

MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 1, 2011

Vice President David Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to Order at 7:00 PM. Present: Councilmen Al Correnti, Richard Fritz, Kieran Holland, Jay Ibach and Edward Mohn. Mayor Nickolas Hatzas, Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger, Codes Officer Larry Andes, Solicitor Jill Nagy, Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer and Tax Collector Joanna Roche. Borough Secretary/Treasurer Eileen Becker recorded minutes of the meeting. Absent: President Frank Quattrock and Reading Police Chief William Heim.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC

Mr. and Mrs. James Stiefel, 1400 Block Crowder Avenue

Mr. and Mrs. Stiefel are concerned about the cost increase of rental housing permits from \$35.00 to \$100.00/year. They believe the increase is excessive. Mrs. Diesinger and Codes Officer Andes explained the Borough made the decision to raise the annual fee to cover the Borough's expenses to conduct annual inspections of rental properties as well as the administration of the rental permits. The Borough has been incurring a loss the past several years by only charging \$35.00/year.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM – Mayor Hatzas stated that Chief Heim will provide November, December and year end reports at the next Regular Meeting.

MAYOR HATZAS

- Submitted his report for the month of November; a total of \$625.48 was collected
- Snow plan discussion

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Submitted his report for the month of November; there were no losses to the borough.
- Reminder that the annual Christmas parade and Children's party will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2011.

VICE PRESIDENT ROCHE - Asked for a motion to approve the November 3, 2011 meeting minutes. Councilman Fritz made said motion. Motion seconded by Councilman Ibach with all voting aye; motion passed.

TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE – No report

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

CODES & EMERGENCY SERVICES, VICE PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Vice President Roche reviewed the Kraft Code Services November report for commercial permits.
- Codes Officer Larry Andes provided a written status report of permits. Vice President Roche asked that the list be posted on the bulletin board in Council chambers.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND – No report

PROPERTY, COUNCILMAN CORRENTI – No report

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SANITATION, COUNCILMAN MOHN – No report

STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH – Reported the ADA handicap ramp grant reimbursement of \$30,000.00 had been received.

SOLICITOR NAGY – No report

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER

- Report previously submitted to Council
- Have recovered \$7,800.00 in arrears during the month of October and \$3,000.00 just this week

OLD BUSINESS

- The Savage Used Cars zoning variance was granted for 1500 Lancaster Avenue (former Dunkin Donuts property)

NEW BUSINESS

- **2012 Budget** – the draft budget for 2012 has been duly advertised and made available to the public and Council for review and comment. Councilman Fritz made motion to adopt the 2012 budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Ibach; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **2012 Tax Levied – Ordinance #538** – the tax levies for 2012 have been duly advertised. Councilman Ibach made motion to approve Ordinance #538. Motion seconded by Councilman Mohn; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **2012 General and Sewer Fund Expenditures – Resolution #593** – Councilman Mohn made motion to approve the 2012 General and Sewer Fund Expenditures as outlined in the approved 2012 Budget. Councilman Holland seconded the motion; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Sanitary Sewer and Refuse Penalties – Ordinance #539** – the changes to the penalty calculation for sewer and refuse arrears has been duly advertised. Councilman Holland made motion to approve Ordinance #539. Motion seconded by Councilman Ibach; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Ordinances #540 and #541 regarding adoption of the 2012 International Building and Property Maintenance Codes were tabled.**
- **Street Light Addition on 1700 block of Liberty Avenue – Resolution #594** – Mrs. Diesinger reported Met-ED will install a new street light in the 1700 block of Liberty Avenue at no charge to the Borough because a telephone pole already exists there. The only expense to the Borough will be the monthly electric charges. A Borough resident requested that another street light be installed at this location for safety and security reasons. Councilman Ibach made motion to approve Resolution #594. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fritz; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Neighborhood Watch Committee Solicitation Requests:**
 1. The Kenhorst Neighborhood Watch Committee (NWC) requested permission to conduct door-to-door solicitation in the Borough to raise awareness of and funds for their group's projects. Councilman Ibach made motion to approve this request and to waive the permit solicitation fee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mohn; all voted aye and motion passed.
 2. The NWC also requested approval for five (5) signs to be purchased and posted within the Borough to promote awareness of the NWC and their mission.

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Councilman Ibach made motion to approve the sign installations. Motion seconded by Councilman Holland ; all voted aye and motion passed.

- **Late Payment Penalty Request from Mr. Albert Tose** – Mrs. Roche presented a written request on behalf of Mr. Albert Tose for relief from the late tax payment penalty charged to him. Mrs. Roche’s letter provided details regarding the situation that occurred between Mr. Tose and his mortgage company. Mrs. Roche asked Council to waive the penalty amount in light of Mr. Tose’s history of timely tax bill remittances and the unusual circumstances. Councilman Fritz made motion to approve Mr. Tose’s request. Motion seconded by Councilman Mohn; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Sewer Pump Retrofit** – Mrs. Diesinger recommended the old sewer station pump be rehabbed to be kept for use as a backup – a quote of \$3,950.00 for a complete rehab was obtained. Councilman Ibach made a motion to proceed with the pump rehab. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fritz; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Joint Sewer Authority Discussion** – Councilman Fritz made a motion to authorize Solicitor Nagy to continue exploring the option to form a joint sewer authority with Kenhorst Borough and Cumru Township. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ibach; all voted aye and motion passed.
- **Snow Plan** – Mrs. Diesinger asked Council to discuss the Borough’s current snow plan provisions regarding the declaration of a snow emergency and the procedures for having residents move their vehicles for the streets to be plowed. Councilmen Mohn, Fritz Ibach, Correnti as well as Vice President Roche and Mayor Hatzas offered comments. Mayor Hatzas asked Roads Supervisor Dwayne Hart for his opinion. There was disagreement regarding the former odd/even plowing and issuing tickets to those residents who do not move their vehicles. **Councilman Ibach made a motion to approve the current Snow Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mohn. Voting: 3-Yes (Councilmen Ibach, Mohn and Roche); 3-No (Councilmen Correnti, Fritz and Holland). Mayor Hatzas voted No – motion did not pass.** Mrs. Diesinger will research the Borough getting a reverse 911 call system in order to notify residents of snow emergency and plowing procedures. The Borough Secretary will confirm if the Borough’s phone/voice mail system can be used to provide snow plan information to residents.
- **Merit Increases** – Vice President Roche reported the Personnel Committee’s recommendation that Council approve a 3.0% for the Borough Manager in recognition for her work on recovering sewer arrears funds. A 1.5% increase is recommended for the rest of the Borough staff. Councilman Fritz made said motion. Councilman Correnti seconded the motion; all voted aye and motion passed.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Correnti, seconded by Councilman Ibach, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen D. Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer