

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
June 6, 2013

President David Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:01 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen DePasquale, Fritz, Holland and Mohn, Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer, Reading Police Ofc. Daniele Zacckey, Solicitor Jill Nagy and Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger. Absent: Councilman Ibach, Tax Collector Roche and Reading Police Chief Heim. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, recorded minutes of the meeting.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC – no residents requested to be heard.

MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the May Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale and the roll call vote was unanimous.

MAYOR HATZAS

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$1,005.35 collected in fines during the month of May.
- Mayor Hatzas brought up the increasing problems that the Borough and residents have been having with rental properties. He recited sections of Ordinance # 534, which updated Ordinance #457. Ordinance #534 specifies rental unit permit requirements as well as the provisions for the behavior of rental unit occupants. Because the new Ordinance has been in effect for more than a year, it's time for the Borough to enforce it to the fullest extent of the law. The Mayor commented that many longtime residents of the Borough approach him with complaints/concerns regarding the problems many of the rental unit occupants create. He has also observed the same during property maintenance reviews. The Mayor commented that many of these tenants live and act like pigs and it's time for Council to address this problem before it gets further out of hand.
- Mayor Hatzas, President Roche, Ms. Nagy and Mrs. Diesinger discussed the Disruptive Conduct Report (DCR) forms for rental unit occupants. The Borough will use these forms to document incidents and violations. In addition, Ms. Nagy said police reports can also be attached to the Borough DCR forms.
- President Roche mentioned that one of the Borough's property owners was found guilty this week of non-compliance of the rental unit permitting and inspection requirements for all 4 of his rental units. There was a discussion about the ongoing problems with the tenants of one of these properties. Ms. Nagy confirmed that the police reports regarding that property could be presented on a DCR form and pursued as additional violations for the property owner. Mayor Hatzas closed by saying that the Borough is serious about addressing all rental ordinance non-compliance issues.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM - absent

- Officer Daniele Zacckey attended the meeting in Chief Heim's absence. Officer Zacckey reviewed the May crime report previously submitted to Council.
- Officer Zacckey will be following up on several citizen online reports received about a problem block in the Borough.

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Submitted May month end fire call activity report. There were 23 calls and \$1,000.00 of loss to the Borough.
- Chief Weidenheimer distributed a handout about the Hook & Ladder Pig Roast to Council.

TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE - absent

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FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ

- Mr. Fritz provided the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the May expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche reviewed the May codes and permitting report from Kraft Code Services. There were 8 building permits issued and 3 re-inspections; 2 property transfer inspections and 38 rental inspections of 44 units. The report will be posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND

- Mr. Holland reported that the leaders are selected and as of today, there are 45 children registered. The maximum is 60 so there is still room for children to sign up. The first day of playground this year is Monday, June 17th.
- The broken equipment removal and extra mulching has been completed.

PROPERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI

- Mr. Correnti reported that the storm sewer pipes under the Borough's former salt shed building were televised and for the most part are in good condition.
- To further investigate the possible foundation issues of the salt shed building, there are plans to perform test boring around the building.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN

- As far as Mr. Mohn is aware, all is going well with the refuse collections – he hasn't been made aware of any problems, but asked that he be notified by the office if there are so he can speak with Eagle to resolve.
- Mrs. Becker responded that there have been some calls about yard waste being missed, but they are decreasing as residents and Eagle get used to the new collection schedule. Eagle is always responsive when we contact them about any problems/missed pickups.
- There was a discussion concerning the increased problem of residents putting out large pieces of furniture/junk for trash pickup without obtaining the \$10 green trash tags. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to approve a new 24-hour notice procedure to address this problem. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz and the roll call vote was unanimous. Property owners will be notified that they must remove the item from the curb area or that a trash tag(s) be purchased within 24 hours. If they do not comply, the Borough will have the item removed and the charge will be posted to the property account and/or a lien will be filed against the property to recover the cost.
- Mr. Mohn reported that he believes a resident in the 1500 Block of Kenhorst Blvd may be bringing large items into the Borough from his personal business and putting them out for trash pickup. Mrs. Diesinger and Mr. Roche confirmed that the Borough is aware of the situation and it is being addressed.

SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche confirmed that there is meeting planned for Tuesday, June 11th to address the Flow Meter installation locations. The meeting will be held here at the Borough Hall and attendees will include representatives from Kenhorst Borough, Cumru Township and the City of Reading.

STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH – absent; items to be covered later in the agenda

SOLICITOR NAGY – nothing to report at this time

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BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – May’s Manager’s report was previously submitted to Council.
Of Note/Completed in May

- Total arrears recovered – zero – new recovery cycle began on June 3rd
- Planted eight (8) Zelcova trees on Brooke Blvd
- 2013 Sanitary Sewer inspection of 11,118 feet of pipe and repairs
- 2013 Street Sweeping – completed during the week of May 21st.
- Submitted 2012-2013 MS4 Storm Water Report to PADEP
- Storm Water - inspection of 2,000 feet of pipe at select system locations
- Ordered the 99 hp LCT6000 leaf vacuum through PADEP recycling grant
- Continued Property Maintenance Inspections - sent 42 NOVs

Unfinished Business –

- **Upgrade to Phone Lines** – *tabled at this time*
- **Reverse 911 Communication System** – *tabled at this time*
- Mr. Roche and Mrs. Diesinger agreed that these 2 tabled items will be researched in the next few months so that they could possibly be addressed in next year’s budget.

New Business –

- Reminder – Next Council Meeting will be TUESDAY, JULY 2nd due to July 4th Holiday

RESIDENTS

- Mrs. Helen Piccone of the 1100 Block of Fern Avenue complained about the vacant property at 1105 Fern Avenue which is attached to her home. The house is now owned by a bank/mortgage company and has been unoccupied for several years. She is very concerned because the property is not being maintained and the structure is in disrepair. She is especially concerned about the condition of the roof because of the potential of damage to her home. Mrs. Piccone believes the Borough hasn’t been doing its job and wants to know what is going to be done. She has her house on the market for sale and knows that the house next door is devaluing her home.
- Ms. Nagy recommended that Council consider taking this property to sheriff’s sale so that the Borough can make sure the property is maintained and repaired. She will contact the property owner to advise them of the Borough’s concerns and plans to proceed with a sheriff’s sale if the violations are not corrected. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to approve a sheriff’s sale of 1105 Fern Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohn and the roll call vote was unanimous.

REMARKS – there were no additional remarks. There being no further business, Vice President Correnti made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer