

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
September 5, 2013

President Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:02 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen Correnti, DePasquale, Fritz, Holland, Ibach and Mohn, Reading Police Chief William Heim, Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer, Solicitor Jill Nagy and Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger. Absent: Tax Collector Joanna Roche. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, recorded minutes of the meeting.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC

Richard Weiser, 1500 Block of Fayette Avenue

Mr. Weiser asked that Council grant his and his wife's request for a Zoning Variance to erect an eight foot high security fence on their property. Ms. Nagy recommended that she and Chief Heim speak privately with the Weisers and their daughter regarding the details behind their request. Chief Heim and Ms. Nagy would then make a recommendation to Council. Ms. Nagy explained that if the higher fence was approved, Council could treat this as a "Conditional Use" exception for health and safety reasons versus grading, aesthetics, etc. Mr. Ibach made a motion to accept Ms. Nagy and Chief Heim's recommendation regarding the variance request. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale and the roll call vote was unanimous. Chief Heim and Ms. Nagy left the meeting to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Weiser and their daughter.

Helen Piccone, 1100 Block Fern Avenue

Ms. Piccone asked Council for an update on the Borough's plans to address the roof problem at 1105 Fern Avenue, a vacant property which is attached to her home. Ms. Diesinger confirmed that the Borough is treating 1105 Fern as a Blighted property and will vote on a roof replacement contractor. The roof repair will commence as soon as possible and Ms. Diesinger will send Ms. Piccone a letter documenting this. Ms. Piccone stated that she is in process of selling her home and the prospective buyer has requested documentation of the roof repair. Mr. Roche apologized for this decision taking so long and Ms. Piccone responded that she understood and she thanked Council for their help.

Peter O'Brien, 400 Block Haig Boulevard

Mr. O'Brien asked if Council was aware of the financial difficulties that Southern Berks Regional EMS is having. Mr. Fritz confirmed that Council is aware of and staying current on the issue. Mr. Fritz represents the Borough as a member of the Board of Directors at Southern Berks Regional EMS.

COUNCIL MEETING RECESSED – PUBLIC HEARING for CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL

The Regular Council meeting was recessed at 7:16 PM and President Roche called the Cable Franchise Agreement public hearing to order. President Roche read a statement regarding the cable agreement renewal and the hearing was opened to public comment.

Mr. Peter O'Brien of the 400 Block of Haig Blvd. asked if there was another cable option for the Borough to consider and Mr. Roche confirmed that there was not. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to renew the Comcast Cable Franchise agreement once it is finalized. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED - President Roche reconvened the Council Meeting at 7:33 PM.

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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

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

MAYOR HATZAS

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$1,176.48 was collected in fines during the month of August.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM

- Chief Heim reviewed the August Monthly Police report. The two robberies in August were the first armed robberies in Kenhorst since the Reading Police began their contract with Kenhorst.
- The Chief mentioned the attempted robbery at the Wash-Around-The-Clock laundry and the armed robbery at the Turkey Hill Mini-Market. The laundry robbery victim struggled with his attacker and he was given a commendation from the Reading Police Department for his bravery. The robbery suspect was apprehended as he sought medical treatment for the injuries he suffered during the robbery attempt.
- The recent armed robbery of the Turkey Hill mini market on New Holland Road is still under investigation. The Chief asked for the public's help in identifying possible suspects. Anyone with information should contact the Reading Police or Berks County Crime Alert.

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Submitted August month end fire call activity report. There were 21 calls and no loss to the Borough.
- Reminder that the Governor Mifflin Area Joint Fire Prevention Open House will be held at the GM High School on Saturday, October 14, 2013 from 12-3PM. Details available on the Fire Company and Borough websites.

TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE - absent

FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ

- Mr. Fritz provided the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the August 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 August codes and permitting report from Kraft Code Services. There were 7 building permits issued, 5 property transfers conducted and there are 15 open property transfer inspections. The open permit report will be posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council met in an Executive Session from approximately 7:38 to 7:53 PM. Ms. Nagy stated that the executive session concerned pending litigation regarding Codes Enforcement.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND – no report

PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE – no report

PROPERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI – no report

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN – no report

SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE – to be covered later in agenda

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STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH – no report

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

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – August's report was previously submitted to Council.

Items of note completed in August:

- GMACC Joint Project - High Blvd Storm Water Pipe Removal
- SW drainage in alley between Liberty and Columbia
- SW drainage at outfall behind Sunoco
- Received 700, 32 gallon recycle containers funded by PADEP Act 101, 902 Recycling Grant
- Completed first draft of 2014 Budget
- 2013 Fall Newsletter written and sent to printer
- Citations issued – 5 for Property Maintenance and 4 for soliciting w/o a permit + 8 NOVs
- Met with Personnel, Sewer and Blighted Properties Committees

Unfinished Business –

- Upgrade to Phone Lines and Reverse 911 Communication System – *tabled at this time*
- Regulations for annual census for trash/recycle billing purposes

New Business –

- Authorized 1105 Fern roof replacement under Blighted Property Mitigation program - Mrs. Diesinger read the three quotes received for the roof repair/replacement work needed at 1105 Fern Avenue: \$2,462.98 – American Fire and Water, \$3,216.82 – Berks Fire and Water Restoration and \$5,840.00 – Bachman Roofing. After discussion, it was decided that Mrs. Diesinger would look into whether all three were quoted using the same materials, spec, project scope, etc. Mr. Ibach made a motion to approve moving forward after Mrs. Diesinger has confirmed details as previously mentioned. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Advertisement of Blighted Properties supplemental ordinance - Mr. Ibach made a motion to advertise the draft Blighted Ordinance to supplement the Borough's current property maintenance ordinances per Ms. Nagy's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Council Notified of Borough's 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligation – Mrs. Diesinger cited the memo provided to Council notifying them that the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligation is \$12,091.00. No action is required.
- Approved GMSD Request for homecoming parade – Mrs. Diesinger reported that the Borough has again received a request from the Governor Mifflin School District regarding this year's homecoming parade originating from the Kenhorst Plaza on Sunday, October 7, 2013. PennDOT requires the school district to obtain permission from local municipalities before they approve use of state roads. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to approve the school district's request and authorize Mrs. Diesinger to send a letter in response. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy – Mrs. Diesinger advised Council that Mr. Brian Focht is moving out of the Borough and therefore will have to resign his position on the Zoning Hearing Board. Council will need to appoint a replacement. It was agreed that a written resignation from Mr. Focht would be obtained before his replacement can be appointed.
- Cumru Offer to Purchase Kenhorst Sanitary Sewer System – Council would like to carefully consider Cumru's offer and plans a response to the offer by the November meeting. Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize Mrs. Diesinger to investigate our options for the sewer system. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale and the roll call vote was unanimous.

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RECOGNITION OF MS. NAGY'S AWARD

Mrs. Diesinger read a congratulatory letter from Council to Ms. Nagy in recognition for her recent achievement of receiving the highest "AV" rating from her Berks County peer attorneys and judges.

REMARKS – there were no additional remarks. There being no further business, Mr. Ibach made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer

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