

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 7, 2012

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council met in an Executive Session – from 7:01 to 7:15 PM. Solicitor Nagy reported that the subject concerned current litigation regarding past legal bills; no decisions were made.

**RESIDENTS/PUBLIC**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gable, 700 Block High Blvd – Mr. Gable showed Council pictures of his property where the Borough's storm drain/catch basin/manhole is located. As Council already is aware, this area routinely floods. As a result, he and his family are not able to use this part of their yard. He is getting tired of the problem and would like to know when Council intends to permanently fix it. He's met with previous Councils regarding this issue. Mr. Gable met with representatives from the Berks County Conservancy at his home today and they are recommending a larger pipe be installed. Mrs. Gable expressed concern for her children's and others' safety due to the potential of sinkholes caused by the water.

President Roche commented that Council discussed this issue at the Pre-Council meeting this week. They understand the Gables' frustration and concern. Council plans on having the Borough Engineer come out to investigate the problem and make a formal recommendation for correcting it. It is going to be very expensive and Council needs to determine how to pay for it. President Roche committed to Mr. Gable that the Borough will move forward with this project. He will ask the Borough Manager to continue to keep the Gables informed of progress.

Dennis Schoenberger, 1400 Block of Crowder Avenue – Mr. Schoenberger expressed concern about the continuing problem of his neighbor parking a vehicle in the alley area behind their homes obstructing the alley. He believes that the alley area needs to be marked off so the police can enforce the no parking ordinance. If it can't be marked off, they would request the alley be closed so no one could use it. He also complained about the trees encroaching in the alleyway. Mr. Schoenberger also commented about 4 foot high weeds next to the fence on the side of his neighbor at 1425 Crowder Avenue. He also complimented the Reading Police and said they have been more responsive and helpful in the few years the Borough has had them than Cumru Police.

President Roche said that someone from Codes Enforcement would come out to observe the weed and tree problem. He will talk with the Chief about the police enforcing the no parking rule if pins/markers are installed. He will ask the Borough Manager to call Mr. Schoenberger on Monday and will make sure Mr. Schoenberger's pictures are returned. Solicitor Nagy recommended that Council authorize the Borough Engineer to survey and mark alley boundaries. It is a criminal violation to remove them. Chief Heim offered to have someone from the police traffic unit assist as well.

Councilman Correnti made a motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to mark off both the Crowder alley area and the end of the Liberty Avenue/New Holland Road alley area. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith; roll call vote was unanimous.

**POLICE CHIEF HEIM** – the Chief presented the May 2012 crime statistics report

**MAYOR HATZAS** – President Roche announced that a total of \$1,010.22 was collected in fines during the month of May.

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**FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER** – Per report submitted; there were 32 calls during the month of May and there was no loss to the Borough.

**TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE – absent**

**CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE**

- May report: 10 building permits, 7 property transfer inspections – Kraft continues to work on the rental property inspections
- President Roche commented that the Neighborhood Watch group is doing well, continuing to grow in number, and one or two people at each meeting. They have several more dog walks scheduled.
- President Roche reported that his and the Mayor's recommendation to Council regarding the new zoning ordinance sign requirements is as follows. The Borough Engineer will take photos of all existing business signs, both conforming and non-conforming. Businesses will be allowed to keep their current signs even if non-conforming. If a sign needs to be changed/replaced, the new zoning ordinance requirements will apply. Vice President Correnti commented that he thought this was a very fair and wise decision on the part of President Roche and Mayor Hatzas. Councilman Smith made a motion to authorize the Borough Engineer/Kraft Code Services to proceed with the sign documentation process. Motion was seconded by Councilman Correnti; roll call vote was unanimous.
- There have been many questions recently about the Borough's rules regarding burning. I.e. what is allowed: grills, fire pits, chimineas, etc. President Roche alerted Council that he will get them a copy of the current ordinance and would like to discuss the issue at next month's meeting.

**PRESIDENT ROCHE** – Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the May 3, 2012 Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith; roll call vote was unanimous.

**FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ** – Councilman Fritz provided the revenue and expenditure report. Councilman Fritz made motion to approve May 2012 expenses. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith; roll call vote was unanimous.

**PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND**

- Councilman Holland reported that the playground is ready for the new summer season. New mulch has been put down, new blinds installed at the Community Center and playground equipment painted where needed.
- Councilman Holland made a motion to allow the children of full-time employees who do not live in the Borough to attend the playground program at no cost. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith; roll call vote was unanimous.

**PROPERTY, COUNCILMAN CORRENTI**

- The bagger/mulcher has been ordered at an approximate cost of \$500.00
- We are getting quotes from several private landscapers to mow and trim the Borough islands

**REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN** – President Roche reported that the Borough Manager submitted the application for a large recycling grant

**STORMWATER AND SANITARY SEWER, PRESIDENT ROCHE** – Sewer items to be covered under New Business.

**STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH** – will be covered under new business

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**SOLICITOR NAGY**

- Ken-Grill Pool property – bridge weight limit issue - Solicitor Nagy's recommended that Council require Alvernia/Ken-Grill to post signs indicating the vehicle weight limit and a caution to travel slowly over the bridge. It has been determined that it is safe for emergency vehicles to cross the bridge if they travel no faster than 5 MPH. The Borough can't be held liable once the signs are posted and because the fields are located on private property. Solicitor Nagy or the Borough Manager can send the letter to Alvernia/Ken-Grill.
- Legal Bill Matter - Councilman Smith made a motion to authorize Solicitor Nagy to pursue a subpoena of the former solicitor relative to the lawsuit matter. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fritz; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Sewer Agreement – The Solicitor reviewed the current draft of the City's Sewer Agreement and provided comments in a 10 page memo which was shared with the Borough Manager and the Borough Engineer. The solicitor will share this with the City of Reading as well as Muhlenberg Township and the other interested municipalities.

**BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER** – President Roche presented the Borough Manager's report which had been previously submitted to Council:

- Sewer/Refuse Arrears Collection Update \$10,405
- Installed new mulch at playground, blinds at CC, play equipment painted
- Spring street sweeping
- Summer Newsletter

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Adoption of Ordinance #542 - Floodplain Management – Councilman Correnti made a motion to adopt Ordinance #542 as advertised. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Advertisement of updated Zoning Ordinance and SALDO - Solicitor Nagy explained that Council can plan to hold the public meeting regarding the updated Zoning and SALDO ordinance on the same night as their August Council meeting. The public hearing could be at 6:30 or 7 PM with the regular business meeting following at 7 or 7:30 PM. Councilman Smith made a motion to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise the new ordinances. Motion was seconded by Councilman Holland; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Advertisement of bid documents for 2012 Street Paving Program - Councilman Holland made a motion to authorize advertising the 2012 Street Paving projects. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fritz; roll call vote was unanimous
- Mifflin Broncos Athletic Association – Council approved the Mifflin Broncos to use the field provided they agree to 1) provide certificate of liability insurance, 2) they are restricted from the baseball diamond and outfield and 3) will restore/repair any damage done by their use.
- Gable Property – Councilman Fritz brought up a question as to whether the GMACC Council could assist with the repair to Mr. Gable's property. Council would like the Borough Manager to research this possibility.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Holland, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Eileen D. Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer