

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keenan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Mayor read the following statement:

Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and The Retrospect and is posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and the place of the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Keenan led the Pledge and said an opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

JOSH KEENAN, MAYOR – PRESENT
LINDA HALL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT – PRESENT
STEPHEN GANDY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
PATRICK GILLIGAN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
PATRICK GREEN, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – ABSENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – ARRIVED AT 7:09 PM
CHRIS CONROY, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT
MICHAELA BOSLER, ACTING BOROUGH CLERK - PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Gandy motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Lomanno seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Gilligan motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Hall seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

REPORTS:

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY Councilman Patrick Green read the report as follows:

JULY 2020
Total number of properties inspected: 101
Total number of violations found: 110
86 of the issues have been abated
6 of the issues were not abated
18 of the issues are pending follow up
Total number of citations issued: 6

FINANCE & REVENUE Councilman Patrick Gilligan read the report as follows:

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 2020

**STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Balance as of 7-1-2020 – \$926,129.90
Total Receipts – \$1,840,381.07
Total Disbursements – \$2,481,190.43
Balance as of 7-31-2020 – \$285,320.54
Total in other Funds - \$1,973,043.18

MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 2020

Disbursements this month:
State of New Jersey: \$9,750.10
Camden County: \$10,063.68
Other: \$913.89
Borough of Stratford: \$20,378.09
Year to Date Total: \$122,624.21

POLICE

Councilwoman Tina Lomanno read the reports as follows:

JULY 2020
24 Adult arrests,
0 Juvenile arrests,
0 assaults to police,
6 Simple assaults Complaints,
4 Criminal Mischief Complaints,
26 Harassment complaints,
333 Other investigations and complaints,
3 burglaries,
1 robberies,
9 thefts in the amount of \$11,820.00
\$4,100.00 in stolen property recovered,
2 motor vehicle thefts,
5 D.W.I. arrests,
5 Narcotics arrests,
436 Traffic summonses issued,
26 Motor vehicle accidents,
8 injuries from accidents
26 Alarm activations,

88 Total crime reports taken
502 total calls for police service
Submitted by Ron Morello, Chief of Police

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Councilman Stephen Gandy read portions of the following report.

Fire Department

The Stratford Fire Department responded to 35 Alarms 2 Drills in the month
JULY 2020. The following list is a breakdown of the same:

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Dwelling Fires	0	3
Building Fires	0	7
Investigations	4	35
Out of Town Assists	10	78

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Alarm Systems	2	20
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	10	55
Car Fires	0	2
Wires, Trees Down	2	55
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	6	20
Brush Fires	1	2
Drills	2	12

Total man hours on the above alarm drills was 284
Submitted by Stephen Gagliardi, Deputy Chief

Ambulance Association

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Paid Crew** responded to **130 Alarms** in the month of **JULY 2020**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	Paid	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
1. Abdominal Pain	2	4
1. Assault	3	7
2. Bleeding	4	16
3. Cardiac	12	53
4. CVA	0	14
5. Diabetic	2	9
6. Fall	12	68
7. Fire Call	0	8
8. Haz-Mat	0	0
9. Maternity	1	3
10. Medical Emergency	29	150
11. Medical Alarm	3	8
12. MVA	9	39
13. Overdose	2	11
14. Ped/MVA	0	7
15. Psych. Emergency	5	57
16. Respiratory	13	58
17. Seizures	5	18
18. Sick Person	5	29
19. Special Assignment	0	0
20. Unconscious Person	19	74
21 Fractures	1	4

Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 1

Year to Date Calls

Paid: 647

Submitted by Kristine Shafer, Chief-Stratford Ambulance

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Volunteer Crew** responded to **16 Alarms** in the month of **JUNE 2020**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	Volunteer	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
1. Assault	0	1
2. Bleeding	2	3
3. Cardiac	0	11
4. CVA	0	3
5. Diabetic	0	0

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
 7:00 P.M.

6. Fall	1	9
7. Fire Call	1	2
8. Haz-Mat	0	0
9. Maternity	0	1
10. Medical Emergency	6	33
11. Medical Alarm	0	2
12. MVA	0	3
13. Overdose	2	3
14. Ped/MVA	0	0
15. Psych. Emergency	1	12
16. Respiratory	1	7
17. Seizures	0	0
18. Sick Person	1	3
19. Special Assignment	0	0
20. Unconscious Person	3	6

Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 0

Year to Date Calls
Volunteer 98

Submitted by Kristine Shafer, Chief-Stratford Ambulance

PUBLIC WORKS & LIGHTING Councilman Stephen Gandy read the reports as follows:

Sewer Utility

- Call outs for emergency service: 18
- Performed preemptive checks and required maintenance of all manholes and pump stations
- Work orders:
 - Removed broken seesaw at Coolidge playground
 - Fixed the electric panel box cover at the Borough Hall
 - Reset the timer at Vassar Courts
 - Cleared storm debris
 - Worked with Public Works department on storm debris removal
- Regular maintenance activities performed include:
 - Weekly trash pickup and cleanup at Yellin School, Parkview School and Vassar Ave. ball fields
 - Bi weekly town wide metal/appliance collection.

Public Works

- Green waste removal:
 - Picked up/chipped approximately 450 to 500 cubic yards of brush
 - Cut or removed hanging branches from trees in various locations
 - Canned yard waste was collected throughout the Borough twice
- Landscaping work:
 - Mowed Saratoga Park, Coolidge Park, Veterans Park, Hagerty/Mancini playground and ball fields, Laureba Park, Quaker Run Trail Park borders and pump station #2, and Quaker Store twice
 - Mowed the RR tracks border lawns once
 - Mowed the Municipal Complex (Borough Hall, Justice Center, Library, Senior Center, War Memorial, and Clock Park) twice
 - Moved Yellin and Parkview school grounds and Sterling Arms grounds twice
- General maintenance and work requests:
 - Cleared all storm drains (179 inlets) 3 times

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Placed trash cans and removed trash and cans for 7/25/2020 protests
Put up temporary fencing at Saratoga Park where fence was broken by falling trees

Councilman Gandy read a letter of commendation from a resident thanking Ba Tang of the Sewer Department for his rapid response to her call and excellent public service.

PUBLIC EVENTS Councilwoman Hall reported that the Miss Stratford Pageant will be filmed on Thursday, August 27th at 3:00 pm. The event will be put on Channel 19, and will be

Councilman Green made a statement that the governing body of Stratford is against racism and acts of racism.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **ORDINANCE 2020:08 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND SALARY RANGES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, CAMDEN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Hall motioned to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2020:08. Gandy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

- Stephen Gagliardi – 13 College Circle – Questioned which employees are covered under the salary ordinance.

Gilligan motioned to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2020:08. Hall seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Gilligan motioned to adopt Ordinance 2020:08. Lomanno seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTIONS 2020:169 THROUGH 2020:174 WILL BE DONE AS A CONSENT AGENDA

Council can at this time request to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda and they can be voted on separately.

- **RES. 2020:169 – REFUND OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES – BL 87.01, LOT 28**

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received in the Tax Collector's office for Block 87.01, Lot 28 - 48 Saratoga Road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford the the amount of \$1,886.80 be disbursed to Corelogic Tax Services for the overpayment.

- **RES. 2020:170 – REFUND OVERPAYMENT OF PET LICENSE REGISTRATION FEES**

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has received overpayments for pet license registration fees from Neil Neri in the amount of \$5.00; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council wish to refund the overpayments paid to said individual;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to authorize refunds for overpayments of pet license registration fees to Neil Neri in the amount of \$5.00.

● RES. 2020:171 – AUTHORIZE ONLINE TAX AND SEWER PAYMENT SERVICE WITH EDMUNDS GOVTECH

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford currently uses Edmunds GovTech municipal accounting software for property tax and sewer records; and

WHEREAS, Edmunds GovTech offers an online bill payment service; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council wish to offer the online bill payment service for the convenience of residents; and

WHEREAS, the initial set up cost for this service will be \$1,200.00 and there is an annual maintenance fee in the amount of \$1,280.00 beginning after the first year; and

WHEREAS, the monetary amount for the software is below the bid threshold, thus exempting from formal bidding under the Local Public Contracts Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to authorize online tax and sewer payment service with Edmunds GovTech.

● RES. 2020:172 – RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NJSA 10:4-12

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by NJSA 10:4-12b and designated below:

_____ (1) Matters required by Law to be Confidential: Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

_____ (2) Matters Where the Release of Information Would Impair the Right to Receive Funds: Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.

_____ (3) Matters Involving Individual Privacy: Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including, but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

_____ (4) Matters Relating to Collective Bargaining Agreements: Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.

_____ (5) Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds: Any matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

 X (6) Matters Relating to Public Safety and Property: Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations of possible violations of the law.

 X (7) Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege: The topic of discussion is related to Attorney/Client Privilege. These items are for #7 of the Executive Session Resolution for matter relating to litigation, contract negotiations, or the Attorney-Client Privilege. Re: Gentless vs. Borough of Stratford (Berlin Road Redevelopment Litigation)

_____ (8) Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship: Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

_____ (9) Matters Relating to the Potential Imposition of a Penalty: Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party bears responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, assembled in public session on August 11, 2020 that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on August 11, 2020 at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Justice Facility, 315 Union Avenue, Stratford, NJ or through telecommunications for the discussion of matters relating to the specified items designated above. It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in Closed Session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Governing Body that public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

● **RES. 2020:173 – APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR REMAINDER OF FUND YEAR 2020**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford (hereinafter "Local Unit" is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Chris Conroy had been named Fund Commissioner for Fund Year 2020, and has submitted a letter of resignation effective August 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford must designate a new Fund Commissioner for the remainder of Fund Year 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Stratford (Local Unit) that Michaela Bosler (entity's elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the remainder of Fund Year 2020 effective September 1, 2020.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

- RES. 2020:174 – AUTHORIZING TREE REMOVAL SERVICES WITH CANNINGS TREE SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,800.00

WHEREAS, the Borough is in need of removing a fallen and dangerous tree blocking Bryant Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Borough obtained a quote which was in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Cannings Tree Service of 76 Haddock Dr., Sewell, NJ 08080; and

WHEREAS, the monetary amount for the services is below the bid threshold, thus exempting them from formal bidding under the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the services are necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare in the Borough of Stratford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden and State of New Jersey that the tree removal services performed by Cannings Tree Service, 76 Haddock Dr., Sewell, NJ 08080 is hereby authorized.

Green motioned to approve the consent agenda. Gandy seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Animal checks	1863	through	1876		
Manual checks	19965	through	19966		
Payroll checks	52796	through	52799	and	52857
Automated checks	34546	through	34614		
Various electronic transfers and potential interim payments to Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, and Constellation Energy					

Councilwoman Hall recused herself from voting on check number 34572.

Lomanno motioned to approve the payment of the bills. Gilligan seconded the motion, with all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Hall – None
- Councilman Gandy – Thanked the Fire Department, Ambulance Association, Police Department, and Public Works in their assistance to keeping the town safe.
- Councilman Gilligan – None
- Councilman Green – None
- Councilwoman Lomanno – Recognized residents who dropped off food and water to the Police officer. Read a letter sent from residents thanking the Police Department for their service.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Green motioned to open the meeting to the public for Good and Welfare. Lomanno seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
7:00 P.M.

- John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Questioned who would be coming before the Joint Land Use Board in regards to an application submitted for subdivision of 19 Hunt Ave/20 Arlington Ave.. Questioned if there was any update on the sewer capacity analysis.
- Jamie Kaufman – 18C Webster Ave. – Spoke about fighting racial injustice and expressed concerns about the response received at the last meeting.
- Kevin Dwyer – 12 Oxford Ave. – Thanked Council for their statement against racism tonight. Commented on various events of the blue lives matter rally and expressed concerns about racial injustice.
- Dyamond Free – 86 Berlin Rd. – Thanked Council for their statement against racism tonight. Requested Council prepare ideas for the next meeting on how to take further action against racism.
- TJ Krempa – Parkview Rd. – Spoke about fighting racial injustice. Requested council form a plan of action to take steps fighting racial injustice in conjunction with the police department.
- Mandy Witt – Marlin Ave. (Somerdale) – Commented on personal experiences she had while attending rallies and protests in Stratford. Spoke about fighting racial injustice.
- Katherine Decker – 5 Warwick Rd. – Spoke about fighting racial injustice. Suggested forming a dialogue between pro-police supporters and black lives matters supporters sponsored by the municipality and police department.
- Denise Sellers – Sterling Arms – Spoke about setting a good example for children. Spoke about embracing people of all races and religions.

Gilligan motioned to close the Good and Welfare portion of the meeting. Gandy seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hall motioned to go into executive session. Gandy seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

Gandy motioned to reopen the meeting to the public. Hall seconded the motion and all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

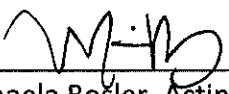
No action was taken in Executive session.

All members that were present before the executive session were present upon return to open session.

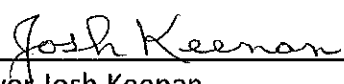
ADJOURN:

Gilligan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM. Hall seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michaela Bosler, Acting Borough Clerk



Mayor Josh Keenan