

KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL

MAY 1, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

President Roger Weidenheimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll-call. Present: Mayor Nickolas Hatzas and Council members Anthony Avilla, Jeffrey Smith, Pete O'Brien, Vincent Gagliardo, Scott Stamm, and Kerry Grassley.

Also in attendance: Cindy Castner, Borough Manager, Fire Chief, Dwayne Hart, Nick Perilli, McCarthy Engineering, Jill Nagy, Solicitor, and Lt. Contreras, Reading Police Department.

Taking minutes was Tara Mountford, Secretary/Treasurer.

The following residents of the Borough and members of public were present: Chuck and Sylvia Clauser, Nathan Kreider, Crystal Wanner, and volunteers of the Kenhorst Fire Company.

President Weidenheimer announced that the first order of business would be to vote on the new Planning Commission board member, Douglas R. Slichter, and he followed by asking Council for a motion. *Councilman Grassley made a motion and Councilman Gagliardo offered a second. Motion passed unanimously and Mayor Hatzas then conducted the Oath of Office for Mr. Slichter.*

President Weidenheimer opened the floor for any persons wishing to be heard. Chuck and Sylvia Clauser of Commonwealth Boulevard brought the following concerns before Council:

- There is a dead tree across the street from their house that is a safety issue and their previous attempt to have Council address it in prior years was unsuccessful. During the most recent storm limbs fell down on top of a car that was parked on the street. Also, because the top limbs have power lines running through them, the limbs brought down those power lines and snapped the telephone pole in half that is next to their driveway. They would like to know what the Borough's plan is to remove the tree. Additionally, Mr. Clauser stated that there is also leaning telephone pole on their street, and they are concerned a similar issue will eventually occur. Mr. Clauser stated that he and his neighbors made Met-Ed aware of it and Fire Chief Hart stated that he also contacted Met-Ed and that they should be out to evaluate it as soon as possible. President Weidenheimer said that Public Works will look into removing the tree and that the Borough is having an arborist to evaluate all of the trees in the Borough to see which ones need attention.
- Mr. Clauser referred to the incident in the Borough several weeks ago and asked if the Borough has a procedure in place to alert residents to dangerous situations. Ms. Castner stated that the Borough takes its direction from the Police and if there is ever a direct threat to Borough residents, the Police would alert Ms. Castner and residents would be notified immediately and in as many ways as possible.
- Lack of proper drainage at Commonwealth & Tyrone where water puddles form and stagnate for days after heavy rains. Mr. Hart, Superintendent of Public Works, stated that they will look at it to see if they can determine what is causing it.
- Speeding on Commonwealth – Councilman Grassley suggested that the Borough reach out to LTAP to obtain equipment to assist with gathering information on the number of cars and speeds.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

- ♦ **Approval of Minutes:** *President Weidenheimer asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 1st workshop meeting and the April 3rd council meeting. Councilman Gagliardo made a motion to approve the minutes, with Councilman Grassley offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

BOROUGH REPORTS

- ◆ **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Hatzas reported the total of the fines collected in April was \$1,100.00.
- ◆ **Reading Police Department Report:** Lt. Contreras provided a report of activity for the month of April. He also informed Council of a phone scam where the caller pretends to be law enforcement and tells the citizen that they have a warrant and that they are coming to get you. They have successfully scammed money out of citizens so he wanted Council to be aware that this is happening and to advise reporting any incidents to the police.

Lt. Contreras also reported that they have received several calls regarding dirt bikes and that a separate dedicated department is being set up to address the issue. Mayor Hatzas inquired about e-bikes and e-scooters and stated that a previous Lieutenant told him that there were no rules or regulations against them. However, Mayor Hatzas has seen reports of other municipalities starting to crack down on them because of the danger they pose. Lt. Contreras stated that the Motor Vehicle Code indicates that electric bikes and scooters are treated the same as regular bicycles so a Borough ordinance would be required in order for them to address the issue. Solicitor Nagy said that she would research ordinances that are already in place elsewhere.
- ◆ **Kenhorst VFD Report:** Chief Hart reported a total of 68 calls for the month of April. Chief Hart also announced that former Kenhorst Assistant Fire Chief, Jerry Irey, has passed away. The funeral services are being held on May 8th at 10:00 AM at Klee Funeral Home.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** *President Weidenheimer asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for April. Councilman O'Brien made a motion with Councilman Smith offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*
- ◆ **Codes & Emergency Services:** No report.
- ◆ **Personnel:** No report.
- ◆ **Property & Buildings:** No report.
- ◆ **Sanitation:** No report.
- ◆ **Streets:** Councilman Grassley asked Ms. Castner if she has information on New Holland Road to share. Ms. Castner stated that New Holland Road is scheduled for some upgrades that will begin in May. The entirety of New Holland Road is going to be paved and some extra safety precautions will be included in an effort to slow down traffic. In particular, at the intersection of High Boulevard and New Holland Road. Once an official start date is given to the Borough, notifications will be sent out to residents and businesses.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- ◆ **Parks & Playground:** Councilman Stamm reported that the fence is finished, there is good activity at the pickleball and basketball courts, and that the graffiti on the basketball court has been successfully removed. Superintendent Hart said that the nets at the pickleball court are damaged and will need to be replaced.
- ◆ **Sanitary Sewers & Stormwater:** Councilman Avilla stated that progress is being made at the pump station.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

- ◆ **Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Nagy stated that everything is on the Agenda.
- ◆ **Engineer's Report:** Nick Perilli, McCarthy Engineering referred Council to the April report. In addition to the report, he stated that Jim McCarthy met with RAWA about the Brooke and Crowder drainage improvements project and that RAWA will be placing some of their existing water lines in that area. RAWA will be furnishing

the material and the contractor hired to do the work will install the material. RAWA will then reimburse the Borough for that work. The project was already out to bid so due to the change of scope McCarthy Engineering added two additional weeks to the bid schedule. Bids will now be in at the end of the month and should be ready for review at the June 5th council meeting.

- ◆ **Borough Manager's Report:** Ms. Castner expressed gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the Borough, for all of the dedication, hard work, and professionalism that the Volunteer Firefighters displayed while assisting residents and the Borough Roadcrew in the aftermath of the recent damaging storm.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Wingate Terrace Time Extension:** Solicitor Nagy clarified that the time extension isn't from the Borough to the project but rather from the project to the Borough and that the Borough's options are to accept the extension or deny the plan altogether. *President Weidenheimer asked for a motion to accept the time extension. Councilman Grassley made a motion and Councilman Stamm offered a second. Motion passed with 5 yeas to 2 nays.*
- ◆ **Berks County MS4 Cost Sharing & Cooperation Agreement:** *President Weidenheimer asked for a motion to move forward with the Agreement. Councilman Grassley made a motion and Councilman Gagliardo offered a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

FINAL REMARKS AND REMINDERS

- ◆ Next Workshop Meeting – Tuesday June 3rd, 2025 at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Next Council Meeting – Thursday June 5th, 2025 at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business Council adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara K. Mountford, Secretary/Treasurer