

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF
ADVERTISEMENT:

Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and Central Record 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
MICHAEL MALONEY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
FRANK HARTMAN, COUNCILMAN -ABSENT
HOLLY TATE, COUNCILWOMAN
BEN ANGELI, COUNCILMAN
JOHN DUDLEY, COUNCILMAN
DAVID GRAY, COUNCILMAN
ALBERT OLIZI, SOLICITOR - ABSENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., BOROUGH CLERK
RONALD MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF
JEFFREY HANSON, ENGINEER -ABSENT

POLICE CHIEF
REPORT:

-Officer stopped a vehicle on Longwood Drive in the early morning hours. In the vehicle, two borough owned pedestrian crosswalk signs were found. The driver was a Washington Twp. Volunteer fireman and EMT. This is a third degree crime as theft and other tickets issued. He was suspended from his duties in Washington Twp.

-Call to home on Parkview Road to a resident who required passage to the hospital, who later died.

-Call to resident on Harvard Avenue who died of natural causes.

-Two customers at GoodWill had their wallets stolen. No arrests yet.

-Resident on Longwood Drive died of natural causes.

-Resident had her wallet and keys stolen in Berlin, and later an arrest was made of an individual at the resident's home burglarizing the home.

-Resident called to report daughter missing. She was going to visit husband at hospital in Philadelphia. The police contacted the hospital security who confirm daughter had arrived. A search of the hospital was done and she was found deceased in the bathroom of a heart attack.

-Sterling High School called about a student who was receiving text messages from his mother threatening suicide. The police went to the mother's home where she was found safe and taken to the crisis center.

-Application made to Highway Traffic Safety Distracted Driver grant for \$5,000. which has been awarded to use in April. The Chief explained the 1st offense is \$250., with 3rd offense \$650 and it is a moving violation.

ENGINEER
REPORT:

Nothing was reported

PUBLIC
PORTION:

Nothing was spoken about.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1: REHABILITATION/REDEVELOPMENT

Council adopted a resolution to create two Council Redevelopment Committees. Councilwoman Tate sent a cover letter and a copy of the resolution to all stakeholders. The Planner was given authority to amend the Bradlees Plan. The Planner has submitted a draft copy of the amended Plan for review and comments. The amended Plan can be introduced by Ordinance at this month's meeting.
Councilwoman Tate stated the draft copy of the Plan was provided for review. The Mayor had responded with his recommendations. Albert also reviewed the recommendations. After revisions the Plan is ready for adoption on Tuesday night.

REPORT #2: FIRE TRUCK

Assistant Chief Lewitt provided follow-up information at the February 05, 2015 meeting regarding the ladder truck. He also offered Council to come to see the truck in person.
Councilman Maloney reported he did visit the fire station to see all the trucks and tour the station. Councilman Maloney stated in his opinion the replacement of the ladder truck is dependent on finding financing. The Mayor agreed the new ladder truck would not be part of the 2015 budget. The cost of repairs for the truck is about \$12,000. a year, but the time out of service spiked in 2014. Councilwoman Tate stated there would be no new fire truck this year but would be seeking other financing. There is a meeting set with Kennedy Hospital on March 11. Councilman Maloney reviewed the need and said 90% of the need is driven by Kennedy and Rowan with 10% is Stratford's need. The volunteer crew and the regular operating budget for the fire department is Stratford's share.

REPORT #3: 2014-15 STREET/ROADS PROJECTS

The project awarded to American Asphalt is on hold until warmer weather.
 An updated punch list for the pedestrian route project was sent to the contractor.
 The pump station project should be ready to bid.
 Road priority list and costs were provided in February to assist in the 2015 budget.
 CDBG funding was discussed related to the borough hall handicapped ramp project.
The Engineer was not present and he would be present at the Tuesday meeting to give his update on the road projects.

REPORT #4: REFERENDUM

There has been discussion with no conclusion related to a referendum question for the 2015 General Election inquiring if the municipality should acquire the Laurel Mills Center for park space.
No further action.

REPORT 5: RFP FOR SALE OF SEWER SYSTEM

Last month a resolution was adopted to authorize to receive RFPs for selling the municipal sewer system. The Solicitor has begun his review and research and will report further at the agenda meeting.
The Clerk explained the status of certain records he has obtained for the Solicitor. The concern was related to the lack of recorded easements and restrictions on parcels where the sewer lines runs. Councilman Maloney will be checking with other utility company to see what documents may be required with the RFP.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #6: CITIZENSHIP PROCLAMATION

Any recommendations for the March 10, 2015 meeting should be made at this time.
Councilman Angeli explained the groups which would be present at Tuesday's meeting. These groups help in welcoming home veterans in the town.

REPORT #7: 2015 BUDGET

The CFO has provided Councilman Maloney with a draft budget. There have been no scheduled budget meetings to date. The annual budget is usually introduced at the March regular meeting, with public hearing and final adoption at the April regular meeting.

-Councilman Maloney stated the draft of the budget from the CFO was at 4% increase and the finance committee worked Monday night. A few pages were provided to Council to review the recommendations. There were some cuts and some shifting of funds to the utility.

-The Police Chief explained the difference between a special officer and a police officer. He added 5 specials have left in the last 5 years. The special officer has no benefits including no sick days. He referred to the 2009 disability retirement of an officer which has not been filled to date. He recommended Officer Speer as knowing the town, getting along with the other officers, and being military trained. He also reviewed the future task of an officer assisting with code enforcement. The expenses of the code officer could help relieve police operating expenses up to \$4,000.

-Councilman Maloney spoke about the ladder truck. He agreed the size of the ladder truck was required mainly for Kennedy and Rowan. He confirmed he had received his documents which he had filed OPRA requests. He stated Glassboro received \$175,000. from Rowan which was recently increased and would continue through 2025. Camden receives \$180,000. in quarterly installments of \$45,000. With the Economic Recovery Funds Rowan received to build their new hospital of \$9 million 40% of the funds had to go back to Camden as a condition to receiving the money. He stated the resolution related to Stratford does state \$50,000. annually is noted and this year it will be anticipated revenue in the 2015 Stratford budget. He did not there were PILOT agreements with developers and towns where Rowan is located.

-Councilman Maloney spoke about at the end of his budget review of the \$50,000. Rowan gives, the \$50,000. in insurance savings, and the 2014 \$340,000. surplus and \$230,000. revenue increase. He confirmed he did not want to be at zero increase this year but not 2%, maybe 1%.

REPORT #8: CDBG PROJECT DESIGNATION

Year 37 CDBG project designation has to be adopted by resolution and provided to the County Office in March. The discussion has been to use Year 37 funding along with Year 36, and 35 funding which is already designated for the municipal ramp project at the borough hall.

It was agreed to have the ADA ramps in town be the CDBG Year 37 designated project.

REPORT #9: AUDITOR CONTRACT

A contract has been submitted by the auditor for execution. The Solicitor has reviewed and it will be on the regular meeting agenda for action.

Informational.

REPORT #10: FAMILY DOLLAR

Councilman Angeli asked that this topic be placed on the agenda related to update on the rear pond issue, and maintenance around the rear landscaped area.

Informational.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Maloney stated there was a review being done related to part time employees to be sure they were not working full time hours and would be eligible to receive benefits. The Solicitor would respond to this.

He gave an update on the Teamsters contract. He stated the last meeting was short and related to 7 items. It is a challenging budget year. He is awaiting the Teamster's response to the proposal in writing.

Councilman Maloney spoke about the letter from the school relating to the snow removal. Councilman Dudley stated he did reach out to the school superintendent and left a message and never heard back from him.

Councilman Angeli stated the Park Commission will not be submitting a grant application for the proposed Longwood Drive Park. He will respond to residents.

Councilman Gray stated the Easter Egg Hunt preparation is moving forward. It was confirmed 900 eggs are required. He was going to be visiting the candy store to confirm the order. Flyers would be going to the school.

Councilman Dudley stated he had a meeting next Friday with Atlantic City Electric about the LED lights.

Councilwoman Tate spoke about the 5 year funding for the update of the code book and the master plan for the JLUB. She was waiting for revised budgets.

The Mayor spoke about the fireworks for 2015. He said Somerdale does not have the funding. He asked the Clerk to respond back to Magnolia to inform them Stratford can not fund their share in 2015.

He spoke about a project the Sierra Club asked the towns to do, which was on March 28 from 9:30-10:30 am to shut off all unneeded electric.

He stated Kennedy who is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year has inquired about a park project. He is recommending the pavers at the war memorial park location.

He spoke about the Christian Academy being up for sale and this being their last school year.

He asked for a resolution Tuesday to support the Transportation Trust Fund.

The Clerk informed the Council the LED sign repair is now being estimated at \$2,000. At pump station #1, one of the two pumps is broken and needs to be replaced. Since both are the same age, both will be replaced, and the one will be used for parts. He informed Council of a resolution for Tuesday to authorize the ERI contract for Winding Way and Overhill Projects, an ordinance for SJ Gas renewing the consent to use the streets, and a refund of a marriage license fee of \$28.

GOOD &
WELFARE: None

ADJOURN: On motion of Councilwoman Tate, seconded by Councilman Gray with all ayes on the vote, the meeting was adjourned.

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