

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 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 – ABSENT
TINA LOMANNO, COUNCILWOMAN – PRESENT
MICHAEL TOLOMEO, COUNCILMAN – PRESENT
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 Gandy 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, 111 Union Ave. Mr. Gentless asked is Juneteenth will be a holiday in 2022. Mr. Bray stated the resolution being considered amended the 2021 holiday schedule. Mr. Bray stated the 2022 holiday schedule has not been set. Mr. Gentless asked if the salvaged vehicle can be used by the fire company. Mr. Bray stated the vehicle is being designated as salvage to allow the fire company to use it in drills. Mr. Gentless asked has the Berlin Road Redevelopment project property been sold. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough has no information on a transfer of ownership. Mr. Keenan stated the project is anticipated to be marketed for sale to a builder once certain site improvements are completed. Mr. Gentless asked what are the boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area. Mr. Keenan stated it is Block 52 on the Borough tax map bounded by the White Horse Pike, Arlington Avenue, Berlin Road and New Road. Mr. Gentless asked when was it decided and where home owners notified. Mr. Keenan stated a subcommittee of Council decide to continue down Berlin Road with redevelopment. Mr. Platt stated this is the start of a public process and it is premature to notice property owners. Mr. Platt stated while the study includes this area it may find not all of the area meets the standard for redevelopment. Mr. Platt stated the condemnation provisions do not need to be invoked.

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.

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POLICE REPORT:

Chief of Police Ronald Morello provided the following information:

Sept. 1 – Attempted criminal sexual contact at Jefferson Hospital, 32-year-old man from Somerdale attempted to grope staff at the hospital. The suspect was arrested and charged. Chief Morello stated the suspect was arrested 9 days later and charged with assaulting a police officer after punching out a window at Applebee's and struggling with police at the scene.

Sept. 4 - Officer injured when a DUI suspect bit them on the shoulder and later bit a Somerdale officer on their ankle. The 30-year-old suspect from Lindenwold was charged with drunken driving and aggravated assault.

Sept. 5 – Driver lost control of their vehicle on Longwood Ave, striking a tree and causing the vehicle to flip over. The suspect was charged with reckless driving and driving while suspended.

Sept. 10 - DWI Checkpoint on White Horse Pike with Somerdale Police. 55-year-old Lindenwold man was stopped and subsequently resisted arrest and assaulted police officers. The suspect was charged with drunken driving, resisting arrest and assaulting officers.

Sept. 11 – Suspect broke into Del Buono's Bakery and stole a small amount of cash. Police identified the suspect via surveillance video. The 35-year-old resident of Stratford Court Apartments was charged with burglary.

Sept. 19 – 21-year-old Camden Man was stopped for driver 75 miles an hour on Warwick Road in front of John Paul II School. The suspect was charged with being a fugitive from justice and possessing a stolen vehicle.

Sept. 20 – Suspect charged with shoplifting \$400 of health and beauty product from CVS. The suspect was found at the Time Horton site pretending to be a worker. The suspect has been arrested 30 times for shoplifting in 18 months.

Sept. 21 – A 45-year-old man believed to be homeless man stole a \$4,500 piece of hospital equipment. Neither the suspect or the equipment has been located.

Sept. 24 – Officers found an overdose victim at the Burger King drive thru. Officers administered Narcan the 40-year-old homeless man survived.

The start of school has results in several reports of lost children and missed bus stops or missing buses. Everything worked out ok.

Oct. – Unattended death 52-year-old man at a home on Winding Way.

Oct 3. - \$900 bicycle stolen from a juvenile eating at D'Amico's. After reviewing surveillance video, a 19-year-old Somerdale man was arrested, charged and the bicycle was recovered.

Oct 9 – Man peering into the windows of an apartment at Sterling Arms. Police responded and learned it is a domestic situation. Police charged a 40-year-old man from Bellmawr with invasion of privacy and burglary.

Oct. 14 – Patient stole \$40,000 worth of medical equipment from Jefferson Hospital. A 55-year-old Camden man was charged with theft and the property was recovered.

Oct. 17 – Shooting at Wright Ave and White Horse Pike. Officers responded to reports of a gunshot victim at Jefferson Hospital where they secured the individual's vehicle as a crime scene until Somerdale Police arrived.

Oct. 21 – Vehicles stopped going 84 mph on the White Horse Pike. The driver drove away and fled the traffic stop.

The John Paul II Carnival was very successful with no incidents.

Halloween was also incident free.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated the Borough will receive a NJDOT FY 2022 Grant in the amount of \$240,000 for the Kirkwood and Central Ave, Phase II. Mr. Reilly stated bids for the Buttonwood Road Stormwater Outfall Repair Project will be opened Nov. 9 with possible award at the Regular meeting that evening. Mr. Reilly stated the Kirkwood and Central Ave Phase I and Greentree Road projects are almost ready to go out to bid with construction now anticipated to begin in spring 2022.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 7, 2021 AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
October 12, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

Councilwoman Hall and Councilman Tolomeo stated they would abstain from the October 7 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo with all members present voting aye by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1 Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinance:
 ORD. 2021-20 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10:44.010 – SCHEDULE I – No PARKING
Mr. Bray stated this amends the Borough parking regulations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report #2: Upcoming Introduction of Ordinances:
 ORDINANCE 2021:21 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021:06 ESTABLISHING SALARIES
Mr. Bray stated the ordinance adjusts salary range for Tax Assessor. Mr. Bray stated the Borough Tax Assessor resigned and the deputy was promoted, necessitating the change.

REPORT #3 2021 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY
Mr. Keenan stated the Borough scored high enough to secure all of its State Aid.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions 2021:145 through 2021:156 will be done as a consent agenda.

RES. 2021-145	AUTHORIZE INVESTIGATION OF A CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT STUDY
RES. 2021-146	AWARD CONTRACT FOR 2022 ROOT CONTROL SERVICES
RES. 2021-147	AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR SAFE & SECURE GRANT
RES. 2021-148	APPROVE CHAPTER 159 BUDGET AMENDMENT – MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
RES. 2021-149	AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT
RES. 2021-150	APPROVE REMOVAL OF TAX DEDUCTION
RES. 2021-151	APPROVE HIRING CDL DRIVER – GARBAGE & RECYCLING DEPARTMENT
RES. 2021-152	APPROVE HIRING CDL DRIVER – GARBAGE & RECYCLING DEPARTMENT
RES. 2021-153	AMEND 2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
RES. 2021-154	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 <i>The matters for executive session will pertain to matters relating to Negotiations - Berlin Road Redevelopment Agreement</i>
RES. 2021-155	AUTHORIZE SOLICITATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE RFPs FOR 2022
RES. 2021-156	AUTHORIZE SALVAGE OF POLICE VEHICLE

No one from Council removed or added to the consent agenda.
Motion was made by Councilman Kelly, seconded by Councilwoman Hall. Councilwoman Lomanno abstained from Res. 2021-145 with all members present otherwise voting aye by roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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Councilwoman Hall – Congratulations to Councilman Kelly for winning a full term on Council and Councilman Gandy on his reelection. Looking forward to working together for the next three years. The Halloween events are big successes and thanks to members of Council, Police Department and Public Works Department who helped make it a great day. You can see the winners of the decorating contest on Facebook.

Councilman Gandy – Thanks to Chief Morello and the Police Department for their efforts. Thanks also to the Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management and Ambulance Squad. Thanks to the residents of Stratford for their vote of confidence and I am looking forward to a productive three years. It is an honor to serve the community.

Councilwoman Lomanno – Congratulations to Councilman Kelly and Councilman Gandy is has been nice working with you and look forward to the next three years. Thanks to Councilwoman Hall for her work on the Halloween Parade. Halloween was great fun with higher than anticipated turnout.

Councilman Tolomeo – Congratulations to Councilman Kelly and Councilman Gandy, I look forward to working with both of you. Thanks to everyone who voted.

Councilman Kelly – Thanks for everyone’s kind words. We are in good hands with my fellow five Council Members, I am honored to be there with you. Thanks to the mayor and Mr. Keenan. Thanks to our Police and Fire departments and Ambulance squad.

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, 111 Union Avenue, asked if the scope of work on Central Avenue. Mr. Reilly stated the 2021 Municipal Aid Grant covered the section between Cooper and Wright. Mr. Reilly said the scope depends on the condition of the roadway. Mr. Reilly said areas that need more work will have a greater depth milled off and replaced. Mr. Gentless asked if it includes driveways. Mr. Reilly said it depends on the site conditions and the goal is to replace as few as necessary. Mr. Gentless asked about the Kirkwood Ave section. Mr. Reilly said the work would be the same, with repairs dictated by roadway conditions.

Steve Gagliardi, 13 College Circle, asked if there is on any information on a vehicle chase on Election Day. Chief Morello stated his department was not involved.

There were no more comments

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Council entered Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

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Motion was made by Councilwoman Lomanno, seconded by Councilman Kelly, with all Council voting aye to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Tolomeo, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk