

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 08, 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 – PRESENT  
JAMES KELLY, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT  
JUSTIN STRAUSSER, 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 Tolomeo seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a voice vote.

John Gentless – 10 Union Avenue – asked if Councilman Gandy can explain the proposed ordinance 2021-15 to amend the Fire Department code. Councilman Gandy stated the ordinance clarifies terms between the Fire Department and what is the volunteer Fire Company.

Frank Hartman – 18 Green Tree Road – Mr. Hartman asked why the Borough was hiring a part-time administrative clerk. Business Administrator Keenan stated the appointment fills a new vacancy and is not a new position.

Diana Gonzalez – 36 Buttonwood Road – Ms. Gonzalez asked if someone could explain the Police Body Cameras. Chief Morello stated he will cover the topic during his report.

There were no further comments.

Councilwoman Hall motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Councilman Tolomeo 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:  
June 2 – 8 unlocked vehicles burglarized overnight at TMF Motors on Berlin Road

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June 2 - Three staff members were assaulted at Jefferson Hospital by a crisis patient who was charged with assault on healthcare workers.

June 3 – Crisis patient escaped from Jefferson Hospital who ran to a ledge above the main entrance. Officer removed the man from the ledge and took him to crisis center in Cherry Hill.

June 4- Floss’s Grooming and two businesses in Lindenwold were burglarized.

June 8 – Bomb threat was made against Rowan University and all campuses were evacuated with assistance of our police. Nothing was found after a room-by-room search.

June 9 – Meadow Lark Road unattended dead, not suspicious

June 10 – Cornell Avenue resident was seriously injured after falling off a ladder from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

June 13 – A body was found on White Horse Pike. Man suffered a fatal heart attack.

June 15 – Vagrant arrested after burglarizing 6 unlocked vehicles. After being arrested, processed and released he burglarized another vehicle. He was arrested and sent to County Jail.

June 16 – Traffic accident after driver ran the red light at Laurel and Warwick. There were only minor injuries and driver was charged with running the red light and careless driving.

June 17 – Stolen car was located by Officer Butler who attempted to stop the vehicle. The three occupants fled on foot and were later apprehended. The stolen vehicle and a stolen firearm were recovered.

June 17 – Woman was trying to force her way into into Next Gen Daycare on Berlin Road. Police found woman at the back door and took her into custody. The suspect was charge with defiant and criminal trespass.

June 20 – The car burglar arrested on June 15 returned and burglarized three additional vehicles. He was arrested, charged and turned over to Haddonfield Police where he was wanted for burglarizing 20 additional vehicles.

June 21 – A male at Cornell Manor died of fentanyl overdose.

June 22 – Motorist was shot in their hand during a road rage incident on Interstate 295 North. The driver arrived at the Justice Center looking for Jefferson Hospital. Officers escorted him to the hospital and secured the vehicle as a crime scene until New Jersey State Police arrived.

June 27 – Suicidal male on Warwick Road barricaded himself in a bathroom with a knife to his wrist. Officers responded, defused the situation and transported the man to the crisis facility.

The Department received a grant for body worn cameras. Officers have been trained and cameras are now deployed and operational.

No new calls about children on bicycles in Borough streets.

Congratulations on Sgt. Johnson on his retirement.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mr. Reilly stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated work is moving forward on Green Tree Road resurfacing which is the borough funded 2021 Road project. FY2022 NJDOT funding application was submitted for Central Avenue and a potion of Kirkwood Avenue.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

June 3, 2021 Agenda Meeting/Redevelopment Workshop

June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

REPORT #1 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Report #2: Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinances: Ord.2021:11 Amend 2.08.100 Borough Clerk.  
Ord.2021:12 Amend 17.48.030. Area, Yard and Building Requirements – Schedule I – R-1 Residential District,  
Ord.2021:13 Authorize Issuance Of \$570,000 In Bonds/Notes and Ord.2021:14 Amend 5.08 Entitled “Business Hours”

Report #2: Upcoming Introductions of Ordinances: ORD. 2021:15 AMEND 2.16 FIRE DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolutions 2021:99 through 2021:106 will be done as a consent agenda.

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

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

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|---------------|---|
| RES. 2021:099 | AMENDING 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET                                |
| RES. 2021-100 | APPROVE VETERAN TAX DEDUCTIONS                                |
| RES. 2021-101 | APPROVE SIGNATORIES   |
| RES. 2021-102 | APPROVE RETIREMENT AGREEMENT – JOHNSON                        |
| RES. 2021-103 | APPROVE AMENDING TAX RECORDS                                  |
| RES. 2021-104 | AUTHORIZE ENGINEERING SERVICE FOR GREEN TREE ROAD RESURFACING |
| RES. 2021-105 | APPOINT PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK                        |
| RES. 2021-106 | ACCEPT BWC GRANT  |

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council President Hall thanks everyone for their participation in the 4th of July parade. Information on the winners will be posted online. National Night Out will begin at 6 pm on Aug 3, 2021. Borough Hall is running smoothly and the new employees are so helpful and it is not going unnoticed. Congratulations to Sgt, Johnson on his retirement.

Councilman Gandy wish Sgt, Johnson good luck on his retirement. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade it was a wonderful day. Thanks to our first responders, police, fire, EMS and OEM for all they do for the Borough.

Councilman Gilligan thanked Councilwoman Hall for her efforts to organized the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Congratulation to Sgt. Johnson on his retirement.

Councilwoman Lomanno thanks and congratulated Councilwoman Hall for her efforts to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Congratulation to Sgt. Johnson on his retirement.

Councilman Tolomeo thanks everyone who helped with the parade. Congratulations to Sgt. Johnson on his retirement.

Councilman Kelly thanks Councilwoman Hall, Councilwoman Lomanno and Councilman Tolomeo for their efforts to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. This Council recognized we had to do this and come together as a town. Thanks also to everyone who participated.

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Councilwoman Hall stated she couldn't have done it without the support from the members of Council.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

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

John Gentless of 10 Union Avenue stated the parade was very, very nice. Mr. Gentless asked for an update on the former Bradlees site and if Shoprite was coming? Mr. Keenan stated the DEP bulletin had a mistake in a notice about the site which listed Shoprite and it should read Camden County. Mr. Keenan stated the county is still seeking to use the site but the Borough has not given any approvals and has an appeal pending. Mr. Keenan stated there is a subdivision required which can only be granted by the Joint Land Use Board.

Frank Hartman – 18 Green Tree Road – stated the parade was fantastic this year. Mr. Hartman asked if the Green Tree resurfacing project would include curbs. Mr. Keenan stated the engineer will review the street and either install curbs where missing or replace curbing if it is damaged. Mr. Keenan the review would also include driveway aprons.

Councilman Gilligan stated the Borough has launched a new Facebook page and asked Borough Clerk to comment. Mr. Bray stated the page can be found at [www.facebook.com/StratfordNJ](http://www.facebook.com/StratfordNJ). Mr. Bray stated it's a soft launch and would be promoted in upcoming e-blast.

Mike Donaldson – 19 Knoll Road asked for an update on the former Incollingo's site. Mr. Keenan stated the redevelopment plans was amended to change the width of the townhouse from 21 to 20 feet. Mr. Keenan stated the developer would need to make an amendment application to the Joint Land Use Board.

Diana Gonzalez – 36 Buttonwood Road – Ms. Gonzalez stated she was surprised to hear no new reports of kids riding bicycles in the streets have been made and asked if the Borough could send out a notice to ask residents to call in. Chief Morello stated the Borough has never had to prompt residents to call in complaints or concerns. Chief Morello stated if they have not received complaints its either not a significant issue or not as common as it may have been.

Jenn Tully 4 - Winding Way Road – congratulated the Borough for creating a Facebook page. Ms. Tully ask how would the Facebook page comply with OPRA. Mr. Bray stated the items posted to the Facebook page are subject to OPRA and would be provided. Mr. Bray stated the Borough would not delete items it posts to the Facebook page. Mr. Bray stated OPRA provide access to records and a Facebook page by its nature is open and provides access to what is posted there. Ms. Tully asked what is the issue with garbage collection. Mr. Keenan stated residents' trash cans cannot be larger than 32 gallon in volume or 50 pounds. Mr. Keenan stated if a resident has a larger can, they must remove the bags and place them at the curb for collection. Mr. Keenan stated the larger container were tagged with stickers for the past two weeks to give notice of the size and weight restriction.

John Gentless 10 Union Avenue asked if Magnolia has plans for an arm lift garbage truck. Mr. Keenan stated he is not aware of any. Mr. Keenan stated if they go with a side lift arm truck the Borough would examine that at that time.

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

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk