

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021
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
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
STUART PLATT, BOROUGH SOLICITOR – PRESENT
RON MORELLO, POLICE CHIEF – PRESENT
JOHN D. KEENAN, JR., ACTING BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR - PRESENT

Acting Borough Clerk John Keenan, Jr., thanked former Councilman Pat Green for his over 5 years of dedicated service for Stratford.

RES. 2021:048

A motion was made by Councilman Pat Gilligan, seconded by Council President Linda Hall for the name of James Kelly to fill the vacancy of former Councilman Green's term which expires December 31, 2021. All Council voted aye by roll call vote. The Acting Borough Administrator administered the Oath of Office to Councilman James Kelly. He then was able to participate in the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

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

John Gentless of Union Avenue inquired to Council not accepting Councilman Green's resignation. The Solicitor Mr. Platt stated no acceptance or confirmation was required.

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

POLICE REPORT:

Chief of Police Ronald Morello informed the public about a female at Brookview Manor around 3:00 am reported to have slit her wrist. The police located her in the rear of the apartment complex of Cornell Manor and took her to the hospital. There have been three attempts at the CVS which have resulted in arrests for several hundred dollars of items being stolen. A person wanted for sex crimes was found in Coolidge Park. On the morning of February 18, it was snowing, and a driver at the Warwick and Longwood fell asleep at the wheel of his car. Another driver tried to assist in getting into the car, but it was locked.

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The other person broke open the window which startled the driver, and the driver sped down Longwood Drive at a high rate of speed. The driver ended up crashing into a tree. The driver was from Blackwood and was arrested for driving under the influence and taken to Cooper Hospital, and the dog in the car was taken to the animal orphanage. Drug dealing involving a 35-year-old Voorhees resulted in the man being arrested with 20 bags with the intent to distribute. He reported the day dedicated to collect unwanted medicines resulted in 25 pounds of medicines being collected. A grant for \$60,000. For Highway Traffic is being applied for. No update on the body cam for the State mandate. As of June 1, all patrolmen will have been trained for the body cam equipment. He spoke about the decriminalization of marijuana and alcohol which now will no longer be an issue, and the police cannot inform the parents of underage children who are seen or found with it on the first offense. On the second offense the police can tell the parents. He spoke about the municipality having the ability to place zoning regulations to restrict dispensary locations or to opt out of the program. The JLUB will be reviewing this issue and reporting back to Council.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Bach reported his firm will be making the annual application for CDBG funding to the County. It will be the same as last year for funding for ADA improvements at the municipal offices and to reimburse the town for funding spent in advance for the Coolidge Avenue Road Improvements. He stated Homestead Road funding request was made to NJDOT to include design costs. The work has begun for Homestead and Evergreen Roads. Evergreen Phase 1 is finalized and all documents have been closed out. A resolution including a change order will be on for approval at the Tuesday meeting. The punch list items for the Coolidge Project are being addressed this week and close out documents will be submitted soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 04, 2021 Agenda Meeting/Redevelopment Workshop

February 04, 2021 Executive Session

February 09, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Gilligan, seconded by Hall with all Council voting aye by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Report #1: Upcoming Public Hearing for an Ordinance is set for Ordinance 2021:04 for Stormwater Control.

Report #2: Upcoming introductions of Ordinances are set for Ordinance 2021:05 for No Smoking Vaping on Public Property, and Ordinance 2021:06 for the 2021 Salary Ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions 2021:49 through 2021:57 will be done as a consent agenda.

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

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

RES. 2021:49 Refund Canceled Construction Permit Payment

RES. 2021:50 Authorizing Membership in a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Participating Units

RES. 2021:51 Authorizing the Borough of Stratford to Hire Police Officers who have not taken an Open Competitive Examination for the Title of Police Officer as Permitted by Senate Bill S3220, P.L. 2021, C7.

RES. 2021:52 To Fully Extend the 2021 Temporary Budget

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- RES. 2021:53 Approving Application for 2022-2023 Pedestrian Enforcement Grant with the New Jersey Office of Highway Traffic Safety in the Amount of \$15,350.00.
- RES. 2021:54 Approving Application for 2022-2023 DWI Task Force Grant with the New Jersey Office of Highway Traffic Safety in the Amount of \$46,700.00.
- RES. 2021:55 Authorize Shared Service Agreement for Electrical Sub-Code Official with the Borough of Mt. Ephraim.
- RES. 2021:56 Approving Raffle License RL704 for Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #7800.
- RES. 2021:57 Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12. For matters relating to employment relations and for litigation related to Stratford Square.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council President Linda Hall reported there would be an Easter Event for the Easter Bunny traveling around the town. There will be no Easter Egg Hunt due to COVID restrictions. She welcomed Councilman Kelly to Council.

Councilman Gandy welcomed Councilman Kelly, and thanked the Emergency Services for their assistance during the snowy weather.

Councilman Gilligan thanked and welcomed Councilman Kelly.

Councilwoman Lomanno welcomed Councilman Kelly.

Councilman Kelly thanked everyone for the opportunity to be on Council and stated he was very eager to work for Stratford. He stated he has lived here for 53 of his 54 years.

The Solicitor Mr. Platt welcomed Councilman Kelly and informed him the Mayor and Council are great people.

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 Union Avenue spoke about a pot hole on West Atlantic Avenue near the border of Hi-Nella. The Acting Borough Administrator stated he was aware of it. Mr. Gentless inquired of the Engineer if the sewer reports had been issued for Berlin Road Project and/or Warwick Road. Mr. Bach responded the sewer updates for both Berlin Road and Laurel Mills were issued. The report for Berlin Road requires some minor upgrades with a cost of about \$25,000.

Mike Mancini of Winding Way Road inquired to the marijuana regulations. The Solicitor stated the municipality could adopt regulations to permit or prohibit which starts with ordinances from Mayor and Council. He did note the JLUB could review and advise the Mayor and Council. The Solicitor stated he would reach out to the JLUB Solicitor to review this with him.

Tom Speer of College Circle inquired to the exposure if silent related to the marijuana regulations. The Solicitor stated there is an understanding during the 180-day period which is considered safe harbor.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Lomanno, with all Council voting aye to enter into Executive Session.

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The Solicitor explained the Executive Session and minutes will be taken and released later. He explained everything in these sessions is not to be shared, or listened by other family members. This session will be about 15-30 minutes.

Motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted:

John D. Keenan, Jr., Acting Borough Administrator