

MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL  
November 3, 2011

President Frank Quattroco called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to Order at 7:01 PM. Present: Councilmen Al Correnti, Richard Fritz, Kieran Holland, Jay Ibach and Edward Mohn. Mayor Nickolas Hatzas, Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger, Solicitor Jill Nagy, Reading Police Chief William Heim and Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer. Borough Secretary/Treasurer Eileen Becker recorded minutes of the meeting. Absent: Vice President David Roche.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**RESIDENTS/PUBLIC** – There were no resident comments.

**POLICE CHIEF HEIM** – Submitted report information for both September and October. Chief Heim commented that retail theft and car break ins are the most common crimes in Kenhorst.

**MAYOR HATZAS**

- Submitted his report for the month of October; a total of \$567.68 was collected.
- Over the last ten months or so, the number one complaint the Mayor has heard from residents is that when calling the police non-emergency numbers, they are told that the police will not come out to take a report. The Mayor and Chief Heim have discussed this concern. Chief Heim stated the Reading Police Department does send police out to speak to residents, but recommends use of their alternative reporting method which has the resident completing a Citizen's Crime Report when a minor incident occurs. However; he confirmed that should a resident prefer to have a police officer come to their home to take a report, they should ask to speak with the Desk Sergeant when calling the non-emergency number. There is high turnover in the dispatch/call center and some of the staff members who answer the non-emergency numbers may not respond in the best way.

**FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER** - Submitted his report for the month of October. There was no loss to the borough.

**PRESIDENT QUATTROCK** - Asked for a motion to approve the October 6, 2011 meeting minutes. Councilman Ibach made said motion. Motion seconded by Councilman Fritz with all voting aye; motion passed.

**TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE** – No report

**FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ** – Announced total of the October bills and made a motion to have them approved. Motion seconded by Councilman Correnti with all voting aye; motion passed.

**CODES & EMERGENCY SERVICES, VICE PRESIDENT ROCHE**

- In Vice President Roche's absence, Mrs. Diesinger reviewed the Kraft Code Services October report – 2 commercial permits were issued
- Codes Officer Larry Andes is fully engaged working on residential permitting and getting ready for the rental inspection program. Larry will serve as the Zoning Officer for the upcoming Zoning Hearing review for 1500 Lancaster Avenue.

**PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND** – No report

**PROPERTY, COUNCILMAN CORRENTI**

- The property Committee met and discussed purchasing a vehicle for the Codes Officer, Mr. Andes. It was decided that for the near term, the Borough will hold off on buying a vehicle and will reimburse Mr. Andes the federal rate of \$0.555 per mile for borough use of his personal vehicle. Councilman Correnti made motion to approve mileage reimbursement for Mr. Andes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ibach; all voted aye and motion passed.
- The Borough's leaf picker has had some recent equipment problems – a recent repair cost \$800.00. The leaf picker is at least twenty years old; the Borough Manager is going to check into the availability of grant money for a new leaf picker. Mrs. Diesinger commented that it may be possible for the Borough to escrow recycling grant money it typically receives for a year or two to save for a new leaf picker.
- Regarding recent discussions about making changes to the Borough building in order to convert garage space into offices and possibly create a conference room – it was decided that we would use our crewmen to do the work in-house, when time, funding and priorities allow. This will be a long term, lower priority item.

**SANITATION, COUNCILMAN MOHN** – no report

**STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH** – Reported the Borough's street paving projects for this year have been completed, as well as the ADA handicap ramp installations.

**SOLICITOR NAGY**

- Continuing to work on the sewer agreement with the City – in the process of getting a meeting scheduled with both the City and Cumru Township
- Recommends meeting with Council in an Executive Session following tonight's meeting adjournment. The topic is to discuss pending litigation; there will be no action required.

**BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER**

- Report previously submitted to Council
- Had an initial meeting with representatives from FEMA and PEMA; another meeting is scheduled within the next two weeks. Mrs. Diesinger is hopeful that there may be funds approved for the Borough to reimburse the emergency storm expenses incurred.
- Have recovered \$7,800.00 in arrears during the month of October and \$3,000.00 just this week

**OLD BUSINESS**

- The Egan/901 New Holland Road zoning variance was granted with some conditions. They requested a variance to install a new electronic sign with amber, green and red lights. The Borough's current zoning regulations prohibit electronic/flashing signs with these colors. President Quattroch commented that Council will look at updating this provision in the Zoning Ordinance in conjunction with the current review being done on the entire Zoning Ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Police Contract** - Chief Heim provided Council with a signed Memo of Understanding for the Borough to extend the police services contract with the Reading Police Department through December 2015. Councilman Ibach asked several questions

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regarding the specifics of the agreement, as he did not get a chance to review it prior to now. Mrs. Diesinger responded that there were a few modifications made such as having payments made monthly versus quarterly and having police schedulers do their best to not have both of Kenhorst's dedicated officers out on leave at the same time. The scheduled increases for the contract cost are as follows: 2% in 2013, 3% in 2014, and 4% in 2015. Councilman Ibach said he would like to see police patrol coverage extended to a third shift. Mrs. Diesinger said this was discussed at length during the Police Committee's meeting with the Chief and it is not feasible at this time.

- **Ken-Grill Recreation Letter** - the Borough received a nice letter from the Ken-Grill Recreation Center thanking the Fire Chief and firemen for their assistance in pumping water out of the swimming pools during the recent storms.
- **Local Services Tax (LST)** - adopted Ordinance #536 to increase the LST to \$52.00/year. Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Councilman Holland with all voting aye; motion passed.
- **2012 Draft Budget** – a draft budget for 2012 has been prepared with no property tax increase. Councilman Fritz made motion to advertise draft budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Correnti; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Sewer/Refuse Penalties** – authorized advertisement of draft ordinance to amend Sanitary Sewer and Refuse penalties. Councilman Fritz made said motion. Motion seconded by Councilman Correnti; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Southern Berks EMS** – approved appointment of Councilmen Fritz to serve on Southern Berks EMS Executive Board in 2012. Said motion made by Councilman Correnti. Motion seconded by Councilman Holland with all voting aye; motion passed.
- **Act 32 Adoption - Berks EIT**– adopted Ordinance #537 as per Act 32 naming Berks EIT as EIT collector. Councilman Fritz made motion to approve. Motion seconded by Councilman Correnti; all voted aye and motion was approved.
- **Resolution #592** – Designation of Agent for Disaster Relief Assistance. Councilman Correnti made motion to approve Mrs. Diesinger as agent for the Borough. Motion seconded by Councilman Mohn; all voted aye, motion passed.
- **Adoption of 2012 International Building Code and Property Code changes** – Councilman Holland made motion to advertise draft ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Correnti; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Announcements** – Zoning Hearing Board meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 7PM to review the Savage Auto request to operate a used car lot at 1500 Lancaster Avenue (former Dunkin Donuts) and a reminder that the Borough Office will be closed November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Correnti, seconded by Councilman Holland, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Eileen D. Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer