

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL

August 1, 2013

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC

Ms. Grisel Navarro, 900 Block Fern Avenue – Ms. Navarro has lived in the Borough for 12 years. She is very concerned and angry about the lack of community policing in the Borough. She believes that prior to the Borough contracting with the City of Reading, there were more patrols, the officers knew her, her family and neighbors, and they cared. She cited several examples that she felt demonstrate the Reading Police are not doing community policing. She complained about different businesses near her home (some located with the Reading City limits and others in Kenhorst Borough). She asked Chief Heim and Borough Council where the police are and did anyone have a response to her concerns.

Chief Heim, Mayor Hatzas and President David Roche responded to some of Ms. Navarro's questions and statements. When Ms. Navarro asked if we still do not have coverage during the night shift, Mayor Hatzas stated that there is a Reading Police officer in the Borough 24 hours a day. Mr. Mohn commented that he was not initially supportive of the switch to Reading Police; however, he now thinks they are doing a good job.

President Roche offered to have Chief Heim put the assigned Kenhorst officers in touch with Ms. Navarro so that they can meet. Both President Roche and Mayor Hatzas encouraged Ms. Navarro to consider becoming involved with the Neighborhood Watch Committee which meets on the last Thursday of every month at Borough Hall. Either Mr. Roche or Mr. Hatzas attends every meeting as does a representative from the Reading Police Department.

MAYOR HATZAS

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$1,632.93 was collected in fines during the month of July.
- The Mayor asked that the Chief provide an update regarding the recent shooting and attempted robbery that occurred at a commercial property near the Kenhorst/Reading border.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM

- The Chief commented that Ms. Navarro may not have been comparing apples to apples when reviewing the various Police reports.
- Chief Heim provided a brief summary of the attempted robbery that morning at the Wash Around the Clock Laundromat located at 839 Fern Avenue. There was some discussion as to whether this property was actually in the Reading City limits or within Kenhorst Borough, as reported in the media. Mr. Correnti stated that when he was on council previously, it was determined that the building at 839 Fern Avenue was located within the Reading City limits but that the gas pumps were in Kenhorst Borough. Chief Heim concluded that it really didn't matter since Reading Police cover both areas.
- Chief Heim reviewed the July 2013 Monthly Police report.

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MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

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

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Submitted July month end fire call activity report. There were 34 calls and no loss to the Borough.
- Reminder that the Fire Company's annual Chicken BBQ Dinner Sale is this coming Sunday, August 4th from 11AM to 3PM. Tickets are still available from firefighters and in the Borough Office.

TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE - absent

FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ

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

CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche reviewed the July codes and permitting report from Kraft Code Services. There were 15 building permits issued; 4 property transfer certificates issued, 3 rental inspections and 10 rental re-inspections conducted. The open permit report will be posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.
- Other Codes items to come later in the agenda.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND

- Mr. Holland reported that the playground program seemed to have proceeded very smoothly and that next Friday, August 9th is the last day. Council should be pleased with the staff hired this year.

PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- The most important Personnel matter for Council concerns the Employee Health Insurance renewal. The premium costs have more than doubled at renewal this year. Mrs. Diesinger is gathering information/quotes and the Personnel Committee will get together soon to arrive at a plan.

PROPERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI

- Mr. Correnti reported that the Public Works crew had several blades/saws sharpened and maintained
- He spoke with Mr. Hart about getting the Borough's gas powered edger in working order.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN

- Mr. Mohn stated that as far as he knows, things are going well with Eagle Disposal's service. No one has made him aware of any problems.

SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche reported that the Borough is working on a review of the City draft sewer agreement and a new draft with Cumru Township.

STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH – absent

- Mrs. Diesinger gave an update regarding the status of the High Blvd storm water project. Mr. Fritz commented that the large rocks were delivered to the site today.

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SOLICITOR NAGY – has items to be covered later in the agenda.

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – July report was submitted to Council. Items of Note Completed in July:

- As mentioned, site preparation is continuing for the GMACC Joint Project - High Blvd Storm water Pipe Removal.
- Continued Property Maintenance Inspections – *3 citations submitted to DJ in July*
- Second Quarter Sewer/Refuse bills mailed out the week of July 15th.
- Began work on 2014 Budget.
- Met with Codes, Personnel, Streets/SW, Sewer and Blight Committees

Unfinished Business –

- Upgrade to Phone Lines – *tabled at this time for consideration in 2014 Draft Budget*
- Reverse 911 Communication System – *tabled at this time for consideration in 2014 Budget*

New Business –

- Authorized Draft Sewer Agreement Document – Mr. DePasquale made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to work on a draft of the Sewer Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Advertisement for Cable Franchise Public Meeting - Mr. Holland made a motion to advertise the public hearing on 9/5/2013 required as part of the Draft Cable Franchise Agreement renewal process. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Solicitor to Draft a Resolution for Residential Email Zoning Notification - Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to draft a resolution for Email Zoning Notifications. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale; roll call vote was unanimous. This does not replace written, mailed notices but serves as a supplemental form of notification as newly required by the Municipal Planning Code.
- Authorized Solicitor to Draft Supplemental Ordinance for Blighted Properties - Mr. Fritz made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to draft an ordinance regarding blighted properties to provide supplement to the current Property Maintenance Code. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale; roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Abatement Action for 1105 Fern Avenue and 1408 Commonwealth - Mr. DePasquale made a motion to authorize the Solicitor, Manager and Code Official to take all actions necessary to classify 1105 Fern and 1408 Commonwealth as dangerous structures and abate the danger as needed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz; 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. Roche. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer