

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 03, 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  
STEVEN BACH, 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 of 10 Union Avenue asked what was being amended in Ordinance 2021-12. Mr. Keenan stated the Ordinance clarifies that the front yard setback is measured from the property line.

Mr. Gentless asked are the appropriations authorized by Ordinance 2021-13. Mr. Keenan stated it will fund body worn cameras for Stratford Police, property improvements, Public Works equipment, fire equipment, police vehicles and road reconstruction and drainage projects.

Mr. Gentless asked what businesses would be impacted by the change in Ordinance 2021-14. Mr. Keenan stated the ordinance gives an exemption for restaurants with drive through service and convenience stores at gas stations.

Mr. Gentless asked if there would be additional public comment portions on the budget at future meetings. Mr. Keenan stated there are no requirements to have further public hearings on the budget but the public can comment on the budget at any future meeting when it is on the agenda.

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:

- May 3 a patron reported a stolen ring at the Stratford Diner. Unfortunately, the ring was thrown out when the table was cleaned and not recovered.

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- May 5 the department assisted the Somerdale Police Department with the report of an armed robbery. Chief Morello stated a “ghost” gun with a 30-round-capacity magazine was recovered from the suspect who was apprehended by Borough officers.
- May 6 a department vehicle was destroyed by an allegedly distracted teenaged driver. Chief stated the driver was charged with careless driving and the department is working with the insurance company to get the 15-year-old vehicle replaced.
- May 8 a 50-year-old drug addict was arrested at the Jefferson Hospital emergency room after allegedly threatening to kill members of the staff and charged with making terroristic threats.
- May 12 a resident of Atlantic Avenue escaped injuries after the vehicle they were working on slipped off its jack and pinned them underneath. Ch 26:30
- May 15 a 50-year-old-resident died of natural causes.
- May 17, Narcan save 30-year-old-man from Pine Hill at Burger King.
- May 18 a traffic stop resulted in a 25-year-old Lindenwold man being charge with possession of pills and heroin with the intent to distribute.
- May 19-25 Two residents had their identities stolen and Unemployment benefits were applied for in their names. Chief said there is no connection between the two victims and it appears to be part of a larger scam occurring throughout the country. Police are investigating.
- May 28 after a review an application for a Massage Parlor was denied due to the proposed location in a residential zone.
- May 28 body-worn-cameras have arrived for testing and training and will be implemented department wide soon.
- Municipal Court will begin limit in-person sessions. Capacity is limited to 6-8 defendants in the courtroom at any one time. Zoom court will continue
- PBA 30 and the Police Department are sponsoring two scholarships for graduating students from Yellin School.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mr. Bach stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Bach stated FY2022 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grants are due July 1. Mr. Bach stated the Borough will submit for Central and Kirkwood avenues phase 2 for DOT funding.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

May 6, 2021 Agenda Meeting/Redevelopment Workshop

May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 2020:086 - **RESOLUTION TO READ BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S. 40A:4-8, as amended by L.2015, c. 95, § 14, 2015, provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the budget has been made available for public inspection, and has been made available to each person upon request;

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and

**WHEREAS**, these two conditions have been met;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the budget shall be read by title only.

Councilwoman Lomanno made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-86. Councilwoman Hall seconded the Motion and all members present voted in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

**2021 BOROUGH OF STRATFORD MUNICIPAL BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilwoman Lomanno motioned to open the Public Hearing for the 2021 Municipal Budget. Councilman Gandy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Councilman Gilligan made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the 2021 Municipal Budget. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Borough Clerk Bill Bray stated the state has not yet finished its review and approval of the budget and the vote to adopt must be carried to the next meeting.

Councilwoman Lomanno made a motion to table the 2021 Budget until the July 8 meeting. Councilwoman Hall seconded the motion which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Report #1: Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinances Ord.2021:10 Amend 10.44.170, Schedule XVII Longwood Drive between Warwick Road and Homestead

Report #2: Upcoming Introductions of Ordinances: Ord.2021:11 Amend 2.08.100 Borough Clerk. Mr. Bray stated the change would allow for bingo and raffle licenses to be handled administratively. 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”

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolutions 2021:88 through 2021:95 will be done as a consent agenda.

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

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

RES. 2021:088	APPOINT CLASS II SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
RES. 2021:089	APPROVE SEWER PAYMENT TRANSFER
RES. 2021:090	APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – RIDHIR, INC dba WINENOVA
RES. 2021:091	APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – LaMartinique Bowling Academy, Inc.
RES. 2021:092	APPROVE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP – 1993 Pierce Lance Pumper
RES. 2021:093	AUTHORIZE ESTIMATED 3 <sup>rd</sup> QRT TAX BILLS
RES. 2021:094	AUTHORIZE SEWER REFUND
RES. 2021:095	ADOPT TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2021

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council President Hall stated organizations are registering for the 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade and registration forms are on the website. Councilwoman Hall thanks the Public Works Department, Miss Stratford and Little Miss Stratford for helping to prepare and decorate the Memorial Park for the holiday. Councilwoman Hall also thanks the VFW for its spontaneous event they held on Memorial Day.

Councilman Gandy thanked the Police, Fire, Ambulance and OEM staff for the wonderful jobs they do. Councilman Gandy stated it was an honor to attend the Fire Department Annual Dinner and it was a nice event. Councilman Gandy also thanked the residents for their patience during the pandemic.

Councilman Gilligan thanked Chief Morello for securing a \$55,026.00 grant for body-worn-cameras which covers about half of the cost. Councilman Gilligan stated the first Friday in June is the Nation Gun Violence Awareness Day. Councilman Gilligan read a proclamation declaring Friday June 4, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Borough of Stratford. Councilman Gilligan stated he wants to form a committee to discuss the implementation of a Social Media presence for the Borough. Council expressed its support for forming the Committee and placing a resolution on the June 8 meeting to create it.

Councilwoman Lomanno congratulated Chief Morello for securing the grant.

Councilman Tolomeo thanks everyone in the office for being patient and keeping operations running efficiently during the pandemic and at Public Works for keeping storm drains clear during recent storms. Councilman Tolomeo stated he wants to create a Cannabis Committee to study the potential pros and cons related to recreational cannabis legalization. Council expressed support for forming the Committee and placing a resolution on the June 8 meeting to create it.

Councilman Kelly stated it is refreshing to see Tim Hortons and Freebyrd Chicken projects progress and both will be nice additions to the Borough. Councilman Kelly thanks the Fire Department and Ambulance Service for their continued efforts to protect the public. Councilman Kelly stated it's the second month in a row that a member of the Police Department stepped up to protect the public and he thanked Sgt. Gagliardi for his efforts.

**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 the Engineer what the scoop of the work on Central Avenue. Mr. Bach stated the Borough will apply for NJ DOT grant to Cooper to Whitman base bid Whitman to Wright under and alternate option. Mr. Bach stated they do not have further details on what improvements will be included beyond resurfacing of the roadway.

Mr. Gentless asked if sidewalks would be placed along Kirkwood Avenue. Mr. Bach stated the design work is not yet done. Mr. Bach stated the NJDOT does not require sidewalk installations where none currently exist.

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

**ADJOURN:**

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A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilman Gilligan with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk