

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL  
November 6, 2014

President Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen Correnti, De Pasquale, Fritz, Ibach, Holland and Mohn, Fire Chief Dwayne Hart, Reading Police Chief William Heim, Solicitor Jill Nagy and Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger. Absent: Tax Collector Denice Carroll. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, recorded minutes of the meeting.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**RESIDENTS/PUBLIC** – no residents asked to be heard.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE** - Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the October minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

**MAYOR HATZAS**

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$742.59 in fines collected in October.
- Mrs. Diesinger provided an update regarding the property located at 1400 Lancaster Avenue. Fire Chief Hart and Mr. Joe Boulanger from Kraft Code Services conducted a property inspection which confirmed that the property currently is compliant according to building and fire code requirements. After discussion, Ms. Nagy recommended that the Borough plan frequent property inspections to ensure compliance.

**POLICE REPORT**

- Chief Heim provided the October Crime Statistics report.
- The Chief commented that Officer Goudy attended last week's Neighborhood Watch Committee meeting.

**FIRE CHIEF HART** –

- Chief Hart reviewed October's fire call activity summary. There were 41 calls involving an average of 5 firefighters; there was no loss to the Borough.
- This year's Governor Mifflin Area Joint Fire Prevention event was a success.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat event at the Fire Company Engine House was a big success – over 100 trick-or-treaters visited. President Roche asked the Chief to convey Council's thanks to the firefighters for their time and efforts.

**TAX COLLECTOR DENICE CARROLL** – absent.

**FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ** – Mr. Fritz presented the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the October expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Pasquale; the roll call vote was unanimous.

**CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE** –

- President Roche summarized the October Codes and Permitting report from Kraft Code Services. The open permit report is posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.

**CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE Continued -**

- President Roche attended the recent Berks County Boroughs Association meeting where he learned that some Philadelphia area municipalities are using a public hearing process to administer their property maintenance program. The Codes Committee will look into drafting guidance regarding an in-house review prior to issuing a citation. Hopefully, a hearing before Council is preferable to a hearing before the District Justice.
- Next year is the last year of the current contract with the Reading Police Department. President Roche asked for volunteers to be on a committee with the Mayor to work on the new contract. Mr. Correnti volunteered later in the meeting. The committee members will be Mayor Hatzas, President Roche and Councilmen Correnti and Fritz.

**PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND** – nothing to report.

**PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE**

- The 2015 Draft Budget will be discussed later in the agenda. President Roche brought to Council's attention that the proposed budget includes the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a 4% salary increase for Borough staff. This was recommended because the last several budget years provided very small or no increases.

**PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI** –

- The Public Works staff are continuing work on the Borough back steps replacement project.
- Daily leaf collection began this week.
- Mr. Correnti shared that the Election Board members are very pleased and thanked Council for the new lighting installed at the Community Center entrances.

**REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN**

- Mr. Mohn reported that he recently had to address a problem with an Eagle Disposal trash truck crew. He observed them tossing trash containers instead of placing them upright after they were emptied. He said they were responsive and corrected the problem at least on his street.
- President Roche asked that Mr. Mohn make Mrs. Diesinger aware of any future problems so she can contact Eagle and document the incident.

**SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE** – nothing to report at this time.

**STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH** – nothing to report at this time.

**SOLICITOR NAGY** – Ms. Nagy has items which will be covered later in the meeting agenda.

**BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER** – October's report was previously provided to Council. Of special note:

- Completed Hancock Blvd residence winterization per the Court Order, obtained insurance
- Began leaf collection in selected areas of the Borough, full time leaf collection begins Nov. 1st
- Dug out concrete steps and replaced soil at rear council room door, will replace w/decking and steps
- Continued review of Ordinance Recodification Draft Manuscript – *committee met twice in Oct.*
- Completed initial review of draft 2015 budget and finalized draft based on committee comments

**BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER Continued -**

- Completed Ordinance for property condemnation and advertised same
- Obtained quotes from roofing contractors to repair hail damage to municipal facilities
- Issued 15 Property Maintenance NOVs, 2 PM citations and 3 citations for soliciting w/o permit

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Electric work at Pump Station, Memorial and Community Center – Mr. Hart commented that most of the work at the Community Center has been completed with the exception of breaker labelling and the dusk-to-dawn light next to the pavilion.
- Cargill Salt delivery and damages – Due to inaction on the part of Cargill’s attorney, Ms. Nagy recommends that the Borough move to call in the bond and liquidate the damages. Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to proceed with the Borough calling in the performance bond. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Hancock Blvd property – Mrs. Diesinger is compiling the total costs the Borough has incurred for the property clean-up. Ms. Nagy will file a lien on the property to recover the expenses and then initiate the Sheriff’s sale process. President Roche asked that a minimum of \$1000.00 be included in the expense total for possible snow removal expenses this coming winter. In response to Mayor Hatzas’ question, Ms. Nagy explained that if the property sells the first time it is offered at the Sheriff’s sale, the borough will recover expenses and any funds over that amount will be given to the current owners. If it is not sold the first time it is offered for the Sheriff’s Sale; it is unlikely that there will be any excess funds to distribute to the current owners after the Borough recoups its expenses. Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to proceed with filing the lien. Mr. Correnti seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

**New Business**

- Resolution #639 – Installation of two new street lights in 1300 block of Fern – **TABLED.** This agenda item was tabled as further discussion is needed with GPU regarding the location of the new lights.
- Resolution #640 - Merger between Berks EIT and the Tax Collection Committee – **TABLED.** This agenda item was tabled because Council delegates need to be chosen.
- Adopted Ordinance #566 - Land Acquisition – Mr. Ibach made a motion to adopt Ordinance #566 as advertised. Mr. De Pasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Tree Trimming/Removal at Borough Hall property - Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize Option #2 at a cost of \$4,700.00. This includes removing the 2 trees behind the Engine House and trimming/pruning the 2 large trees besides the Borough building. The smallest tree will be removed. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized advertisements of 2015 Draft Budget – Mrs. Diesinger confirmed that the 2015 Draft Budget does not include an increase in taxes or sewer/refuse rates. Mr. Correnti made a motion to advertise the 2015 Draft Budget. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized advertisement of 2015 Tax Ordinance - Mr. Ibach made a motion to advertise the 2015 Tax Ordinance. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

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- Authorized 90 Day Extension for L2i Properties LLC – Mr. Ibach made a motion to accept the granting of a 90 day extension by the owners of 1608 New Holland Road to submit their zoning variance and conditional use requests. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized a \$500 Donation to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority - Mr. Ibach made a motion to authorize a \$500 Donation to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

**Final Remarks and Adjournment**

- Recodification Committee will meet on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.
- Safety Committee meeting – TBD to meet in November
- Borough Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving
- Collection of Yard Waste continues each Tuesday until and including Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Leaf Collection will continue until Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting
- Kenhorst VFC Christmas Parade and Children’s Party – Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**REMARKS** – There being no further remarks or business, Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ibach. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer