

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keenan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

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.

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
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
CHRIS CONROY, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – PRESENT
JOHN FABRITIIS, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – PRESENT
MICHAELA BOSLER, ACTING BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Hall 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.

- John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Questioned the necessity for the purchase of a new backhoe. Questioned if the capital amount increased over last year. Questioned why the Master Plan is being re-examined.

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 – BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

- The CFO stated the municipal budget at this time provides for no municipal tax increase. The Solicitor questioned if there were any cuts to the services that the Borough provides. Councilwoman Lomanno commented that her concerns about the backhoe had been addressed during public portion. Councilman Gilligan, Green, Gandy, and Tolomeo stated they found no issues with the budget as is. Councilwoman Hall requested the CFO to review the capital budget items. Councilwoman Lomanno asked if the administration has researched grants available to assist in purchase the backhoe; the Administrator reported that she has researched for available grants and have not found any.

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RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTIONS 2020:101 THROUGH 2020:102 WILL BE DONE AS A CONSENT AGENDA

The Clerk stated that Council can at this time request to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda and they can be voted on separately. There were no requests to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda and the Clerk read the resolutions by title.

- **RESOLUTION 2020:101 – AUTHORIZING CROSSING GUARD PAY DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, crossing guards are valuable employees who ensure the safety of our children as they travel to school; and

WHEREAS, crossing guards are temporarily without planned work as the schools have closed for an extended break to help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford wishes to retain the regularly scheduled crossing guards on its payroll during this difficult period;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Stratford will pay the regularly scheduled crossing guards their expected wages, as referenced on the attached appendix A, based on the original 2019-2020 school year schedule, as referenced on the attached appendix B, throughout any unexpected closing periods deemed necessary as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

- **RESOLUTION 2020:102 – EXTENDING GRACE PERIOD FOR SEWER BILLS AND PET REGISTRATIONS DUE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, there are certain upcoming municipal deadlines established by the Stratford Borough Code; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford has closed Borough offices to the public to prevent the further spread of the corona virus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council recognize the inability for some residents to meet these upcoming deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the municipal sewer bills are currently due on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pet registrations are due by March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council wishes to extend a grace period for one month with both sewer payments and pet registrations due by April 30, 2020; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford to extend a grace period for semi-annual sewer payments and pet registrations beyond their original deadlines to be due by April 30, 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Mayor and Council may authorize any further extensions as necessary.

Gilligan motioned to approve the consent agenda. Lomanno seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilman Green – None
- Councilman Gilligan – None

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- Councilwoman Hall – None
- Councilwoman Lomanno – None
- Councilman Gandy – None
- Councilman Tolomeo – None

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

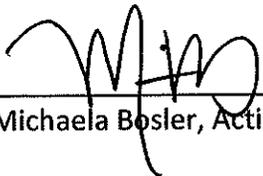
- Mike Mancini – 3 Winding Way Road – Questioned the necessity of the purchase of a new backhoe in the capital budget. Comments that the need for the ladder truck had not been properly assessed. Questioned if the police department's budget was affected by the insertion of these two items into this years' budget. Commented on the public's availability to deliberative budget documents.
- Frank Hartman – Green Tree Road – Commented that the backhoe is necessary and used in the daily operations of Public Works. Commented that the new ladder truck is failing and needs to be replaced.
- Steve Gagliardi – Deputy Fire Chief – Offered to provide an explanation for the need to purchase a new ladder truck.
- Mike Mancini – 3 Winding Way Road – Further questioned the financial feasibility about the Borough acquiring a new ladder truck for the Fire Department.

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

ADJOURN:

Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.. Green 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