

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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 – PRESENT  
ERIC RISO, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT  
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT  
MICHAELA BOSLER, ACTING BOROUGH CLERK - PRESENT

**PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

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

- Frank Hartman – 18 Green Tree Road – In regards to Resolution 2020:212, questioned why Mr. Keenan’s appointment is being addressed at this meeting. Councilman Gilligan replied that the role has been vacant, and the goal is to fill the position temporarily until Council finds a candidate to fill the role permanently.
- Nina Burg – 15 Pennsylvania Ave – In regards to Resolution 2020:212, expressed concerns about the appointment of Mr. Keenan to Interim Business Administrator.
- Mike Mancini – 3 Winding Way Road – In regards to Resolution 2020:212, expressed that appointing Mr. Keenan as Interim Business Administrator is a good decision.
- Brian Barrett – In regards to Resolution 2020:212, expressed concerns about the appointment of Mr. Keenan and nepotism.
- Jack Lebano – 308 Princeton Ave. – In regards to Resolution 2020:212, questioned if the appointment is intended to be temporary. Councilman Gilligan replied that the appointment is only intended to be for a period of 90 days until a permanent candidate is selected and that it’s intended for Mr. Keenan to remain in place while the new candidate is brought up to speed.

Gilligan 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.

**REPORTS:**

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

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OCTOBER 2020

Total number of properties inspected: 56  
Total number of violations found: 47  
27 of the issues have been abated  
20 of the issues were not abated  
20 of the issues are pending follow up  
Total number of citations issued: 2

FINANCE & REVENUE

Councilman Patrick Gilligan read the report as follows:

BOROUGH FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2020

Balance as of 10-1-2020 – \$862,956.25  
Total Receipts – \$1,967,438.18  
Total Disbursements – \$1,347,951.41  
Balance as of 10-31-2020 – \$1,482,443.02  
Total in other Funds - \$2,419,940.80

MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2020

Disbursements this month:  
State of New Jersey: \$12,504.99  
Camden County: \$10,545.66  
Other: \$1,040.04  
Borough of Stratford: \$22,030.19  
Year to Date Total: \$183,915.54

POLICE

Councilwoman Tina Lomanno read the reports as follows:

OCTOBER 2020

29 Adult arrests,  
0 Juvenile arrests,  
0 assaults to police,  
8 Simple assaults Complaints,  
12 Criminal Mischief Complaints,  
32 Harassment complaints,  
442 Other investigations and complaints,  
0 burglaries,  
0 robberies,  
21 thefts in the amount of \$2,435.00  
\$835.00 in stolen property recovered,  
0 motor vehicle thefts,  
7 D.W.I. arrests,  
10 Narcotics arrests,  
371 Traffic summonses issued,  
30 Motor vehicle accidents,  
9 injuries from accidents  
33 Alarm activations,

103 Total crime reports taken  
642 total calls for police service

*Submitted by Ron Morello, Chief of Police*

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EMERGENCY SERVICES      Councilman Stephen Gandy read portions of the following report.

Fire Department

The Stratford Fire Department responded to 39 Alarms 3 Drills in the month  
 OCTOBER 2020. The following list is a breakdown of the same:

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Dwelling Fires	0	6
Building Fires	0	7
Investigations	2	46
Out of Town Assists	7	108
Alarm Systems	10	40
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	5	71
Car Fires	0	4
Wires, Trees Down	1	70
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	8	36
Brush Fires	0	3
Drills	3	20

Total man hours on the above alarm drills was 411

*Submitted by Stephen Gagliardi, Deputy Chief*

Ambulance Association

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Paid Crew** responded to **131 Alarms**  
 in the month of **OCTOBER 2020**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	Paid	
	Month	Y.T.D.
1. Abdominal Pain	0	5
2. Allergic Redaction	0	3
3. Assault	3	15
4. Bleeding	1	26
3. Cardiac	9	80
4. CVA	1	23
5. Diabetic	1	14
6. Fall	20	130
7. Fire Call	4	11
8. Haz-Mat	0	1
9. Maternity	1	6
10. Medical Emergency	31	252
11. Medical Alarm	3	15
12. MVA	5	53
13. Overdose	2	13
14. Ped/MVA	0	6
15. Psych. Emergency	19	109
16. Respiratory	10	95
17. Seizures	4	28
18. Sick Person	3	41
19. Special Assignment	0	0
20. Unconscious Person	9	112
21. Fractures	1	6

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Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 1

Year to Date Calls

**Paid: 978**

*Submitted by Kristine Shafer, Chief-Stratford Ambulance*

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Volunteer Crew** responded to **14 Alarms** in the month of **OCTOBER 2020**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	<b>Volunteer</b>	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Abdominal Pain	0	41
Allergic Reaction	0	0
Assault	0	2
Bleeding	0	3
Cardiac	1	14
CVA	0	4
Diabetic	1	1
Fall	0	20
Fire Call	0	2
Haz-Mat	0	0
Maternity	0	0
Medical Emergency	1	45
Medical Alarm	0	2
MVA	3	8
Overdose	0	4
Ped/MVA	0	0
Psych. Emergency	3	20
Respiratory	1	10
Seizures	0	0
Sick Person	0	3
Special Assignment	0	0
Unconscious Person	2	9
Fractures	0	1

Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 0

Year to Date Calls

**Volunteer 153**

*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: 13
  - Performed preemptive checks and required maintenance of all manholes and pump stations
  - Work orders:
    - Kept Borough Hall flower garden watered
    - Assisted the Public Works department with green waste collection
    - Worked alongside Public Works department on storm debris removal
    - Worked with Public Works department on leaf collection
- Regular maintenance activities performed include:
- Weekly trash pickup and cleanup at Yellin School, Parkview School and Vassar Ave. ball fields



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Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting, publication and final passage in the manner prescribed by law.

Hall motioned to introduce Ordinance 2020:10. Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- RES. 2020:212 – APPOINTING PART TIME INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR – JOHN D. KEENAN, JR.

WHEREAS, the position of Business Administrator within the Borough of Stratford has been vacant since September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.08.120 (B) of the Borough Code of the Borough of Stratford provides for the appointment of an Acting Business Administrator for a period of 90 days or until an Administrator is appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that there is an immediate need for an Acting Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the person holding the office of Acting Business Administrator shall not earn or accrue any sick time, paid time off, medical benefits, or pension eligibility; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford will continue to search for a permanent Business Administrator, and the person holding the office of Acting Business Administrator will be expected to help transition the next candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford finds and determines that John D. Keenan, Jr. meets and exceeds all qualification requirements for the appointment of said position;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Stratford consents to the appointment of John D. Keenan, Jr. as Acting Business Administrator, to work a maximum of 20 hours per week at a rate of \$60.00 per hour, said appointment to be effective November 11, 2020.

Hall motioned to approve Resolution 2020:212. Lomanno seconded the motion, with all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

**RESOLUTIONS 2020:213 THROUGH 2020:215 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. 2020:213 – AWARD SEWER ROOT CONTROL BID TO DUKE’S ROOT CONTROL, INC. FOR \$

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford advertised to solicit bids for, and sent direct emails soliciting quotes for root control services, and received in response one bid for the annual sewer treatment for root control of various sections of the sewer main; and

WHEREAS, the bid was received from Duke’s Root Control, Inc. of Syracuse, NY in the amount of \$19,987.63 which is \$1.69 per linear foot for 11,827 linear feet; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council to award the bid to Duke’s Root Control, Inc. for \$1.69 per linear foot for a total of \$19,987.63.

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● RES. 2020:214 – AUTHORIZE BOROUGH CLERK TO ADVERTISE TO RECEIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2021 PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq. was created to regulate “Pay-To-Play” in the branches of NJ government including counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, on or after January 1, 2007, the Law prohibits a municipality from awarding contracts with a value in excess of \$17,500. to a business entity that makes certain reportable contributions one year prior to the contract; and

WHEREAS, the contractor can be awarded a contract even though he may have reportable contributions, if the award is made through a “fair and open” process; and

WHEREAS, to be “fair and open” the contract should be advertised to give notice in advance of the contract, and publicly opened and announced when awarded; and

WHEREAS, the minimum requirements of a “fair and open” process are:  
Publicly advertised with sufficient time of 10 calendar days to give notice, and  
Awarded under a process that provides for public solicitation of proposals, and  
Established on the basis of an award and disclosure process documented in writing prior to any solicitation, and

WHEREAS, the notice should include:  
A description of the requested goods or services;  
The time, date, and place proposals must be submitted;  
Contract information for obtaining the proposal document;  
The name of the agency requesting the proposal; and  
A statement that the proposal is being solicited through fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.

WHEREAS, there are several alternatives in choosing their basis for award under a fair and open process such as:  
Choosing the lowest responsible bidder as in traditional bidding  
The standard used by both state government and the competitive contracting model  
“most advantageous price and other factors considered”.  
Other fair and open process established by the agency

WHEREAS, the bids do not have to be opened and awarded at the same time, do not have to be opened at a public meeting, and can be awarded at a separate time by resolution by the Governing Body with wording stating to a “fair and open” process or a “non-fair and open process”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Clerk to advertise to receive proposals for the 2021 year under the “fair and open process” of the pay-to-play law, and have resolutions to awards ready for the Governing Body’s Reorganization Meeting for the following services:

BOROUGH ENGINEER  
BOROUGH SOLICITOR  
BOROUGH AUDITOR  
REDEVELOPMENT PLANNER  
RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

FURTHERMORE, the following services for the 2021 year will also be included and forwarded to the appropriate Boards such as the Joint Land Use Board to take action at their Reorganization Meeting for the following service:

BOARD ENGINEER

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BOARD SOLICITOR

● RES. 2020:215 – BUDGET TRANSFERS

FROM:

Uniform Fire Safety S & W	1,800.00
Ambulance OE	1,321.26
Group Insurance OE	828.74
A & E S & W	1,000.00
Finance S & W	2,900.00
Tax Collector S & W	2,900.00
Other Insurance & Surety	4,000.00

TO:

Health Benefit Waiver	750.00
Water OE	1,000.00
Engineering OE	10,000.00
Solid Waste Collection	3,000.00

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

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR (No confirmation of Council needed)**

Mayor Keenan made the following appointments:

Joint Land Use Board, Class IV – Leo Mount	Four Year Term – Expires 12/31/2021
Joint Land Use Board, Alternate (Senior) – Karen Swallow	Two Year Term – Expires 12/31/2022
Joint Land Use Board, Alternate (Junior) – Karl Botterbodd	Two Year Term – Expires 12/31/2020

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Animal checks	1884	through	1888		
Manual checks	19977	through	19980		
Payroll checks	53171	and	53225	Through	53227
Automated checks	34776	through	34866		
Various electronic transfers and potential interim payments to Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, and Constellation Energy					

Hall 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 OEM Coordinator, Craig Martin. Thanked the Fire Department and Ambulance Association during COVID.
- Councilman Gilligan – Thanked the voters of Stratford for their participation in the General Election.



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- Councilman Green – Congratulated the new President Elect Joe Biden
- Councilwoman Lomanno – Congratulated Councilman Gilligan, Councilman Tolomeo, and Councilman Gandy on the election.
- Councilman Tolomeo – Commented that he is glad to see Tony Baxter is back from absence and hopes to see everyone stays healthy through the new year.
- Mayor Keenan – Thanked all Councilmembers for the work they have done.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

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


- Mike Mancini – 3 Winding Way Road – Thanked Councilman Green and the Police Chief for getting Luk Oil to clean up their property. Questioned if there was anything to be shared about the Bradlees site. Councilman Gandy commented that he has been reaching out to Royal Farms and is unable to get an answer on whether or not they will be coming to Stratford. Mayor Keenan commented that the fence will go up again around Luk Oil when the tanks are removed from the site.
- Diana Gonzalez – 36 Buttonwood Road – Questioned if there were any changes to policy in the event that the municipality gets sued again that the settlement would not be paid by taxpayer money. The Solicitor commented that the Borough has insurance for matters like this, and those insurance companies make decisions to settle on cases for all types of reasons.

Green 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 7:33 PM. Tolomeo 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