

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 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:

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

- John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Questioned the amount of work there is to be done in the Borough to justify hiring additional people. Questioned how much surplus is being used for this year's budget and how much of the sewer reserve is being used.
- Mike Mancini – 3 Winding Way Rd. – Questioned the total appropriations for 2020 budget. Questioned the surplus being used for this year's budget, and the amount of sewer reserve being used. Commented on the financial feasibility of purchasing the ladder truck. Commented on the stipends received by employees of the Borough Hall. Discussion ensued.
- John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Questioned the amount the Borough paid the Borough Engineer last year. Suggested hiring an in-house engineer.

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 – FUTURE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

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- The Clerk reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all regularly scheduled meetings should be considered to be held via Zoom until further notice. A motion was made by Lomanno and seconded by Gilligan to continue holding all meetings of Mayor and Council electronically through the month of April.

REPORT #2 – EXPECTED EXTENSION OF BOROUGH BUILDING CLOSURES

- The Clerk reported that the directive issued by the Stratford Emergency Management Office calls for re-evaluation after 14 days. The Clerk reached out to the OEM Coordinator who does not expect the directive to change.

RESOLUTIONS:

- **RESOLUTION 2020:103 – GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit’s hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit’s hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual’s criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit’s hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Green motioned to approve Resolution 2020:103. Gandy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

- **RESOLUTION 2020:104 – INTRODUCE THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN FOR THE YEAR 2020**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriation shall constitute the Municipal Budget of the Borough of Stratford for the year 2020 and the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford does hereby approve the following, as the budget for the year 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said budget be published in the Courier Post and a public hearing will be held at Stratford Borough Justice Facility, 315 Union Ave, Stratford, NJ, or using electronic methods, on April 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM at which time and place objections to said budget for the year 2020 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

The Clerk requested that Mayor and Council address any concerns they may have with the budget before it is introduced as Resolution 2020:104. Councilwoman Lomanno stated that the Police Department will be removing the purchase of handguns from their capital purchase request. Councilwoman Lomanno further requested looking into alternative options for purchasing the backhoe, discussed new legislation affecting

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mortgages, discussed the possibility of grants being held by the state, and commented on the stipends for registrars. The Clerk commented that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Local Finance Board has further extended the introduction and approval dates of the municipal budget. Councilwoman Hall commented that due to the unknown and comments made by Councilwoman Lomanno, she would feel more comfortable holding off on introducing the budget. Councilman Gilligan questioned what the new deadlines for introduction and approval of municipal budgets are. Councilman Green commented on the proper procedure for removing the FEMA grant match. The Solicitor questioned if there is a sufficient temporary budget.

Hall motioned to table Resolution 2020:104. 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
- 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. Hall seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

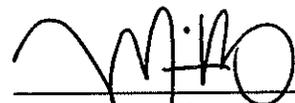
- John Gentless – 111 Union Ave. – Questioned if there is a line item to sanitize the senior center after COVID-19 pandemic.

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

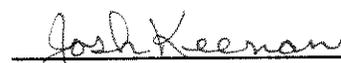
ADJOURN:

Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.. Lomanno seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michaela Bdsler, Acting Borough Clerk



Mayor Josh Keenan