

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL  
February 5, 2015

President Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:01 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 OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SWEARING IN OF KENHORST VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OFFICERS** –

Dieter W. Stucke took the oath of office as Deputy Fire Chief and was sworn in by Mayor Hatzas. Mr. Zachary Baker was unable to attend tonight's meeting and will be sworn in as Assistant Fire Chief at a later time.

**STORM WATER PRESENTATION** – Mr. William Ryan from the Berks County Conservancy presented information regarding storm water preservation and state MS4 Storm Water permits. Mr. Ryan encouraged the public to visit the Conservancy's website for additional information and shared that a new organization was being form called the Angelica Creek Watershed Association.

**RESIDENTS/PUBLIC**

**Mrs. Deborah Gobber, 1000 Block of Broadway Boulevard** – Mrs. Gobber asked Council to address the problem of a particular neighbor who parks a commercial van/truck for days/weeks at a time directly in front of her house. She believes that the vehicle is basically being stored on the street there and that the owner is in violation of a Borough ordinance which prohibits vehicles from being parked in the same spot without being moved for longer than three days at a time. Chief Heim said it is difficult to enforce such an ordinance because the patrol officers would have to be able to confirm that a particular vehicle did not move for a certain period of time. Chief Heim and Council discussed ideas for possible solutions. President Roche asked Chief Heim to have the Kenhorst patrol officers check on this particular vehicle.

Mrs. Gobber also asked if anything could be done about the same neighbor who routinely leaves his large, noisy diesel truck idling for more than ten minutes at a time. President Roche stated that it is actually state law that prohibits running vehicles from being left unattended. Mrs. Diesinger confirmed that the Borough's noise ordinance prohibits loud and/or repetitive sounds that disturb the public peace. Mrs. Gobber was advised to call the Reading Police non-emergency number to report violations in the future.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council met in an Executive Session from approximately 7:30 to 7:45 PM. Ms. Nagy reported that the executive session concerned pending litigation and property acquisition matters.

**MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE** – Mr. Ibach made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Pasquale; the roll call vote was unanimous.

**MAYOR HATZAS** - Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$362.44 in fines collected in January.

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**POLICE REPORT** - Chief Heim provided the January Crime Statistics report. He shared that the month's activities were typical to start the calendar year. Of particular note – a suspect was identified for one of the three burglaries that took place in January.

**FIRE CHIEF HART** – Chief Hart reviewed the January fire call activity report. In January, there were 42 calls involving an average of 5 firefighters for a total of 23 hours and 40 minutes. There was no loss to the Borough.

**TAX COLLECTOR DENICE CARROLL** – absent

**FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ** –

- Mr. Fritz presented the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the January expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Fritz reported that the Borough has a Sewer Fund Certificate of Deposit maturing on February 15, 2015. After discussion, it was decided that the CD should remain at Susquehanna Bank and would be renewed at its current 1.01% interest rate for another 15 month period. Mr. Ibach expressed interest in having Mr. Fritz research whether other banks were offering CD's with higher interest rates. Mr. Fritz made a motion to renew the CD with Susquehanna Bank. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

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

- January Codes & Permitting Report - President Roche shared a summary of the January Codes and Permitting report from Kraft Code Services. The open permit report is posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.
- CodeRED Notification System - Mrs. Diesinger participated in a recent webinar regarding a "reverse 911" phone alert communication system called "CodeRED". The system would give the Borough the ability to send alerts advising the public of emergency or future events such as snow emergency declarations, temporary road closures, Volunteer Fire Company fundraisers, etc. Depending upon the Borough's population, and the scope and range of services, the annual licensing fee would range from approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Ibach made a motion to authorize Mrs. Diesinger to move forward and set up CodeRED for the Borough. The motion was seconded by Mr. Correnti; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Snow Emergency Declarations – President Roche asked Council for ideas or recommendations regarding the Borough's Snow Emergency declaration policy and procedures. There was discussion about changing the three inches predicted snowfall threshold as well as the difficulty of enforcing vehicles not being moved from the snow emergency routes. Currently, the Borough requires that all vehicles be removed from the five streets designated as Snow Emergency routes when a Snow Emergency is declared by the Mayor. Those five routes are: Columbia Avenue, High Boulevard, New Holland Road, S. Kenhorst Boulevard and Upland Avenue. No decision was made and this item was tabled until next month's meeting.

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**PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND** – Mr. Holland reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee met regarding the proposed expanded parking area using the area of the old tennis court. The committee will report to Council once they receive the Borough Engineer's proposal.

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

**PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI** – nothing to report at this time.

**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** – nothing to report at this time.

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

- Finalized Conditional Use Decision for submittal to applicant - L2i Properties
- Finalized review of Ordinance Recodification Draft Manuscript – with Jill for legal review
- Mailed out last quarter 2014 utility bills – due date: 2/13/2015
- Awarded 2014 Recycling Grant - Received verbal notification from PADEP that Borough was awarded a grant applied for in 2014 in the amount of \$114,848 with Borough contributing \$12,761- grant will cover \$52,400 of our new Freightliner Dump Truck, \$51,000 for a new wood chipper, \$7,458 for a larger leaf collection box to fit the new dump truck, \$3,252 for 200 additional larger recycling containers and \$739 toward public education regarding recycling – the Borough's portion will essentially be used for public education
- Mailed 55 Violation Notices on 1/28 to residents/businesses not shoveled after snow on 1/24

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Hancock Blvd Property's Sheriff Sale – Ms. Nagy reported that all of the necessary liens have been filed and she expects a legal judgment by next month's meeting.
- Two new street lights in 1300 block of Fern – President Roche said he and Mr. Hart still need to confer on this topic. The item is tabled until the March meeting.
- Hailstorm Repairs to Borough Facilities – Mrs. Diesinger is in touch with the selected contractor. The work is pending until a break in the weather conditions.
- PS wet well electric system transfer – *quote from B&G Electric pending*

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Ratified Execution of L2i Conditional Use Hearing Decision by Council President - Mr. Ibach made a motion to ratify the signing of the CU Hearing decision document. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Pasquale; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Adopted Resolution #645 – 2015 Fee Schedule - Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to adopt Resolution #645 which approved the 2015 Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ibach; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Adopted Resolution #646 – Deputy Tax Collector Appointed - Mr. Ibach made a motion to adopt Resolution #646 appointing Mrs. Joanna Roche as the Borough's Deputy Tax Collector in the event that Ms. Carroll would not be able to perform her duties. This action is required by the state. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz. The motion passed; the roll call vote was 6-years and 1-abstain (Roche).
- Adopted Resolution #647 – Mr. Ibach made a motion to appoint Mr. William Lange, Neighborhood Watch Committee President, to serve as the Borough's representative for the Alvernia University Town/Gown initiative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized New Traffic Barricades – Mr. Holland made a motion to authorize the purchase of new traffic barricades not to exceed a cost of \$1800.00. The new barricades are needed in order to meet revised Penn DOT specifications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Purchase of Tractor Weather Enclosure - Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize the purchase of a foul weather cover for the John Deere riding tractor not to exceed a cost of \$700.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Pasquale. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6-years and 1-no (Mohn).
- Authorized Amending Kenhorst Ordinance to follow Borough Code Regarding Council Compensation – Mr. Ibach made a motion to amend Kenhorst ordinances to follow revised borough code regarding Council compensation. Following Borough code law, council members will be eligible for the increased maximum stipend in the year following their re-election. This amendment will be made during the current recodification process. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Amending Kenhorst Ordinance to Increase Yard Sale Permit Fee – Mr. Ibach made a motion to increase the yard sale permit fee from \$1.00 to \$15.00 (2 sales/year limit remains). The motion was seconded by Mr. De Pasquale. The motion passed with a vote of 4-years and 3-nays (Fritz, Holland and Mohn).
- Authorized Research Regarding Fence Screening Options – Mr. Ibach made a motion to authorize Mrs. Diesinger to research options for the installation of screening material to the fence along the rear of the Borough Hall building. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohn; the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Authorized Solicitor to Draft Meeting Attendance Requirement Ordinance - Mr. Correnti made a motion to authorize Ms. Nagy to draft an ordinance requiring Council stipends to be paid out on a monthly versus quarterly basis. The payments will only be made if the Council member attends the two required business meetings each month or has an excused absence. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz. The motion passed with a vote of 6-years and 1-no (Mohn).

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**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

- Temporary Parking for Businesses – Mrs. Diesinger presented a request to Council from a small business owner in the 1500 Block of New Holland Road. The business owner requested that signs be posted to reserve 2 designated parking spaces in front of their property to accommodate their customers. After discussion, a decision was made to table this item until Ms. Nagy can research Borough Code and survey other boroughs regarding this topic.

**Final Remarks and Adjournment**

There being no further remarks or business, Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Fritz. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:53 p.m.

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

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer