

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 6, 2016

President Roche called the October 6, 2016 meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen De Pasquale, Fritz, Holland and Mohn, Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger, Fire Chief Dwayne Hart, Reading Police Lt. Paul Reilly and Solicitor Jill Nagy. Absent: Councilman Ibach (excused), Fire Chief Hart and Tax Collector Denice Carroll. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary recorded minutes of the meeting.

**Persons Wishing to be Heard –**

**Mrs. Colleen Stamm, Resident and Borough Representative to the Mifflin Area Library Board –**

Mrs. Stamm provided an update regarding the Library's status and activities. She reported that there are 358 library card holders from 271 Kenhorst households. Mrs. Stamm thanked Council for the Borough's continued financial support of the Library and asked that Council consider increasing their donation beyond the \$2,877 of recent years. She shared that in 2002 the Borough contributed \$4,000 to the Library. Mr. Roche said that Council has again budgeted \$2,877 for a donation to the Library but they will look into whether it can be increased.

**Mr. Ronald Schultz, 1300 Block Wingate Terrace –** Mr. Schultz asked Council to reconsider their response to his request to designate Wingate Avenue as a Snow Emergency Route. After discussion, it was decided that while Council won't amend their decision, they will look into Mr. Schultz's complaint that the snow plow typically does not plow both sides of their street. Mr. Schultz explained that most of the time the Borough truck plows only on the even side of the street and doesn't come back to plow the odd side.

**Mr. Kerry Grassley, 1200 Block Liberty Avenue –** Mr. Grassley asked Council to again consider his request to plant vegetation cover against the Borough's rear fence area. He feels that Council should follow its own ordinance which he feels requires the granting of his request. If Council does not, he may need to file a grievance. After much discussion, Ms. Nagy reiterated Council's position that their offer to install screening material meets the Borough's ordinance requirement and Mr. Grassley will need to follow his prerogative and act accordingly.

After Council's Executive Session, Mr. Roche stated that Council reconsidered their position on this matter and decided to grant Mr. Grassley's request to plant vegetation along the fence area. Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to grant Mr. Grassley's request with Mr. Correnti offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Roche will communicate this decision to Mr. Grassley.

**Mr. Donald Knerr, Wesleyan Drive –** Mr. Knerr expressed his concerns and reservations regarding the recent announcement from Alvernia University regarding their new football program. While he likes having the college as a neighbor, he and other neighbors feel that the college's field and expansion has adversely affected the quality of life for area residents. He specifically mentioned noise and parking concerns. He asked that Council be proactive in dealing with possible problems/issues that may arise from the college pursuing the football program. Mr. Roche commented that since the college is not within the Borough, Council has no authority regarding their plans and pursuits; however, the Borough hopes to continue dialogue with Alvernia regarding such issues.

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Mr. Roche asked that Mrs. Diesinger/Ms. Nagy contact Alvernia to request a meeting with them to sit down and talk about the University's football program and other future plans.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - An executive session was held from 7:26 to 7:50 PM. Ms. Nagy explained that the session concerned personnel and possible litigation matters.

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

**Mayor** – A total of \$195.00 in fines was received by the Borough during the month of September.

**Reading Police** – Lt. Reilly reviewed the September Crime Statistics report. He commented that fortunately it was a low crime month consisting mostly of thefts. He mentioned that there were two arrests/citations at the New Story School.

Mr. Roche asked for an update on the New Story situation. He feels that at this point Council should take the next step and require New Story to go before the Zoning Hearing Board regarding New Story violating the zoning conditions. He asked that Ms. Nagy initiate that process.

**Kenhorst VFD Chief** –

- President Roche provided the September Fire Call activity report in Chief Hart's absence. There were 39 calls with a total of 157 firefighters responding; an average number of 4 firefighters per call with a total time spent of 22 hours and 32 minutes. There was no loss to the Borough.
- Mr. Roche expressed condolences on behalf of Council and asked that a bereavement bouquet be sent to the Hart family on the occasion of Chief Hart's mother's passing.

**Finance** –

- Mr. Fritz summarized the revenue and expense information for September. Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the September bills with Mr. Holland offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.

**Codes & Emergency Services** –

- Mr. Roche summarized Kraft Code Services permitting and inspection report for September and reminded Council that a copy of open permits is posted on the bulletin board. Nothing to report at this time regarding Emergency Services.

**Personnel** – covered in tonight's Executive Session.

**Parks & Playground** – Mr. Holland said we are still waiting to hear about the grant applications and for the Bronco's to return the signed Memo of Understanding concerning their financial support of the Park renovations.

**Property & Buildings** –

- Mr. Correnti reported the Borough received the new dump truck and it was being outfitted with the winter equipment package.
- E. M. Kutz is working on the new leaf box for the new dump truck.

**Sanitation** – nothing to report

**Sanitary Sewers** – to be covered later in the agenda

**Streets & Storm Water** –

- Mr. De Pasquale reported that the 2016 streets projects were completed. There are other items to be covered later in the agenda. .

**Solicitor** – Ms. Nagy has items be addressed later in the agenda.

**Borough Manager** – Mrs. Diesinger previously provided a report to Council highlighting activities completed during the month. September was another busy month for both the front office and the Public Works crew. Of special note:

- The Borough's first MS4 Storm Water Audit was conducted by the state; the Borough passed with flying colors.
- Two grant applications were submitted for the park project – the Russell Hiller grant and the Gilmore-Henne Foundation grant. We hope to hear the outcome of both applications by the end of November.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Halloween Haunted House – Mr. Moyer is in the process of informing neighbors about the planned Haunted House event at his home located at 1469 Hancock Boulevard. Mrs. Diesinger confirmed that the Police have been notified and are confirmed for patrol coverage in the Borough all three nights of the haunted house.
- Pump station electrical work – Mrs. Diesinger reported that McCarthy Engineering is in the process of following up with Reading Electric regarding the status of the project quote.
- Recodification of Ordinances – The Ordinance was presented to Council – any questions, changes to be noted prior to advertisement in November. Looking to adopt at December 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.
- EJB Paving invoice for 2015 Road Work – the final balance owed to EJB Paving in the amount of \$5,756 was paid in September.
- Woodcrest Drive storm water pipe extension project – it was agreed that this project is not going to be pursued at this time due to permitting issues. The project would impact state designated wetland areas.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Sidewalk/Curb Inspection Program – it was decided that the original proposal plan should be scrapped and that no vote was needed for Council to authorize a letter to property owners that includes the sidewalk and curb specifications. It is the property owner's responsibility to repair or replace curbs and sidewalks. If any repairs need to be made and are not, the property transfer inspection will note this and repairs will have to be made prior to sale and the issuance of the use and occupancy certificate.
- Authorized advertisement of draft Ordinance to: issue penalties with notices of violation for tall grass/weeds and grass blown into the street; amend grass height restriction from 10 to 8 inches. Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to amend the grass/weeds height restriction to 8 inches with Mr. Correnti offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2016 Road Work - Authorized 90% payment to Landis Deck in the amount of \$154,970.69 – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize Landis Deck's 90% payment with Mr. Fritz offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- Authorized Streets Committee to research a remedy for storm water inflow at the pump station - Council authorized the Streets Committee to research a remedy for storm water inflow at the pump station meter pit. No vote was needed.
- Authorized Solicitor/Manager to Draft Ordinance for Electronic Transfer/Credit/Debit pay options – Mr. De Pasquale made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager and Solicitor to draft an ordinance regarding electronic debit/credit card acceptance for sewer/refuse payments. Mr. Correnti offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
- Council denied a resident's request to make Cortland Avenue to Kenhorst Blvd. a one way street.
- Council received a complaint regarding the 1452 Crowder junkyard. A plan is in place to address the clean-up of the property.
- Council received a resident complaint regarding safety concerns at the McArthur Boulevard/Lancaster Avenue intersection. Mr. Roche asked that a letter be sent to the owner of the truck creating the concern to request that the truck be moved.
- Review 2017 Draft Budget – the draft 2017 is balanced and ready for final review and approval. Council is asked to review the draft and get back to Mrs. Diesinger before next month's meeting with any questions or changes.

### **FINAL REMARKS AND REMINDERS**

- October Committee Meetings – the Park Master Plan Committee will meet Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> if needed

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no other business before Council, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. De Pasquale seconded by Mr. Correnti at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen D. Becker  
Kenhorst Borough Secretary