

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The 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 – PRESENT
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Councilman Gilligan motioned to open the public portion on agenda items only. Councilman Kelly seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.
John Gentless, 111 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked what resolutions were added to the agenda. Mr. Bray revised Res. 2021-181, 182 and 183. Mr. Gentless asked about the budget transfers proposed by Res. 2021:181. Mr. Bray reviewed the transfers.

There were no further comments.

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

REPORTS:

ORDINANCE & PROPERTY Councilman Kelly read the Zoning Code Officer’s Inspection Report for the month of October.

Total number of properties inspected/reinspected: 62
Total number of violations found: 58
41 of the issues have been abated
1 of the issues were not abated
16 of the issues are pending follow up
Total number of citations issued: 5

Councilman Kelly also stated that property owners should make sure they have house numbers properly displayed to aid first responders in finding their location in case of an emergency.

FINANCE & REVENUE Councilwoman Lomanno read the report as follows:

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Balance as of 11-1-2021 – \$3,348,493.34
 Total Receipts – \$1,591,594.59
 Total Disbursements – \$2,245,649.78
 Balance as of 11-30-2021 – \$2,694,438.15
 Total in other Funds - \$2,687,316.20

Councilwoman Lomanno stated Chief Morello has successfully secured \$165,750 in grants during 2021.
 Councilwoman Lomanno thanked Chief Morello for his efforts.

POLICE

Councilman Gilligan read the reports as follows:

November 2021
 30 Adult arrests,
 0 Juvenile arrests,
 1 Assaults to Police,
 4 Simple assaults Complaints,
 7 Criminal Mischief Complaints,
 17 Harassment complaints,
 511 Other investigations and complaints,
 0 burglary,
 0 robberies,
 21 thefts in the amount of \$2,175.00
 \$1,150 in stolen property recovered,
 0 motor vehicle thefts,
 10 D.W.I. arrests,
 5 Narcotics arrests,
 415 Traffic summonses issued,
 24 Motor vehicle accidents,
 5 injuries from accidents, 1 pedestrian-cyclist
 22 Alarm activations

With 118 Total Crime Reports Taken, and 803 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 45 Alarms 3 Drills in the month
 November 2021. The following list is a breakdown of the same:

	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Dwelling Fires	1	11
Building Fires	1	10
Investigations	6	29
Out of Town Assists	10	122
Alarm Systems	10	93
Assist Ambulance, Police, Public	8	70
Car Fires	0	0
Wires, Trees Down	1	15
Rescues & M.V.A.'s	7	46
Brush Fires	1	7
Drills	3	25

Total work hours on the above alarm drills was 128

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Submitted by Michael Lewitt, Deputy Chief

Ambulance Association

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Paid Crew** responded to **137 Alarms** in the month of **OCTOBER 2021**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	Paid	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
1. Abdominal Pain	0	8
2. Allergic Reaction	1	6
3. Altered Mental Status	1	3
4. Assault	0	16
5. Bleeding	5	51
6. Burn Victim	0	0
7. Cardiac	9	120
8. CVA	2	24
9. Diabetic	2	13
10. Fall	14	128
11. Fire Call	2	24
12. Fractures	0	2
13. Haz-Mat	0	0
14. Maternity	1	3
15. Medical Emergency	46	340
16. Medical Alarm	1	20
17. MVA	9	82
18. Overdose	0	9
19. Ped/MVA	1	7
20. Psych. Emergency	11	132
21. Respiratory	8	136
22. Seizures	2	35
23. Sick Person	6	49
24. Special Assignment	0	2
25. Stabbing	0	1
26. Unconscious Person	14	117

Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 0

Year to Date Calls

Paid: 1330

Submitted by Kristine Shafer, Chief-Stratford Ambulance

The Stratford Ambulance Association **Volunteer Crew** responded to **19 Alarms** in the month of **October 2021**, the following is a breakdown of the same:

	Volunteer	
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Abdominal Pain	0	3
Allergic Reaction	0	0
Assault	1	4
Bleeding	0	5
Burn Victim	0	1
Cardiac	2	15
CVA	0	2
Diabetic	0	5
Fall	2	15

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Fire Call	0	3
Haz-Mat	0	0
Maternity	0	2
Medical Emergency	4	50
Medical Alarm	0	1
MVA	1	11
Overdose	1	4
Ped/MVA	0	2
Psych. Emergency	0	19
Respiratory	3	26
Seizures	2	7
Sick Person	0	3
Special Assignment	0	0
Stabbing	0	1
Unconscious Person	3	15
Fractures	0	0

Suspected COVID-19 Alarms: 0

Year to Date Calls

Volunteer: 198

Submitted by Kristine Shafer, Chief-Stratford Ambulance

Councilman Gandy stated the Emergencies Committee met with the Fire Department on Dec. 2 to discuss the upcoming year. Councilman Gandy stated the committee will meet with the Ambulance Squad next month.

PUBLIC WORKS & LIGHTING Councilman Michael Tolomeo read the reports as follows:

Sewer Utility

- Call outs for emergency service: 10
- Performed preemptive checks and required maintenance of all manholes and pump stations
- Work orders:
 - Assisted Public Works with leaf collection
 - Removed & Installed signs at RR tracks

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

- Inspected Borough fire extinguishers
- Set up Christmas Tree

PUBLIC EVENTS - Councilwoman Hall thanked the Police, Fire and Public Works departments for their assistance with the Tree Lighting. Councilwoman Hall stated the event was well attended and a lot of fun for the community.

Councilwoman Hall stated the Borough held the Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford pageants.

Councilwoman Hall stated Miss Stratford is Catherine Tully, 1st Runner Up and Miss Congeniality is Camilla Revaitis and 2nd Runner Up is Laura Barrett. Councilwoman Hall stated Little Miss Stratford is Grace Taylor,

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1st Runner Up Elisa Cruz, and 2nd Runner Up is Emily Hample. Councilwoman Hall stated both courts have participated in Borough Events.

Councilwoman Hall stated the drop-box for Letters to Santa will accept letter till Dec. 21. Councilwoman Hall stated the Holiday House Decorating contest is underway and winner will be selected Dec. 22 with winner receiving gift cards.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 2021-21

Councilman Tolomeo motioned to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2021:21. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Councilman Kelly motioned to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2021:21. Councilman Gilligan seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021:21. Councilman Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

**ORDINANCE 2021:21
AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021:06 ESTABLISHING SALARIES**

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to amend certain salaries set forth in ordinance 2021:06

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey that Ordinance 2021:06 is amended for the following title:

Section 1:

Tax Assessor \$10,000.00 - \$20,000.00

Section 2. All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

Section 3. If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

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

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTIONS 2021:163 and 2021-178 THROUGH 2021-183 WILL BE DONE AS A CONSENT AGENDA

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

- RES. 2021-163 APPROVE 2021 SALARY FOR TAX ASSESSOR
- RES. 2021-178 AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT FOR DRY CLEANING SERVICES
- RES. 2021-179 APPROVE CAMDEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE DEER REMOVAL CONTRACT EXTENSION
- RES. 2021-180 AUTHORIZE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CENTRAL & KIRKWOOD AVE. PHASE II
- RES. 2021-181 AUTHORIZE 2021 BUDGET TRANSFERS
- RES. 2021-182 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT
- RES. 2021-183 AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR UNUSED VACATION TIME

Councilwoman Lomanno made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda of resolutions as submitted, with Councilman Kelly making the second and all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Animal checks	1936	through	1940		
Manual checks	20043	through	20049		
Payroll checks	555050	through	55260	and	
Automated checks	35845	through	35945		
Various electronic transfers and potential interim payments					

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Hall – Thanks to the office staff at Borough Hall. We found the perfect employees for our town and our residents. Thanks to the Police, Fire, Public Works departments and Ambulance Squad for all hard work they do for the Borough. Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday and looking forward to getting things down in Stratford in 2022.
- Councilman Gandy – I agree with Councilwoman Halls comments, thanks to the office staff. Congratulations and thanks to Emergency Management Coordinator Craig Martin who is retiring. We thank him for his many years of devoted service to the Borough and wish him well on his retirement. Thanks also to the Ambulance Squad and Fire Department for their service. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and look forward to a new year.
- Councilman Gilligan – Thanks to Councilwoman Hall and Council Gandy for their wonderful comments. Thanks also to Borough staff and employees. Happy and Healthy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Councilwoman Lomanno – It’s been a very difficult year and our staff has stepped up to the challenge. I want to wish everyone a Safe, Healthy Happy Holiday.
- Councilman Tolomeo – I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday and Healthy New Year. Thanks to the staff and the Public Works Department.
- Councilman Kelly – If there is a better borough staff around in South Jersey let me know because they are the cream of the crop. Friday is the Winter Wonderland at Veterans Park. Thanks to John Keenan for his hard work to get the Trash and Recycling Department running for the New Year.

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- Mayor Josh Keenan – Please keep the family of former Councilwoman Julie Galezniak who recently passed away and served on the council for many years.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

John Gentless – 111 Union Avenue – Mr. Gentless asked if Longwood Drive from Warwick Road had been paved recently but was opened. Mr. Keenan stated it was paved by the utility company and there is a moratorium on street openings. Mr. Keenan stated he would look into the matter. Mr. Gentless stated he heard Rowan University will be creating a student parking area on property it owns along the White Horse Pike and connected to campus via a walkway. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough should ask for more money from Rowan to compensate the Borough for the loss of a ratable. Mr. Gentless asked when Council would resume in-person meetings. Mr. Keenan stated there is no date set at this time.

Mr. Gentless asked what was going on at the Atlantic Avenue substation. Mr. Keenan stated Atlantic City Electric was performing a complete upgrade to the station. Mr. Keenan stated the project would take another year. Mr. Gentless asked if there would be any further ribbon cuttings scheduled. Councilwoman Hall stated the Borough has offered to hold ribbon cuttings and its up to the individual businesses to decide if and when to hold one. Mr. Gentless asked if the Borough is anticipating receiving any additional CARES Act funding. Mr. Gentless stated the money could be used to cover COVID expenses or help local businesses with the leftover going into surplus. Mr. Keenan stated the CARES Act funding cannot go into surplus and cannot be used for tax reductions. Mr. Keenan stated the funding can only be use for certain specific purposes. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough redevelopment efforts in 2022 will be funded with CARES Act funding. Mr. Gentless asked how the Berlin Road Redevelopment project began. Mr. Keenan stated the new study area was based on a recommendation by a subcommittee of Council. Mr. Keenan stated it is the next block along Berlin Road, adjacent to the previous area. Mr. Gentless stated the Borough made mistakes in adopting a resolution to refer the area to the Planning Board for a redevelopment study. Mr. Gentless stated the CARES Act funding would be better spent in the area of the former Incollingo's shopper market instead of the area proposed along Berlin Road. Mr. Gentless said in this day and age you have a white engineering firm is going to make a decision to condemn a piece of property with a business owned by a black lady down on Arlington Avenue he can't comprehend that. Mr. Keenan stated Mr. Gentless is the first person he's heard who has brought up the topic of race when discussing the Borough's redevelopment efforts. Mr. Keenan stated that Mr. Gentless may hold this opinion. Mr. Gentless said opinions are like bellybuttons, everyone has one. Mr. Gentless wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

There were no further comments.

Councilwoman Hall made a motion to close the public portion, with Councilman Lomanno making a second, and all Council voting aye.

ADJOURN:

Councilman Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at approx. 7:35 PM. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

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Bill Bray, RMC
Borough Clerk