



Stratford, Connecticut

MINUTES OF MEETING

THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCTED A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009** IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, 2725 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD, CT PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY POSTED.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council Chairman Michael Henrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Michael Julian, Mr. Alvin O'Neal, Mr. Gavin Forrester, Mr. John Dempsey, Ms. Amy Wanamaker, Mr. William Stroomer, Mr. Thomas Moore, Mr. Joseph Kubic, Mr. Michael Henrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Emma Brooks

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor James Miron, Town Attorney Richard Buturla, CAO Suzanne McCauley

INVOCATION PRESENTED BY FIFTH DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN DEMPSEY FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Minutes of: Public Forum and Regularly scheduled meeting of September 14 and special meeting of September 26, 2009.

RESOLVED: That the reading of the foregoing minutes be dispensed with as copies thereof have been previously provided to each Council Member and the same be and are hereby approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. STROOMER SECONDED BY MR. DEMPSEY TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. O'Neal — re: Mr. Fuller's comment in connection with the bid process.

Mr. Dempsey — re: Mr. Fuller's comment in connection with the bid process.

Mr. Stroomer — re: Airport expansion

COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC FORUM — continued

Mr. Moore — re: Mr. Fuller’s comment in connection with the bid process, Mr. Cybart’s claim, Mr. Rimkunas’ yard trashing.

Mr. Henrick — re: Stratford High School Boilers.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 COMMUNICATION FROM: Timothy P. Aspinwall, Esq. DATED: Sept. 22, 2009
RE: 133-135 Peck Street, Stratford, CT
(paraphrased) The property owners desire to donate this property to the Town.

RESOLVED: that the above communication is accepted and the process for accepting the property be and is hereby referred to the Planning Commission for a mandatory review pursuant to § 8-24 of the Conn. Gen. Stats.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY STROOMER TO REFER THE FOREGOING ITEM TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A MANDATORY REVIEW. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. MAYOR’S REPORT, COMMITTEE REPORTS, TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORTS

4.1 MAYOR’S REPORT

4.1.1 Resolution authorizing Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Program-Radio Tower and Generator Earmark through the Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$325,000

WHEREAS, the *Town of Stratford* has been awarded a grant from the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program* in an amount not to exceed \$325,000; and

WHEREAS, grant funding will be used to enhance local communication by between the Town agencies involved in public safety preparedness and response, State Emergency Management Regions One and Two and with the surrounding cities of Bridgeport and Milford, and to create a reliable secondary location for Stratford’s Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the *Town of Stratford* enter into a grant agreement with the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program*.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town Council:

MAYOR'S REPORT — continued

1. That it is cognizant of the Town's application and subsequent contract with the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program* for funding to support improved communications and power generation in an amount not to exceed \$325,000; and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor or his designee to execute and file such application with the *U.S. Department of Justice*, to provide such additional information, to implement the program once the award is secured, and to execute such other contracts and documents as maybe necessary under this program.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. KUBIC SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO REFER THE FOREGOING ITEM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.1.2 Resolution authorizing an application to the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism in an amount not to exceed \$400,000

WHEREAS, the *Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism* is authorized to provide financial assistance through the *Capital Improvement Grant Program-Historic Restoration Fund* in the form of grants in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. Sec. 10-392 and C.G.S. Sec. 10-411 of the Connecticut General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the *Town of Stratford*, submit an application to the *CT Commission on Culture and Tourism* in an amount not to exceed \$400,000; and,

WHEREAS, the *Town of Stratford* is required to provide a cash match of up to \$200,000; and,

WHEREAS, the *Town of Stratford* will also be required to enter into a Preservation Restriction with the *State of Connecticut* should financial assistance be provided to the Town; and,

WHEREAS, the *Town of Stratford* would benefit from the application of such funds toward improving historic and cultural assets in the Town; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town's grant application and subsequent contract to the *CT Commission on Culture and Tourism* for funds not to exceed \$400,000;

MAYOR’S REPORT — continued

Resolution ... CT Commission on Culture and Tourism ... not to exceed \$400,000 — continued

- 2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the mayor or his designee to execute and file such application and Preservation Restriction with ***CT Commission on Culture and Tourism***, to provide such additional information and to execute such other contracts and documents as maybe necessary under this program.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. KUBIC TO DENY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. MESSRS. JULIAN AND KUBIC WITHDRAW THE MOTION. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. KUBIC TO PLACE THE FOREGOING ITEM ON THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 4.1.3 Monthly Personnel Report for Period Ending September 30, 2009 — Mr. Miron distributed the report.

4.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.2.1 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE —The Ordinance Committee did not conduct the regularly scheduled meeting of September 28, 2009 due to lack of agenda. MR. FORRESTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, STATED THAT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WOULD GO FORWARD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009.

- 4.2.3 FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE — The Finance and Claims Committee conducted the regularly scheduled meeting of September 26, 2009 with the following referred to Council without recommendation:

CLAIM OF: John J. Cybart AMOUNT: \$3,981.30 – legal fees

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Finance and Claims Committee is accepted and the Claim of John Cybart for the amount of ~~\$3,981.30~~ \$1,990.65 be and is hereby granted/~~denied~~.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPROVE THE AMOUNT OF \$3,981.30. CHAIRMAN HENRICK RECOGNIZED MR. CYBART. MR. KUBIC OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO GRANT FOR FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT THE AMOUNT OF \$1,990.65.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed: 9:15 p.m.

Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 9:25 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS — continued

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE — continued

MESSRS. JULIAN AND STROOMER ACCEPT MR. KUBIC'S FRIENDLY AMENDMENT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.

4.2.5 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE — The Public Safety Committee meeting of September 15, 2009 was not conducted. MR. FORRESTER ASKED MR. MOORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, TO PLACE "LUCAS CPR DEVICE" ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

4.2.17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION — This subcommittee's regularly scheduled meeting of September 8, 2009 was conducted as well as a special meeting on September 28, 2009. At the special meeting the following was referred to Council with favorable recommendation:

Changes to the Residential Rehabilitation Program: foreclosure issues and applicants who had become over-leveraged on their properties due to falling house values. Two RRP homeowners had *lis pendens* filed on their properties by their primary lenders in the past year and one property had gone to foreclosure. (*found on pages 3 and 9 of Guidelines*)

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Community Development Subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission is accepted and the above stated changes to the Residential Rehabilitation Program be and are hereby granted.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. O'NEAL SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING CHANGES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.23 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE — The Beautification Committee's regularly scheduled meeting of September 1, 2009 was canceled. MR. STROOMER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCED THAT THE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS CEREMONY WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL AT 7:00 P.M.

4.2.27 BLIGHT COMMITTEE (a.k.a. Property Maintenance Review Committee per § 161-7 of Stratford Town Code) — The Property Maintenance Review Committee did not conduct a meeting during the month of September 2009. — MR. JULIAN STATED THAT A BLIGHT CONDITION OCCURS AT 707 MAIN STREET. MR. BUTURLA WILL REPLY TO THE CONCERN AFTER SOME RESEARCH.

COMMITTEE REPORTS — continued

4.3 TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

4.3.1 AIRPORT PURCHASE — continuing item. — NO BUSINESS FURNISHED.

4.3.2 Laura Holt, Admx. v D. Wilbur, et al — Mr. Buturla reported that this case against the town was withdrawn.

4.3.3 Efrain Colon v Town of Stratford, et al — NO BUSINESS FURNISHED.

4.3.4 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Julian — re: Airport Land conveyance to City of Bridgeport.

Mr. Forrester — re: (1) Christ Church parking lot (2) Loan to Brakettes. Mr. Buturla asked that the minutes reflect that the agreement for interest on the loan is for 1 year interest-free. (3) special interest work for the city of Bridgeport done by Richard Buturla’s Law firm (4) Airport purchase.

Mr. Dempsey — re: Stonybrook Road property lines.

Ms. Wanamaker — re: discussions during executive sessions.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed: 10:15 p.m.

Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 10: 19 p.m.

Mr. Kubic — re: Houses conveyed to Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Henrick — re: Utility companies and issues with repaving of roads.

Mr. Stroomer — re: Utility company and issues with Anson Street.

5. QUESTIONS TO MAYOR OR STAFF

Mr. O’Neal — re: poor repaving of Lordship Boulevard.

Mr. Forrester — re: (1) responsibility for payment of Police assigned to state construction work on Ferry Boulevard (2) depleting of funds in Parks Dept. overtime budget (3) responsibility for payment of Police Officer at Railroad station. (4) progress of citation issued to City of Bridgeport by D.E.P. for the broken gate at the culvert on south Main Street. (5) campaigning at town events while on official duty representing the town

Mr. Dempsey — re: EMS construction project bid issue as stated by Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Moore — Only one executive session has occurred re: Airport/SAEP. The airport expansion/ moving of Main Street discussion has never been brought up since that time.

Mr. Julian — re: (1) airport/SAEP (2) Savin Engineers hired for Animal Control facility

Mr. Henrick — re: (1) the collapsed catch basin at Meadowbrook and Brookbend Roads has not yet been repaired although it has been 3 years since I first reported the concern. (2) Albert Avenue potholes (3) Overlay on Hawley Lane (4) funds for Wooster field

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.2 TABLED ITEMS

6.2.2 TOWN VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT/INFORMATION – PROVIDED BY MAYOR’S OFFICE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO REMOVE THE FOREGOING ITEM FROM THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Mr. Henrick announced that this item will be an agenda item for the special Council meeting of October 26, 2009. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO RETURN THE FOREGOING ITEM TO THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.3 BID TABULATION RESULTS FOR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY BID NUMBER 2009-064 — Tabled during Council meetings of Sept. 14 and 28, 2009

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO REMOVE THE FOREGOING ITEM FROM THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that Olympus Construction be and is hereby awarded the Animal Control Facility Contract for General Construction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO APPROVE OLYMPUS CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FOREGOING PROJECT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.4 TABLED APPOINTMENTS

6.4.5 HOUSING AUTHORITY — 5-year term, appointed by Town Council.

RESOLVED: that GLORIA STEWART LEE of 390 WOODEND ROAD be and is hereby appointed a member of the Stratford Housing Authority. (unexpired term of Jackie Cooper ends June 30, 2013) — DECEASED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. O’NEAL SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO REMOVE THE FOREGOING APPOINTMENT FROM THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. O’NEAL SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO APPOINT GLORIA STEWART LEE OF 390 WOODEND ROAD TO THE FOREGOING HOUSING AUTHORITY POSITION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

WAIVER OF COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. O’NEAL SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL ITEM TO THE AGENDA ENTITLED “ORDINANCE CREATING GREAT MEADOWS PARK (#08-11)”. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORDINANCE CREATING GREAT MEADOWS PARK (#08-11)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. O’NEAL SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO AMEND THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE TO CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR AND **OMISSION WHICH WILL CHANGE THE WORD “MEADOWMERE” TO “*MEADOWVIEW” AND ADD THE LAST SENTENCE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO WAIVE THE READINGS OF THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR AND OMISSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ordinance Creating Great Meadows Park (08-11)

Sponsored by Alvin O’Neal (D-2); Gavin B. Forrester III (D-3)

Statement of Purpose; Intent;

The Town of Stratford is committed to preserving open space where possible and to provide passive recreation to residents of the *Meadowview Avenue residential district. The Town of Stratford is the owner of a parcel of land as depicted on the map attached to this ordinance which is bordered by the streets known as Access Road; *Meadowview Avenue; Philo Street; Ketcham Road; Woodend Road; and the adjacent property owners along the Southwestern transverse of the parcel. The property serves as a natural barrier between commercial development and the residential property owners and will provide an area of refuge for area residents and wildlife.

Restrictions on development

No structures can be constructed in the Park without the approval of the Town Council and Administration of the Town of Stratford, notwithstanding, improvements such as landscaping; plantings to include trees, shrubs or flowers; benches or walkways maybe be added with the approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.

Restrictions on usage

ORDINANCE CREATING GREAT MEADOWS PARK (#08-11) — continued

All conditions on usage imposed in parks located within the Town of Stratford shall apply to activities within the Great Meadows Park.

**Said Great Meadows Park shall remain a park in perpetuity.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 STATUS OF REVALUATION OF REAL ESTATE — Mr. Miron distributed a letter from vision Appraisal dated October 1, 2009 re: Revaluation Project Status. Additional information regarding data and values will be available for review after week of Oct. 19th.

8.2 APPOINTMENTS — None

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 REVIEW/DISCUSSION ITEM — list of outstanding building and facilities maintenance tasks re: Board of Education as forwarded from the Building Needs Committee. — updated and forwarded Aug. 3, 2009. MR. MIRON PRESENTED A PRELIMINARY UPDATE. MORE INFORMATION IS FORTHCOMING. MR. HENRICK WISHES THIS ITEM TO REMAIN ON THE AGENDA.

9.2 JUSTIN LoSCHIAVO ACCIDENT COST TO TOWN — *DISCUSSION ITEM*. MR. MIRON DISTRIBUTED ADDITIONAL DATA re: First and Third party accident reports.

10. ADJOURNMENT— Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda items or further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. ON A MOTION MADE BY MR. FORRESTER, SECONDED BY MR. O’NEAL, IT WAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:40 P.M.

ATTESTED BY: Carol Cabral
Carol Cabral, Council Clerk