councilman M. Perez reported the Department of Public Works is working on pot holes, and trees from storm damage.
 -Councilman D. Bove reported there was a meeting with Pastor Markers at the Word Fellowship Church scheduled
 -Councilman B. Angeli spoke of Kennedy Health System meeting yesterday regarding police coverage and strain to our budget.
 -Mayor John Gentless spoke of the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3, Easter Saturday. The scouts are going to help with the eggs and candy.
 -UMDNJ will come informally to the JLUB
 -Councilman D. Bove asked for council’s support for a resolution allowing Assemblymen Wilson &Fuentes to seek financial aid through the State of NJ Distress City Grant.

Res.2010:50 Resolution 2010:50 –Seek Tax Relief from State of NJ for Kennedy Hosp. and UMDNJ
 On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilman F. Gagliardi with all ayes on the vote.

RESOLUTION 2010:50

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford is approximately 1.6 square miles in area; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford’s total property tax assessment is \$400,391,509.; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford is host to an array of tax-exempt properties; and
WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford’s tax-exempt properties make up 28.43% of the total borough assessment or \$113,997,700.; and
WHEREAS, the two biggest tax-exempt properties are the Kennedy Health System Hospital complex and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey facility; and
WHEREAS, the UMDNJ has a direct working and teaching relationship with the Kennedy Hospital; and
WHEREAS, the Kennedy Hospital represents 8.5% of the total assessment of the Borough of Stratford or \$34,026,600.; and
WHEREAS, the UMDNJ represents 14.38% of the total assessment of the Borough of Stratford or \$57,665,800.; and
WHEREAS, the Kennedy Hospital and UMDNJ represent 80% of the tax-exempt properties in the Borough of Stratford; and
WHEREAS, if these two entities were paying annual taxes, Kennedy would pay \$1,809,194. and the UMDNJ would pay \$3,066,091.; and

WHEREAS, the remaining taxpayers of the Borough of Stratford must bear the burden of these tax-exempt properties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford is overburdened by being the host municipality to these two large tax-exempt monopolies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to seek relief from the State of New Jersey to assist the Borough of Stratford in this unfair tax burden; and

FURTHERMORE, to authorize Assemblymen Fuentes and Wilson to act on our behalf to seek any assistance and aid from the NJ Department of Community Affairs, which may be available to the taxpayers of the Borough of Stratford, to include seeking qualification for distressed municipal funds.

I, John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Governing Body on March 04, 2010.

John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

-Frank Hartman of Green Tree Road questioned the UMDNJ to White Horse Pike, he was not aware UMDNJ owned Holman.

-Pat Walsh of Meadow Lark Road had questions on the red light camera.

-Agnes Moore of Laureba Avenue was concerned about the fire company pumping the water out of the loading dock at Kennedy. Also requested more detailed information to be made part of the town newspaper. And thanked the DPW for the work done on cutting of broken limbs of curbside trees.

Executive Session Res.2010:51

Resolution 2010:51 Executive Session

On motion of Councilman M. Perez, seconded by Councilman D. Bove with all ayes on the vote to go into Executive Session.

RESOLUTION 2010:51

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 at 7:00 PM held on the 4th day of March, 2010.

John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk

On motion of Councilman M. Santoro, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the vote to come out of Executive Session.

Executive Session Res.2010:51A

Resolution 2010:51A Executive Session

On motion of Councilman B. Angeli, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the vote to go into Executive Session.

RESOLUTION 2010:51A

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:

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2. This meeting will be limited to the discussions with respect to the aforesaid matters.
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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 at 7:00 PM held on the 4th day of March, 2010.

John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk

On motion of Councilman D. Bove, seconded by Councilman M. Perez with all ayes on the vote to come out of Executive Session.

Res. 2010:51B Resolution 2010:51B – Authorize Borough Clerk to issue Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action (Form 31A) – Alyson Heriegel
On motion of Councilman F. Gagliardi, seconded by Councilman B. Angeli with all ayes on he vote.

RESOLUTION 2010:51B

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford Governing Body has received information regarding the Court Administrator; and **WHEREAS**, the information relates to actions of the Court Administrator during her employment with the Borough of Stratford, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by Mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Clerk to issue a Preliminary Disciplinary Action Notice (Form 31A) to include possible actions from suspension to termination to Alyson Heriegel, the Stratford Court Administrator, **FURTHERMORE**, to authorize the suspension of Alyson Heriegel without pay effective March 05, 2010.

I, John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk, hereby certify the above resolution was adopted on March 04, 2010.

John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman D. Bove, seconded by Councilman M Perez with all ayes on the vote, the meeting was adjourned.

John D. Keenan, Jr., Borough Clerk