

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2017
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Clerk Angeli called the meeting to order at 7:00

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Keenan led the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer and a moment of silence for the victims in the Las Vegas shooting.

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT:

Borough Clerk Angeli stated that notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and the Central Record and is posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and the place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR JOSH KEENAN - PRESENT
PATRICK GREEN, COUNCILMAN- ABSENT
DAVID GRAY, COUNCILMAN- PRESENT
FRANK HARTMAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT - PRESENT
JOHN DUDLEY, COUNCILMAN- PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCILWOMAN- ABSENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN- PRESENT
CHERYLLYNN WALTERS, SOLICITOR- PRESENT
STEVEN BACH, BOROUGH ENGINEER- ABSENT
RONALD MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF- PRESENT
BEN ANGELI, BOROUGH CLERK- PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilman Hartman motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Gray seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor.

John Gentless, Union Ave., spoke about Extreme Auto moving to Laurel road and about a cold case.

Councilman Dudley motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Councilman Gray seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

POLICE REPORT:

SEPTEMBER 2017
COUNCIL REPORT

9/2 Overnight, 3 vehicles were damaged overnight in the Unity section of town, random rocks thru car windows.

9/3-15 4 more prostitution charges were levied on "clients" and house occupants from Stratford Avenue. None the less the location is still very active. All the cases have been downgraded to Municipal Court.

9/8 Early morning hours a female longtime resident of Timbercreek Road passed away suddenly. Natural causes. (Schmidt)

9/10 An evening car stop on White Horse Pike by Detective Johnson resulted in an arrest of a Philadelphia man. Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute (several ounces) He was released pending a court appearance

9/12 During the afternoon hours, we were alerted by several folks that a resident of town was threatening to commit suicide on the Facebook. After tracking this nitwit to several different locations, we found him alive and well in his apartment. Just seeking attention.

9/13 Overnight we had a burglary at the Ed Lane Plumbing on Berlin Road. Suspect spent about 3 hours gathering copper and hiding it in the wooded area between Berlin Road & Coolidge. Suspect finally entered an area of the building where there was a camera and alarm, and he fled empty handed when the alarm sounded. Armed with a great image of the suspect we identified and arrested this 40 year old Lindenwold man later that day. He was sent to CCJ on warrants and Burglary charges.

9/21 Ptl Butler made a great patrol observation during the evening hours in the CVS parking lot. While patrolling the area he observed the rear license plate of the vehicle was altered by black electrical tape. So he sat and waited..... 10 minutes later a male came a running from the store with a large and loaded bag. After pulling the car over he recovered several hundred dollars of stolen merchandise. 50 year old Camden man was charged with an indictable shoplifting and motor vehicles offenses.

9/26 We received a DNA match from a suspect who had assaulted a resident back in February after being caught breaking into cars. This is the case where the suspect pulled a hypodermic syringe on the resident who was attempting to hold him until police arrived. DNA match finally was returned and a robbery warrant has been prepared. 35 year old homeless man known to frequent the speedline towns (Lindenwold to Camden)

Business License for the proposed auto dealer at the old S&S auto is still incomplete. I'm still awaiting a copy of the applicants NJ dealers license and lease.,

9/28 After fielding a few resident complaints we issued ordinance violations to Luk Oil and Extreme Auto (Warwick & Vassar) The Xtreme auto was cited for operating a junk yard (too many cars) and both establishments were issued for operating without business licenses.

UCR Reports, recently I've had some very legitimate inquiries in response to a published article regarding an increase in violent crime in town.

The article and data is accurate for a 5 year period from 2011-2016. During that time period we had a spree of 7 bank robberies (3 in one year, two by the same suspect) 1 Check cashing robbery which resulting in police shooting and killing the suspect (classified as a homicide for UCR purposes. 1 Murder at Kennedy Hospital and later on 1 Domestic Violence homicide on Wright Avenue. Mixed in with those big cases were some other typical violent crimes, all in the aggregate spiking our Violent Crime Rate substantially per 1000 residents. Legitimate questions regarding the data, hoping from huge decreases in the crime rate going forward.

PD is all set for the Fall Festival, since the gas project is about 10 days ahead of schedule, Vassar Avenue will have to stay open. 85 vendors have been approved. Down by about 40% from prior years.

A 2-3 week Gas Service project will start Monday on Overhill and Sleepy Hollow, expect some inconvenience

As we speak, all three Sergeants are sitting for the written portion of the Captains Exam. The second part of the test is mid-December with scores being released by March or April. I'm confident they will all do well.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No Engineers report

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 VOTING PROCEDURE ON RESOLUTIONS

Clerk spoke about proper procedures for voting on Resolutions. Ms. Walters stated that it was a best practice to do a roll call vote on all Resolutions. Discussion included voting on certain items in a block vote and separating certain resolutions that some members may have questions on. Ms Walters explained some options on how to proceed in the future. Mr. Hartman stated that he felt we should read all resolutions with title and not just the number. Council will take under further consideration. Ms. Walters stated that whatever was decided, Council should be consistent from meeting to meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions 2017-173 through 2017-178 and Resolution 2017-180 through 2017-184 were read with title and voted on in a block vote.

Councilman Dudley motioned to approve the block of Resolutions. Councilman Gray seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2017-173

CHAPTER 159 – DWI TASK FORCE GRANT (\$71,575.00)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount; and

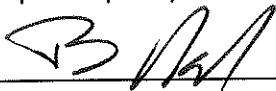
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Stratford hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2017 in the amount of seventy-one thousand five hundred seventy five dollars and no cents (\$71,575.00) reserve for DWI Task Force Task Grant which item is now available pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of seventy one thousand five hundred and seventy five dollars and no cents (\$71,575.00) be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

RESERVE FOR DWI TASK FORCE GRANT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above is the result of monies received from the State of New Jersey and was deposited into the proper account.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Meeting held on the 5th day of October, 2017



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION 2017-174

CHAPTER 159 - DWI GRANT (\$21,874.70)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount; and

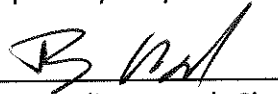
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Stratford hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2017 in the amount of twenty-one thousand eight hundred and seventy four dollars and seventy cents (\$21,874.70) Reserve for DWI Grant which item is now available pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of twenty-one thousand eight hundred and seventy four dollars and seventy cents (\$21,874.70) be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

RESERVE FOR DWI GRANT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above is the result of monies received from the State of New Jersey and was deposited into the proper account.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Meeting held on the 5th day of October, 2017.


Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-175 CHAPTER 159 – SAFE AND SECURE GRANT (\$30,000.00)

RESOLUTION 2017:175

CHAPTER 159 – SAFE AND SECURE GRANT (\$30,000)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount; and

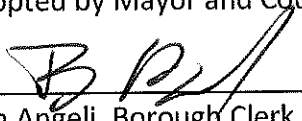
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Stratford hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2017 in the amount of thirty thousand dollars and no cents (\$30,000.00) Reserve for safe and secure grant which item is now available pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of thirty thousand dollars and no cents (\$30,000.00) be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

RESERVE FOR SAFE AND SECURE GRANT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above is the result of monies received from the State of New Jersey and was deposited into the proper account.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Meeting held on the 5th day of October, 2017.


Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-176 VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

RESOLUTION 2017: 176

VETERAN TAX DEDUCTION

WHEREAS, all the eligibility requirements for a 2017 VETERAN or WIDOW OF A VETERAN property tax deduction have been met by the following residents:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
71	23	Rourke Decker	5 Warwick Road	250.00
115	15	Larry R Ketchum	12 Sunnybrook Road	250.00

WHEREAS, the deduction has been approved by the Borough Tax Assessor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council that a tax deduction be granted to the above-mentioned residents and these deductions be placed on the 2017 tax list; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to apply the above-mentioned deductions to the tax accounts of the above-mentioned residents as a credit against the next due tax bills of each.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was approved at a regular meeting of the Borough Council conducted on October 5, 2017.


Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-177 CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECK BALANCES

RESOLUTION 2017-177

CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECK BALANCES

WHEREAS; Checks were issued from the Borough of Stratford's Current account and never cashed and;

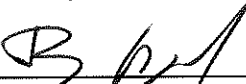
WHEREAS; The said checks are over 2 years old and;

WHEREAS; The following amounts are listed as outstanding checks on the Borough's financial records:

	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CURRENT	27048	132.00
PAYROLL	42060	203.95

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford that the above outstanding check balances be canceled.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Borough Council at their meeting on the 5th day of October, 2017.



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-178 REMOVE PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS

RESOLUTION 2017-178

REMOVE PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS

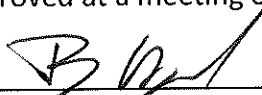
WHEREAS, The Division of Taxation, Property Administration Branch, conducted an audit of the Senior Citizen, Disabled Person, Surviving Spouse & Surviving Civil Union Partner Property Tax Deductions for the Tax Years 2013 and 2014:

WHEREAS, The Division of Taxation determined during the course of the audit that the following parcels exceeded the required income limitation required to receive the above-mentioned property tax deductions for the years mentioned:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TAX YEARS</u>
26	15	303 N Atlantic Ave E	250.00	13
71	6.04	16 Pennsylvania Ave	500.00	13-14
114	1.02C0105	202D Warwick Road	250.00	14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford that the above property tax deductions be removed from the tax records for the years mentioned and the deductions listed above be paid to the Borough of Stratford no later than June 1, 2018.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was approved at a meeting of the Borough Council held on October 5, 2017.



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-180 SUBMIT BEST PRACTICES QUESTIONNAIRE TO NJ DCA

RESOLUTION 2017-180

SUBMIT BEST PRACTICES QUESTIONNAIRE TO NJ DCA

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Affairs requires municipalities to complete a Best Practices submission; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 submission is required to be submitted by October 20, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , by mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Clerk and the CFO to complete and submit the NJ DCA Best Practices for the Borough of Stratford for 2017

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Meeting held on the 5th day of October, 2017.



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-181 REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT (B109 L62)

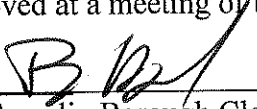
RESOLUTION 2017-181

REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received in the Tax Collector's office for Block 109, Lot 62 - 238 Winding Way Road for the 4th quarter 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford the amount of \$1,824.08 be disbursed to Eileen Tarcelli for the overpayment.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was approved at a meeting of the Borough Council held on October 5, 2017.


Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-182 CHAPTER 159 – BODY ARMOR GRANT (\$1,865.87)

RESOLUTION 2017-182

CHAPTER 159 – BODY ARMOR GRANT (\$1,865.87)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:40-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Stratford hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2017 in the amount of One thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars and eighty seven cents (\$1,865.87) Reserve for DWI Grant which item is now available pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of One thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars and eighty seven cents (\$1,865.87) be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

RESERVE FOR BODY ARMOR GRANT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above is the result of monies received from the State of New Jersey and was deposited into the proper account.

RES. 2017-183 MAINTENANCE LIENS (\$495.00)

RESOLUTION 2017:183

MAINTENANCE LIENS

WHEREAS, there exists vacant property in the Borough of Stratford; and

WHEREAS, the last known record owner has been duly notified to maintain the property; and


WHEREAS, Stratford Contracted Services/Stratford employees to be utilized to maintain the property; and

WHEREAS, the following amount is due for services rendered for September, 2017:

Address	Block/lot	description of svc	date	cost	date	cost	
12 BUCKNELL	83/11	lawn maintenance	9/9/17	90.00			90.00
116 COLUMBIA	18/4	lawn maintenance	9/23/17	45.00		-	45.00
109 CORNELL	18/11	lawn maintenance	9/23/17	45.00		-	45.00
56 LONGWOOD DR	92/12	lawn maintenance	9/23/17	45.00		-	45.00
112 STRATFORD	55/12	lawn maintenance	9/23/17	45.00		-	45.00
124 STRATFORD	55/1	lawn maintenance	9/24/17	45.00		-	45.00
4 SUNNYBROOK CT	114/15	lawn maintenance	9/9/17	45.00	9/30/17	45.00	90.00
15 WRIGHT	12/9	lawn maintenance	9/9/17	45.00	9/30/17	45.00	90.00
total resolution 2017:183							495.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to authorize a lien on the above noted properties for the work completed by the Borough on behalf of the property owner.

I, Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk, hereby certify the above resolution was adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford at a meeting held on October 5, 2017.


 Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-184 VETERAN'S TAX CANCELLATION AND EXEMPTION

RESOLUTION 2017:184

VETERAN'S TAX CANCELLATION AND EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, an application has been received from Patricia H. Pierce on behalf or her spouse George Pierce who is deceased at 24 Buttonwood Road, Block 99, Lot 13, for an exemption from the payment of property taxes and;

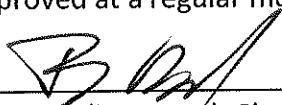
WHEREAS, George Pierce suffered from a service-connected disability and has been declared 100% permanently and totally disabled by the U.S. Veterans Administration and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has determined that Patricia H. Pierce has submitted the required documentation and is entitled to an exemption from property taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford to place Mrs. Pierce's property on the Exempt Property List effective October 5, 2017.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that property taxes billed for the 4th quarter in the amount of \$1,505.33 be canceled.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was approved at a regular meeting of Borough Council held on October 5, 2017.



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

RES. 2017-179 EXECUTE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRICAL
SUB CODE OFFICIAL/INSPECTOR

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to approve Resolution 2017-179. Councilman Dudley seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2017-179

**EXECUTE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR
ELECTRICAL SUB CODE OFFICIAL/INSPECTOR**

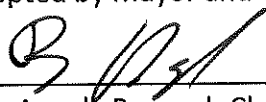
WHEREAS, the Borough of Barrington and the Borough of Stratford have negotiated a Shared Service Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Barrington is in need of an Electrical Sub Code Official/Inspector; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has employed an Electrical Sub Code Official/Inspector,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to authorize the execution of the Shared Service Agreement between the Borough of Barrington and the Borough of Stratford for the services of the Electrical Sub Code Official/Inspector for the remainder of 2017 and 2018.

I, Ben Angeli, Clerk of the Borough of Stratford, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by Mayor and Council at their Meeting held on the 5th day of October, 2017



Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Gray spoke about the Parks Commission getting the grant to do the second hockey courts and lighting on the courts. He mentioned there would be a parks clean up day on the 21st. Councilman Dudley said that the Department of Public Works (DPW) would be taking down more trees that Atlantic City Electric (ACE) had trimmed below the wires. DPW would leave the wood at the curb for residents to pick up. Mr. Gray asked about how the tree work was going. Mr. Dudley responded that the list he was working on has been worked pretty well. Councilman Hartman announced that Brandywine had gone to settlement on the Bradlees site.

Councilwoman Lomanno said the Chief received a nice letter from someone that received a ticket from Patrolman Butler. The woman thanked him for his kindness and demeanor.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Councilman Hartman motioned to open the meeting to Good and Welfare. Councilman Gray seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

Mike Mangano, Union Ave, asked about metal pick up and if it was still worth doing it. Councilman Dudley said he would check into it. Agnes Moore, Laureba Ave, Asked about four of the resolutions and wanted more detail. Clerk read the block and lot numbers and names that were listed in the Resolution. She also asked about the shared service agreement and the clerk mentioned that it was a shared service with Barrington. Solicitor Walters explained why some taxes are cancelled and also explained how the veteran's tax reduction works. Mr. Hartman added additional information on the matter and explained that Veterans or their spouses need to apply every year. John Gentless, Union Ave., asked about flags flying at half mast, if the consultant the Borough hired to help the clerk was still working for the Borough. He also inquired about the Joint Land Use Board (JLUB) minutes on the website and about the signage on VFW lane. The Clerk responded that he would check into some of the items and added that the consultant was done and that the JLUB minutes would be updated on the website. Gentless asked about the Kennedy/Jefferson situation and how that may impact the town. Ms. Walters said the tax assessor would be the one to look at the situation. Gentless asked about trees on Bryant and Jefferson and stated that the tree on Jefferson was a hazard. Mr. Dudley stated that the ACE tree person said the tree would have to come down in 3 to 5 years, but was not a priority tree. The ACE person stated that it would be at the bottom of any list of trees to be taken down. Gentless inquired about a tree on Princeton and Mr. Dudley said DPW took down the tree. Gentless asked about street opening permits and the clerk responded. Mr. Dudley asked Mr. Gentless if he got permission to spend the insurance money the Borough received. Joe Hahn, Buttonwood Road spoke about the condition of some of the sidewalks in town. He quoted the 2006 Master Plan and mentioned that the 2016 Master Plan eliminated the part about sidewalks that was in the 2006 plan. He also mentioned three law cases that involved Homeowners and sidewalks. Mr. Gray replied that having the Borough fix sidewalks could be very expensive. Ms Moore mentioned that her insurance company told her they would drop her if she did not fix the sidewalk and driveway. She stated that she feels that since she is the homeowner, she is responsible for the sidewalk. She stated that there is a lot of hatred and does not like some of the nastiness at the meetings and people questioning other people's intelligence. Gentless asked if we should get a waiver from people cutting down curb trees. Mr. Gray said we are not giving people permission, they are taking down the trees. Harry Berry, Cornell Ave., requested that Mayor and Council sign the petition on property tax reform. Ms. Walters asked Mr. Berry to leave his postcards with the Clerk.

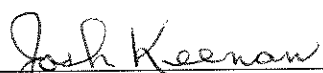
Councilman Hartman motioned to close the Good and Welfare portion of the meeting. Councilwoman Lomanno seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

ADJOURN:

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Gray seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:


Ben Angeli, Borough Clerk


Mayor Josh Keenan