

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 7, 2013

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC

Pauline Lutostanski, 1300 Block Brooke Boulevard

Ms. Lutostanski thanked Council for the trees being replaced in the Brooke Boulevard islands. She does have concerns about the condition of two of the new trees and the number of trees that were planted in the 1300 block. The tree in front of 1313 Brooke never had mulch put around it when it was planted and it has been damaged from mowing and/or weed whacking. The tree in front of 1331 is leaning and she is concerned about its viability and safety as it grows. In addition, there were only 4 trees planted at a distance of about 70 feet apart. One of the Broadway Boulevard islands had 4 trees planted at a distance of about 25 feet apart. Also mentioned was the amount of trees in the triangular islands at the intersection of McArthur and Hancock. Ms. Lutostanski recommended the Berks County Conservancy as a resource regarding the "Plant 1 Million Trees" effort that municipalities such as Alsace Township, Shillington Borough and Wyomissing Borough have initiated. Ms. Lutostanski said she had spoken with Mrs. Diesinger in the past about these concerns. President Roche said he would talk with Mrs. Diesinger about her concerns and someone will get back to her.

Alvernia/Ken-Grill Field Plan Revision

Mr. Doug Smith from Alvernia University introduced Mr. Tim Hampp of Derck & Edson Associates and Mr. Robert Stackhouse of Stackhouse Bensinger, Inc. Mr. Hampp and Mr. Stackhouse presented the latest plan design revision of the playing fields at the former Ken-Grill Pool recreation center. Mr. Smith stated that the overall intent of the plan is the same as what was presented to the Zoning Hearing Board and the most recent revision included a modest change to the landing areas for discus and hammer throw events. Ms. Karen Cooke, Esquire, of Masano Bradley also participated in the discussion about the plan changes with Council members. Mr. Fritz asked if the new plan meets current storm water regulations and Mr. Walsh confirmed that they do.

A discussion followed with the Alvernia representatives and Council members as well as Ms. Nagy and Mr. Walsh. Mr. Brian Gehris, President of the Mifflin Area Youth Baseball Association (MAYBA), was asked to comment on the loss of the backstop and he confirmed that the one that this revised plan eliminated actually belonged to the pool. He commented that it was old and dilapidated and a possible safety issue. The other two belong to MAYBA and are portable. He therefore had no concerns with this plan revision causing any difficulties for MAYBA's use of the fields. President Roche asked that Ms. Nagy confirm whether it was legally correct for Council to be able to approve a change to the field plan originally approved by the Kenhorst Zoning Hearing Board.

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Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve this latest change as requested by Alvernia if Ms. Nagy confirms that is legally correct for Council to do so. The motion was approved by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council met in an Executive Session from approximately 7:28 to 7:40 PM. Ms. Nagy reported that the executive session concerned potential litigation.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

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

MAYOR HATZAS

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$808.19 collected in fines during the month of October. He has another item which he will bring up under New Business.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM

- Chief Heim reviewed the October Crime Report statistics. Of special note is that Part 1 crimes are actually down this year as compared to the same time period last year. There were 66 Part 1 crimes reported for this timeframe in 2012 but only 41 thus far in 2013. Although the Borough experienced the 3 armed robberies earlier this year, robberies are down this year as compared to the same timeframe in 2012 (18 vs. 9).
- Mr. Correnti asked if there were any problems on Halloween night. President Roche confirmed that Officer Zacchey was on duty and patrolling that evening. Mr. Correnti described seeing 2 men running from the front porch area of one of his neighbors, but when he questioned this neighbor, she said she had not had any vandalism, etc.

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Deputy Fire Chief Dwayne Hart attended the meeting in Chief Weidenheimer's absence. Deputy Chief Hart reviewed the October month end fire call activity report - there were 28 calls and there was no loss to the Borough.
- The annual Christmas Parade and Children's Party will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2013. As usual, the parade will begin at approximately 1PM leaving from the Kenhorst Shopping Plaza. The party will begin immediately after the parade at approximately 2PM in the Social Quarters' ballroom.

TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE - absent

FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ

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

CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche summarized the October codes and permitting report from Kraft Code Services. The open permit report will be posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND – no report

PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE – no report

PROPERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI

- The new leaf picker is being used and seems to be working well. Mr. Hart confirmed that the new picker is much faster and able to pick up more material.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN – absent

- In Mr. Mohn's absence, Mr. Roche asked Mrs. Becker if there were any current issues with Eagle Disposal. She replied that there had been recent problems again with yard waste being missed and Mrs. Diesinger had been in contact with Eagle management. Since then, things have been fine.

SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- The auditor hired to provide an appraisal of the Borough's sewer system has preliminary findings which will be finalized and presented at the December Council meeting.
- Mr. Fritz will work up examples of what each Councilman's sewer charges would look like under the current Cumru Township sewer rates. Mr. Walsh advised that Mr. Fritz also include a couple of commercial properties in his comparison.

STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH - absent

SOLICITOR NAGY

- Mrs. Diesinger has experienced difficulty with property owners not responding to the Borough's request to submit an annual census form or when there is a change in occupants. Mayor Hatzas commented that the Borough should have an ordinance with teeth in it so that it would be enforceable. A question was asked whether Mrs. Diesinger could poll other Berks County municipalities about the method they use to gather and maintain current census information. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to approve Ms. Nagy drafting a census ordinance for review at the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti and the roll call vote was unanimous.

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – The Manager's report was previously submitted to Council – please contact Jeri if there are any questions. President Roche reviewed items of note completed in October in Mrs. Diesinger's absence:

- Third Quarter sewer/refuse bills were issued in October.
- The new leaf vacuum was delivered and leaf collection season was started a bit early.
- The Public Works crew trimmed trees on Broadway and Commonwealth Boulevards in response to concerns from Alvernia University that some low hanging branches were hitting the tops of their shuttle and contractor vehicles.

Unfinished Business – there were no Unfinished Business items

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New Business –

- Authorization to Combine the Draft Blight Ordinances and Advertise – Mr. DePasquale made a motion authorizing Ms. Nagy to draft a revised Blight Ordinance and for that newly revised draft ordinance to be advertised. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Advertisement of 2014 Draft Budget – Mr. Fritz made a motion to advertise the 2014 Draft Budget. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Advertisement of Draft Ordinance for Tax Rate Adjustment – Mr. Roche read the draft ordinance increasing the 2014 tax millage to 4.314 for borough property tax and 1.286 for emergency service tax which include both fire and ambulance services. Mr. Holland made a motion to advertise the Tax Rate Adjustment Draft Ordinance. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Advertisement of Draft Ordinance for Sewer Rate Adjustment – Mr. Roche read the summary of the draft ordinance increasing the 2014 sewer rate to a minimum of \$100/quarter plus a factor of .0072 for every gallon over 12,500 gallons effective April 1, 2014. Mr. DePasquale made a motion to advertise the Sewer Rate Adjustment Draft Ordinance. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized the Borough's Participation in the Berks County Boroughs Association – Mr. Roche explained that he, Mrs. Diesinger and Mayor Hatzas attended a recent meeting where the topic of combining the former Berks County Mayors' Association with the Berks County Boroughs Association, both of which have experienced a reduction in participation/members. Mr. Holland made a motion to authorize Kenhorst Borough to join the newly formed Boroughs Association and to pay the \$50.00 annual dues. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Mayor Hatzas received a request from Mrs. Sherry Blanski regarding the Borough re-naming the Playground or another Borough property after her late husband, former Council President Larry Blanski. After discussion, it was decided that the matter would be tabled for discussion at December's Workshop meeting as two councilmen are absent. Mr. Roche suggested that Council may want to consider placing a memorial plaque at the playground instead of renaming the property.

Reminders –

- Neighborhood Watch - *Next meeting - Thursday, November 21st at 7 p.m.*
- Thanksgiving – Borough Hall Closed – *Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th*

REMARKS – there were no additional remarks. There being no further business, Mr. DePasquale made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Mr. Holland. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer