

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL

July 7, 2016

President Roche called the July 2016 meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen De Pasquale, Fritz, Ibach, Holland and Mohn, Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger, Fire Chief Dwayne Hart, Reading Police Lt. Paul Reilly and Solicitor Jill Nagy. Absent: Tax Collector Denice Carroll. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary recorded minutes of the meeting.

Persons Wishing to be Heard –

Mr. Jason Gregro, Bellefonte Avenue – Mr. Gregro's child attends the Borough's summer playground program and loves it. Mr. Gregro explained that he was not aware that a Bible story reading was held at the playground program as noted on the recently distributed activities/events schedule. He expressed concern that his child was being exposed to a faith/religion that he and his family do not share. Various Council members commented that they could not recall this subject being brought to their attention. Mrs. Becker confirmed that it had been a council meeting agenda item several years ago and that at that time, Council voted to allow the weekly Bible story provided parents were notified when it was scheduled and that it be made known that it was, of course, a voluntary playground activity. Mr. Roche thanked Mr. Gregro for bringing his concern to Council's attention and noted that this was the first time a parent has ever complained about the Bible story activity. Council will consider his complaint and determine if any action is needed.

After discussion, Mr. De Pasquale commented that the Bible story reading does not belong being part of the Borough's summer playground program. He made a motion to discontinue the Bible story reading activity at the playground program. Mr. Ibach offered a second and the motion passed with a roll call vote of 6-YES, 1-NO (Mohn). Mrs. Diesinger will send a letter notifying both Mr. Gregro and the Bible story program representative regarding Council's decision.

Mr. Pierce Kasting, Kenhorst resident and Mr. Peter Delkin – Mr. Kasting and Mr. Delkin attended tonight's meeting to satisfy a Boy Scout Communications Badge requirement.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – President Roche presented the meeting minutes from the June Council meeting. Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the June minutes with Mr. De Pasquale offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor – A total of \$2,597.23 in fines was received by the Borough during the month of June.

Reading Police – Lt. Reilly reviewed the June Crime Statistics report. Of special note:

- Several lawn mowers were stolen from unlocked garages/sheds – residents are urged to lock not only their vehicles but also other buildings/structures on their properties.
- As Council is already aware, a murder occurred in the Borough on Cortland Avenue – Lt. Reilly commented that this crime was mental health related.
- The peeping Tom reports from the property on the 1300 block of Brooke Boulevard is still ongoing although there have not been any new reports for three weeks.

Kenhorst VFD Chief –

- Chief Hart provided the June Fire Call activity report. There were 39 calls with a total of 133 firefighters responding; an average number of 3 firefighters per call with a total time spent of 14 hours and 9 minutes. There was a \$1,000.00 loss to the Borough which resulted from a car fire.
- The annual KVFC Chicken BBQ fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2016. Tickets will be on sale soon – cost will be \$8/dinner.

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Finance –

- Mr. Fritz summarized the revenue and expense information for June. Of special note was over \$86,000 in sewer expenses for sewer line maintenance televising and repair work paid during this month. Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the June bills with Mr. Ibach offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Fritz reported that the Finance Committee met this week – there was a discussion regarding the amount of cash payments received by both the Tax Collector and the Borough Office when sewer bills are due. The Finance Committee suggests that Council consider the following changes regarding cash receipts subject to Ms. Nagy's recommendations:
 - Tax Payments – Mr. Fritz made a motion to authorize only personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders are accepted for payment (no cash). It was also suggested that a separate drop-box be installed at the Tax Office entrance for tax payments and Borough staff will no longer accept tax payment envelopes from residents. Mr. Ibach offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Sewer/Refuse Payments - Mr. Fritz made a motion to authorize only personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders are accepted for payment (no cash). Mr. Mohn offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
 - There was discussion as to whether the Borough can legally refuse cash tender, especially for tax payments. Council will ask Ms. Nagy to research whether cash can be refused for tax and sewer/refuse payments. Mr. Fritz also recommended using the Code RED notification system to inform all residents of any changes that are made.

Codes & Emergency Services –

- Mr. Roche summarized Kraft Code Services permitting and inspection report for June and reminded Council that a copy of open permits is posted on the bulletin board.
- Mr. Correnti requested that the Lis property behind his and Mr. Fritz's houses be mowed at least 3 times per year. Mrs. Diesinger confirmed that there is an arrangement with Mr. Lis that it be mowed three times during the year and that a perimeter of 25 feet be maintained throughout the spring/summer season. Mr. Lis was sent a violation letter; he has until July 18th or 20th to mow the field or he will be cited.

Personnel – later in agenda

Parks & Playground –

- The Park Improvement Plan Committee is still waiting to hear from MAYBA and the Mifflin Broncos regarding their financial support.
- Other than the concern received at tonight's meeting, all seems to be going well with this year's playground program.

Property & Buildings –

- Mr. Correnti reported that there are trees at the Park/Playground property that need attention. Mr. Hart met with a tree service representative who determined that both trees in question are dead and need to be taken down. He will forward a cost estimate next week.
- The new dump truck is at E.M. Kutz for outfitting the truck body and winter package

Sanitation – Mr. Mohn reported that he received a complaint regarding Eagle's services and he will be following the truck next week to investigate.

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Sanitary Sewers – regarding the new sewer contract - Mr. Roche reported that a recent meeting was held which included Cumru Township representatives; progress is being made.

Streets & Storm Water – nothing to report

Solicitor – absent

Borough Manager – Mrs. Diesinger previously provided a report to Council highlighting activities completed in June. Of special note:

- Sanitary sewer televising and repair work for 2016 completed
- Still working on determining wet well electric project equipment needs
- Contract and documentation for the 2016 Road Work projects have been confirmed – waiting for schedule from paving contractor
- Public Works crew have been busy with the island and park mowing, pot hole patching, etc.
- 48 properties were posted for 10-day water shut-off in mid-June; 6 properties were shut-off on June 27th (only two remain off and they are vacant).
- This year’s playground season started on June 13th – approximately 40 children were registered.
- Ongoing work on several state reports and grant applications.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Pump station electrical work – *pending*
- LED Street Lighting Switch Out Program – *pending*
- New Story School – *pending*
- Review/rewrite of Rental Ordinance – *pending*

NEW BUSINESS

- Authorized samples to be taken from Borough Office and Community Center water fountains – Mr. Holland made a motion to authorize water quality samples to be tested from water fountains at both the Borough Office and Community Center buildings at a cost not to exceed \$500. Mr. Fritz offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Holland commented that this is being done in light of recent reports regarding high lead levels in Flint, Michigan’s public water supply.
- Authorize purchase of Portable speed signs – *tabled*.
- Authorized solicitor to conclude existing land lease at 1030 New Holland Road (Charlie Price Autos) – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize the solicitor to conclude the land lease agreement with the owner of 1030 New Holland Road. Mr. Mohn offered a second and the motion passed with a vote of 6-YES, 1-NO (Fritz). Mr. Roche commented that this action was being done in response to the Borough always having to follow up with the owner to pay the annual rental fee which has yet to be paid for 2016.
- Authorized the Draft Master Park Improvement Plan – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize the following actions necessary to move the Draft Master Park Improvement Plan forward. Mr. Correnti offered a second and the motion passed unanimously:
 - Approve draft Master Park Improvement Plan Ordinance
 - Authorize advertisement of draft Master Park Improvement Plan Ordinance
 - Authorize advertisement of special Planning Commission meeting on August 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Authorize advertisement of public hearing for Draft Master Park Improvement Plan during Borough Council meeting on August 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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- Authorized Inspection of Borough Sidewalks – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize the inspection of and required repair (if necessary) of all Borough sidewalks. Mr. Ibach offered a second and the roll call vote was unanimous. It was agreed that Kraft Code Services or McCarthy Engineering would conduct inspections to determine which sidewalks need repair/replacement. All property owners would initially be notified by letter this fall about the overall inspection program. Those properties identified as requiring repairs would be notified in April 2017 and given the remainder of 2017 in which to make any required repairs. Mr. Ibach expressed concern about whether residents on limited incomes will be able to afford to make the repairs in the required timeframes. The Borough will work with property owners if they need additional time or the Borough can complete the work and lien properties where owners are unable to make the necessary repairs.
- Authorized Purchase of Replacement Desktop Computer for Public Works – Mr. Mohn made a motion to authorize the purchase of a replacement desktop computer for Public Works. Mr. Correnti offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The PW laptop was damaged beyond repair due to a computer/email virus.

FINAL REMARKS AND REMINDERS

- Borough's Association BBQ and Pig Roast – *see invitation for event in July*
- Committee Meetings –
 - Safety Committee – meets at 6:00 p.m. before the July 5th Workshop meeting
 - Property and Supplies Committee – meets on July 5th after the Workshop meeting
 - Blight Committee – meets at 6:00 p.m. before the July 7th Council meeting
 - Refuse and Recycling Committee – meets after the July 7th Council meeting
 - Park Master Plan Committee – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 19th at the Community Center
- Mr. Ibach commented that the new deck at the rear entrance of Borough Hall looks very nice – everything is finished with the project except for the roof.

ADJOURNMENT - With no other business before Council, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. De Pasquale seconded by Mr. Ibach at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen D. Becker, Kenhorst Borough Secretary