

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 05, 2021
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Borough Clerk Bill Bray called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: The Borough Clerk 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
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – ABSENT
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
CRAIG REILLY, BOROUGH ENGINEER – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR - PRESENT
BILL BRAY, BOROUGH CLERK – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

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

John Gentless – 10 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked what was the emergency appropriation for and the amount. Business Administrator Keenan stated it was for \$25,000 to fund the down payment to purchase garbage trucks. Mr. Gentless asked what type of trucks. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough is considering purchase of rear loading trucks. Mr. Keenan stated the rear loading trucks are need for bulky waste collection and the collection of yard wastes. Mr. Keenan stated automated collection vehicles take up to 12 months for delivery and the Borough could purchase those type of vehicles in the future. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough reached out to other municipalities for garbage collection but none could handle Stratford's 2,200 stops. Mr. Gentless asked about the proposed zoning ordinance. Mr. Keenan stated the ordinance would set a 35 foot limit to building height in the R1 zone. Mr. Gentless asked the amount of the settlement agreement. Mr. Keenan said it is \$1,000.00.

There were no further comments.

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

POLICE REPORT:

Chief of Police Ronald Morello provided the following information:
July 3 – Suspect arrested for burglarizing unlocked vehicle at Stratford Arms Apartments

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
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July 4 – Assist Berlin Ambulance who was being assaulted by an agitated and intoxicated female at emergency room parking lot Jefferson Hospital. Officer was bitten by the suspect. The female was charge with several counts of aggravated assault.

July 10 - Two male suspects trying to burglarize an apartment at Bishop Court Apartments. They were arrested and charged with attempted burglary.

July 15 – 65-year-old female at Cornell Apartments was found in her home deceased due to natural causes.

July 19 – Suicidal man on Hillside Road. Police took him into custody without any injuries and transported him to the Cherry Hill Crisis Center.

July 21 – Officers located a Saratoga Road resident wanted for a hit and run on a pedestrian in Gloucester Township. Driver was arrested and turned over to Gloucester Township Police.

July 24 – Male driving oversized pick-up truck found unconscious at New and Berlin roads due to drug overdose. Police broke into the vehicle and administered Narcan and took the driver to Jefferson Hospital and changed with DUI.

July 25 – Long-time resident on Duke Ave. found deceased due to natural causes.

July 26 – Road rage Warwick and Long Road 35-year-old Clementon man using a machete to chop off the side mirror off another motorist’s car. Suspect arrested and charged with weapons offenses.

July 28 - Cornell Manor Apartments resident shot during a domestic dispute in Pine Hill. Stratford Police safeguarded the residents at Cornell Manor until the suspect was taken into custody by the US Marshalls.

Three months without any calls or incidents regarding children on bicycles.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated Council has a resolution to approve the 2022 DOT grant application. Bid documents for the Green Tree Road & Timber Creek project are being prepared. Mr. Reilly stated they recommend the next project should be the next section of Winding Way from where the Borough funded projected ended to Longwood Ave.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 8, 2021 Agenda Meeting/Redevelopment Workshop

July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno with all Council voting aye by roll call vote except for Councilman Gandy abstaining from July 13 minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinance ORD. 2021:15 AMEND 2.16 FIRE DEPARTMENT
Mr. Bray stated this ordinance amends existing language to differentiate between the Borough fire department and the volunteer fire company.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report #2: Upcoming Introduction of Ordinances
ORD. 2021:16 AMEND YARD REQUIREMENTS

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions 2021:109 through 2021:116 will be done as a consent agenda.

RES. 2021:109 AUTHORIZE 2022 NJDOT GRANT APPLICATION

RES. 2021:110 AUTHORIZE SETTELMENT AGREEMENT

RES. 2021:111 AUTHORIZE TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND - 128 SUBURBAN TERRACE

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
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- RES. 2021:112 APPROVE ANNUAL SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
RES. 2021:113 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT – 2 CORNELL AVENUE
RES. 2021:114 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT – 33 OVERHILL ROAD
RES. 2021:115 AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION
RES. 2021:116 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, NJSA 10:4-12
The matters for executive session will pertain to matters relating to Personnel, Contract Negotiations-Trash Collection.

No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council President Hall – National Night Out was a success with 400 residents in attendance. It would not have been possible without the Stratford Police and Fire departments and the Stratford Ambulance Squad.

Councilman Gandy – Thanks to Councilwoman Hall, Public Events Committee, Parks Commission, Ambulance Squad, Police Department, and Fire Department for a great National Night Out. Thanks to everyone for what they do on a daily basis.

Councilman Gilligan – The Councilman stated he'd like to echo Councilman Gandy's statements. Thanks also Councilwoman Hall and her team on a great job. Thanks to everyone who came out. Take time to watch the drone video of the event on the Borough's Facebook page.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Thanks to everyone who participated in National Night Out, it was a great night. It was great to see the community come together in a nice safe environment. Thanks to the Chief of Police and all of the officers for their participation and help organizing the event.

Councilman Kelly – It was fun to be part of the well-executed National Night Out. Thanks to everyone who was a part of the event.

Mr. Bray stated the Borough has a good following already on Facebook and invited the public to follow the page

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Hall to open the meeting to the public for Good and Welfare with all Council voting aye.

John Gentless of 10 Union Avenue asked what else is in the Engineer's report. Mr. Reilly stated he typically highlights the significant changes within the previous month. Mr. Gentless asked what part of the report wasn't read into the record. Mr. Keenan stated all of the ongoing projects are on the report but only those with updates or changes are discussed. Mr. Gentless asked if the design phase is done on the Kirkwood Avenue project and who would get curbs and sidewalks. Mr. Keenan stated the design is not done. Mr. Gentless asked if there was any update on the former Bradlees site. Mr. Keenan stated there is no update.

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Motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Gilligan to close the public portion with all Council voting aye.

Solicitor Platt stated the Executive Session was not needed and would be moved to Tuesday, August 10 Regular Council meeting.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk