

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 4, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council met in an Executive Session from 7:02 PM to 7:23 PM. Ms. Nagy reported that Council discussed a potential real estate acquisition.

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

MAYOR HATZAS - Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$2,703.95 in fines collected in November.

POLICE REPORT - Chief Heim provided the November Crime Statistics report. He mentioned that a recent burglary on Fayette Avenue was still being investigated.

FIRE CHIEF HART –

- Chief Hart reviewed November’s fire call activity summary. There were 30 calls involving an average of 4 firefighters; there was no loss to the Borough.
- The annual Christmas Parade and Children’s Party will be held this year on Saturday, December 20th. Parade begins at the Kenhorst Plaza at 1PM and the party begins at the Social Quarters at approximately 2PM.
- Chief Hart shared information about a recent bequest made to the Fire Company. A former Borough resident bequeathed \$28,873.00 to the Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Company. Former Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer had apparently assisted this resident with smoke detectors for her home.

TAX COLLECTOR DENICE CARROLL – absent

FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ – Mr. Fritz presented the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the November 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 November Codes and Permitting report from Kraft Code Services. The open permit report is posted on the bulletin board for Council’s review.
- Reminder that the Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on Wednesday, December 17th at 7 PM regarding the Development Plan for 1608-1620 New Holland Road.

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PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND – nothing to report other than the Park and Recreation Committee will be meeting December 9th at 5 PM with the Mifflin Broncos group regarding their ideas for the park improvements.

PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE – nothing to report at this time. One item will be covered later in the agenda.

PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI – nothing to report at this time. There are items that will be covered under new business.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN – nothing to report at this time.

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 reported that the Cargill Salt matter has been resolved. They agreed to pay the liquidated damages and the salt delivery to Mohnton. Mrs. Diesinger said a specific delivery date had not been confirmed yet, but the delivery was expected within the next two weeks. Mohnton has been notified.

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – November's report was previously provided to Council. It has been a very busy month. Of special note:

- Continued leaf collection from 10/13 to 12/4. Collected 34 loads or 112.5 tons of leaves.
- Removed three trees and will trim two additional trees in vicinity of Borough Hall
- Completed initial review of Ordinance Recodification Draft Manuscript
- Advertised Draft Budget
- Drafted Winter 2014 Newsletter
- Obtained quotes from contractors to repair hail damage to municipal facilities
- Collected \$19,614 from 11/24 to 12/4

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Electric work at Pump Station
- Street Lights on 1300 Block of Fern Avenue – After discussion, it was decided that President Roche and Mr. Hart will meet to re-review the desired locations for the new lights. Met Ed indicated to the Borough that they are unable to install lights on the poles we originally requested. President Roche believes that new LED lights would be more cost effective and wants to pursue that option with Met ED.

NEW BUSINESS

- Adopted Ordinance #567 – 2015 Tax Ordinance and Adopted 2015 Budget of \$2,142,200 (a 7% increase over last year, but no tax increase!) – Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the 2015 Budget as described above. Mr. De Pasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Adopted Resolution # 639 - 2015 General and Sewer Fund Expenditures – Mr. Holland made a motion to approve the 2015 Expenditures as described above. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

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- Adopted Employee Benefits Summary Plan Document (required under Healthcare Reform Act) – Ms. Nagy explained that the new Health Care Act requires employers who have 50 or more employees to provide an SPD which outlines benefits eligibility. The Borough, having fewer employees, has adopted a modified version to be provided to employees and kept on file. Mr. Correnti made a motion to adopt the SPD Document as explained above. Mr. De Pasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Manager's 2015-2017 Memo of Understanding (MOU) – President Roche read the MOU which amends Mrs. Diesinger's March 2010 Employment Contract. Mrs. Diesinger will receive an 8% salary increase from \$60,000 to \$65,000 for the duration of the two year contract (January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2017). The agreement also includes continuation of the current health coverage and life insurance benefits. Mr. Fritz made a motion to authorize executing the Borough Manager's 2015 to 2017 MOU. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous. After the unanimous vote approving the MOU. President Roche commented that Mrs. Diesinger has brought in a tremendous amount of grant funding into the Borough and each year has procured more than enough to cover her annual salary. He thanked Mrs. Diesinger for her hard work and said she deserved the increase.
- Resolution #640 Adopted - Approves Berks EIT and Tax Collection Committee Merger – Ms. Nagy advised that Council can still move forward to approve the merger even though the delegates have not yet been named. Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the planned merger subject to the delegate appointment which should take place in January 2015. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Resolution #641 Adopted - 2015 Workshop, Council and PC meeting dates - Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to approve Resolution #641. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Ratified Conditional Use Hearing Date of Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6 PM for the L2i Project – Ms. Nagy explained that this application/plan was unlike most in that both a Zoning Hearing and a Conditional Use Hearing were necessary. Per the Municipal Planning Code, Council had only 60 days from the date of L2i's application to hold the Conditional Use Hearing. As that date (which would have been January 2, 2015), would not have allowed adequate review and meeting scheduling time, Council requested and was granted an extension from L2i Properties. Ms. Nagy advised Council that they are welcome to attend the L2I Zoning Hearing Board meeting on December 17th. However; because they will sit in judgment at the January 8th Conditional Use Hearing, they should attend the ZHB meeting only as an observer and refrain from asking questions or making comments about the project privately or publically. Mrs. Diesinger will put Ms. Nagy's recommendations in writing for Council's reference.

Mr. Fritz, a member of the Planning Commission, asked Ms. Nagy to comment on Council's attendance at the PC meeting scheduled for Monday, December 29th to review the revised L2i Development Plan. Ms. Nagy will follow up with Mrs. Diesinger regarding the possible need for Mr. Fritz to recuse himself from any PC decision.

President Roche encouraged Council members to attend the PC meeting to learn more about the project and the PC's review process. Mrs. Diesinger will send reminders to Council about the meeting dates/times. President Roche requested that Council please keep their thoughts/opinion private prior to the Conditional Use Hearing.

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- Authorized Advanced Construction to make Hailstorm Repairs to Borough Facilities – Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize Advanced Construction to make the repairs at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. President Roche commented that their quotes were the lowest received by the Borough. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Execution of Animal Rescue League Agreement – Mr. Ibach made a motion to execute the 2015 ARL Service Agreement which includes a commitment of a \$1,000 donation. Mr. De Pasquale requested that Council ask for a report from ARL showing the number of calls/rescues they conducted within the Borough during last year. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized B & G Electric to repair Community Center light pole and memorial lights – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize B & G Electric to make the light repairs at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. President Roche recommended that the wires be connected to the Community Center building and the existing light pole be removed. He also would prefer the memorial lights be changed to LED bulbs which carry a 5 year warranty. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Ratified emergency purchase of new hot water tank from Guiwell, Inc. – Mr. Correnti made a motion to ratify the new Borough Hall water heater at a cost not to exceed \$1,400. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Execution of 2015 Pump Station Maintenance Contract with M & S Service - Mr. Fritz made a motion to authorize execution of the 2015 Pump Station Maintenance contract at a cost not to exceed \$2,174. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Execution of consent agreements for resolution of property maintenance issues – Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize and execute property maintenance consent agreements as necessary to resolve property maintenance issues and recover Borough costs incurred while pursuing resolution of the same. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.

Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Check the website for Borough Hall holiday hours
- Collection of Yard Waste ends Tuesday, December 9th
- Fall Leaf Collection ends Monday, December 15th, weather permitting
- Christmas Parade and Party, Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 1 PM

There being no further remarks or business, Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer