

STRATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING/REDEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 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 – ABSENT
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 – Mr. Gentless asked if the agenda has changed because he didn't see items on the agenda. Mr. Keenan stated the items are listed on page two and he may be missing that page. Mr. Gentless asked how many lawsuits is the Council discussing during Executive Session. Mr. Keenan stated there are two lawsuits to be discussed.

There were no further comments.

Councilman Gandy motioned to close the public portion for agenda items. Councilwoman Hall 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:

August 6- drug overdose of a 33-year-old female on Chestnut Avenue, 3 doses of Narcan and taken to Jefferson Hospital

August 11- 25-year-old Sicklerville man charged with assault after attacking staff and officers who responded to Jefferson Hospital ER where he was a crisis patient

August 12 – 21-year-old man charged with cyber harassment for threatening another resident with a handgun online, he fled the state and has not yet been arrested.

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August 16 – Officers responded to Jefferson Hospital for a victim of a Sexual Assault at Cornell Manor Apartments the suspect, 37-year-old man sent to Camden County Jail, released 48 hours later

August 17 – 60-year-old Laurel Springs resident was struck on Laurel Road at Warwick Road and seriously injured

August 19 – Drug overdose 61-year-old female in CVS parking lot, officer administered Narcan

August 23 – Overdose in old Stratford, officers took her to the hospital for treatment

Code Enforcement actions taken against the owner of the shopping center and 40 Temple Avenue.

August 26 – Catalytic converter thefts at Avis Rental and The Residents at Whitehall, there are no suspects

August 27 – Well being check at Sterling Arms, 67-year-old-man died of natural causes.

August 30 – Borough received notice of award of DWI Task Force grant

DWI Checkpoint to be held on Friday with Somerdale Police Department.

Carnival Special Affair permit approved and officers will provide security.

This winter officer will wear a new uniform that will be more comfortable.

No calls for kids on bicycles

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mr. Reilly stated his written report was submitted to Council. Mr. Reilly stated Camden County CDBG awards were announced but the Borough didn't receive any funding but will reapply next year. 2021 NJDOT funded project North Central and Kirkwood Ave bid packages under DOT review with it going out to bid the following week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 5, 2021 Agenda Meeting/Redevelopment Workshop

August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

August 10 Executive Session Meeting

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Kelly with all Council voting aye by roll call vote except for Councilman Tolomeo abstaining from August 5 minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT #1

Upcoming Public Hearings of Ordinance:

ORD. 2021:16 AMEND YARD REQUIREMENTS Mr. Bray stated this ordinance would add the height limit of 35 feet to the R1 Residential Zone.

ORD. 2021:17 AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 IN BONDS/NOTES Mr. Bray stated this would fund the purchase of garbage trucks for the new Solid Waste/Recycling Dept.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report #2:

Upcoming Introduction of Ordinances:

ORD. 2021:18 AMEND 2021 SALARY ORDINANCE Mr. Bray stated this would create the positions related to the new Solid Waste/Recycling Department

ORD. 2021:19 ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 3.16 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD ENTITLED, "FIVE YEAR TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT LAW"

Mr. Bray stated this would create the tax abatement for the Berlin Road project.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions 2021:119 through 2021:127 will be done as a consent agenda.

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- RES. 2021:119 AUTHORIZE SHARE SERVICE AGREEMENT- BELLMAWR, MAINTENANCE OF MUNICIPAL FLEET
- RES. 2021:120 AUTHORIZE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT – CAMDEN COUNTY, RECREATION FACILITIES
- RES. 2021:121 AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES VIA STATE CONTRACT
- RES. 2021:122 AUTHORIZE CHAPTER 159 BUDGET INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE
- RES. 2021:123 APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – 2021 JOHN PAUL II CARNIVAL
- RES. 2021-124 ACCEPT THE 2020 MUNICIPAL AUDIT
- RES. 2021-125 APPOINT TAX ASSESSOR
- RES. 2021-126 APPOINT CROSSING GUARDS
- RES. 2021-127 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
The matters for executive session will pertain to matters relating to Litigation- Camden County Vs Stratford Borough, Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Vs. Tim Hortons, Police Personnel

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council President Hall – Nothing at this time

Councilman Gandy – Vote by Mails are going out Sept. 18, also there will be early voting this year.

Mr. Bray stated there is a Vote by Mail drop box at 42 East Laurel Road. More election information will be out on the website and Newsletter. Voters will be able to vote at a machine on Election Day.

Councilman Gilligan – Thanks to the staff who sent out the 9/11 20th Anniversary e mail blast. Please stop by our memorial at the firehouse or find a moment to reflect upon the lives lost.

Councilman Tolomeo – Nothing at this time.

Councilwoman Lomanno –

Councilman Kelly – Take time to remember September 11 and the people who are no longer with us. So many families have been hurt by the opioid epidemic and our police officers almost every month save lives when they administer Narcan.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion was made by Councilman Gilligan, 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 asked about the details of the tax abatement ordinance. Mr. Keenan stated it's a 5-year abatement in which the taxes are phased in. Mr. Gentless asked if the developer on Berlin Road is building the project. Mr. Keenan stated the Borough always anticipated the developer selling the approved project to a builder. Mr. Gentless asked if there is a start date. Mr. Keenan stated there is no date set at this time. Mr. Gentless asked about the tax Assessor appointment. Mr. Keenan stated the assessor resigned and is

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being replace by the deputy tax assessor. Mr. Gentless asked if the borough received any COVID Relief money. Mr. Keenan sated the Borough received the money earlier this year and its expenses related to COVID were reimbursed through a FEMA grant. Mr. Keenan stated the borough received approximately \$36,000. Mr. Gentless asked what is the salary for the garbage truck driver. Mr. Keenan stated the borough anticipates a salary of \$55,000-65,000 and benefits and part time employees for the back of the truck at \$18 per hour. Mr. Gentless asked if there are any updates on the Bradlees. Mr. Keenan stated there are no updates but Council is discussing the site during executive session. Mr. Gentless asked when the senior assisted living project would start. Mr. Keenan stated the developer anticipates starting before the end of the year. There were no more comments

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Keenan state the Executive Session meeting will not include any discussions on the Garbage Shared Service Agreement with Magnolia.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Kelly to enter into an Executive Session Meeting with all Council voting aye. Council entered Executive Session at 7:29 pm. Minutes of Executive Session Minutes of Executive Session are kept separately and released when the matters discussed no longer require confidentiality. Council left the Executive Session meeting at 8:30 pm

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilman Tolomeo to return from the Executive Session Meeting with all Council voting aye.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Gandy, seconded by Councilwoman Hall with all Council voting aye to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Bray, Borough Clerk