

# OFFICIAL MINUTES

## NOVEMBER 17, 2014

The Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania with President Leon R. Spencer, Jr. in the Chair.

Present: *President Leon R. Spencer, Jr.*  
*Vice President Danilo P. Maffei*  
*Councilmember Geoffrey R. Bosley*  
*Councilmember Brett M. Irwin*  
*Councilmember George P. Plumley, III*  
*Councilmember D. Lynn Sinclair*  
*Councilmember Patrick B. Taylor*  
*Mayor Matthew W. Fetick*  
*Interim Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise*

### **MOMENT of SILENCE**

### **MEMORY of KENNETT SQUARE POLICE OFFICERS**

### **WILLIAM W. DAVIS and RICHARD J. POSEY**

President Spencer requested that a Moment of Silence be observed in memory of Kennett Square Police Officers William A. Davis and Richard J. Posey. The officers were slain in the line of duty 42 years ago on November 15, 1972.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, stated that Borough taxes and water and sewer and fees have increased each year for last six (6) years. He added that Council needs to be fiscally responsible and not raise taxes. Mr. Thomas questioned why we have nine (9) police cars when we only need five (5). He also questioned how many trucks we have and recommended that the engines be replaced when necessary and not to purchase a whole new truck. Mr. Thomas questioned why the water rates are being increased when we have a new well. He does not approve of automatic annual pay raises for Borough employees and expressed his dissatisfaction that Borough employees are entitled to nearly two and one half (2 ½) months off per year. He questioned if the Borough still reimburses the employees for their medical co pays when no one else does. Mr. Thomas suggested that the Borough negotiate with trash hauler to also collect commercial accounts. He stated that homeowners should not have to pay for an expansion to the Parking Garage. In conclusion, Mr. Thomas stated that he wants an open and honest government.

Joan Holliday, on behalf of Esther Rochester of the Historic East Linden Neighborhood, thanked those involved in the kick-off event held last Thursday for the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. She noted that two (2) walks supporting the

Awareness Week will be held on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>; the first one at noon and the second at 4:00 p.m.

Theresa Bass, 331 East Linden Street and the Carter Development Corporation (CDC), congratulated Tony Gomez for his upcoming appointment this evening. She informed Mr. Gomez that the residents of East Linden Street and members of the CDC are very proud of him.

## **JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON PROGRAM MELITON “TONY” GOMEZ**

President Spencer stated that Council will consider the appointment of Meliton “Tony” Gomez as the first Junior Council Person (JCP) of the Borough of Kennett Square. His term will run through August 2015 and can be reappointed for a second term in September 2015.

*It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to appoint Meliton Gomez as the first Junior Council Person (JCP) of the Borough of Kennett Square. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON PLEDGE MELITON GOMEZ**

President Spencer administered the Junior Council Person Pledge to Milton Gomez.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Edward Zunino reported the following statistics for the month of October, 2014:

- Traffic Citations – 95.
- Written Traffic Warnings – 45.
- Criminal Arrests – 18.
- DUI Arrests – 5.
- Total Calls – 615, compared to 622 in October 2013.
- Calls Year-to-Date – 6, 284 compared to 6,528 in 2013.

## **FIRE COMPANY**

Fire Chief Steven Melton reported the following statistics for September 2014:

- Total EMS Calls-to-Date in 2014 –968.
- Fire Calls – 26; 4 being building fires and 9 being false alarms.
- Total Fire Calls-to-Date in 2014 – 391. The Chief noted that he has not experienced this high volume of calls since he has been active with the Fire Company.

In addition, Chief Melton announced that two (2) of their members, Jack Melton and Fernando Tapia, achieved their National Fire Fighter One Certification. Graduation will be held on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, in Wagontown. The Chief advised that the Fire Company assisted with the bonfire held at the Kennett High School this past Friday night.

Chief Melton congratulated Junior Council Person Gomez.

Vice President Maffei questioned how violations are addressed for false alarms.

Chief Melton replied that the Fire Company is working with the Codes and Police Departments to address this matter.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Mayor thanked the members of the Fire Company for their service and congratulated the newly certified firefighters.

The Mayor gave a highlight of the items the Public Safety Committee is working as follows:

- Researching the possibility of installing a crosswalk on West State Street near Maiden Lane.
- Addressing the sight distance issues at Linden and Willow Streets, Cypress and Willow Streets and North Walnut and Wilson Roads.
- The current Snow Emergency Route seems to work fairly well however there are several streets that are very narrow. The committee is looking into clarifying signage and establishing two (2) separate zones. One (1) of the zones would require that all vehicles be removed with any type of wintry precipitation to allow our salt trucks to treat the narrowest streets.
- Working with the School District regarding speeding concerns around Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center.

President Spencer added to the report that that he cannot say it enough, *"Please sign up for Swift Reach"*.

## **PUBLIC WORKS/FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Bosley highlighted his report with the following:

- Reviewed and spot checked invoices.
- Closed Loop Project - the last intersection is being completed. The control cabinets and poles are being delivered. We are looking for the project to be completed by the end of the year.
- Yeatman Well Project - moving at a slower pace than anticipated.
- Reimbursement documents have been submitted for both projects and are being paid in a timely manner.
- West Cypress Street Project – planning to go out to bid in January 2015.
- Water Meter Replacement Program – ongoing.
- In the final stages of roadway repairs, paving and resealing.
- The final entries are being made to the 2015 Proposed Budget. The Public Meeting will be held next Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **MINUTES of NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

President Spencer presented minutes from November 3, 2014.

It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **BILLS**

President Spencer presented the bills to be paid on November 17, 2014 and the bills that were paid since the last meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Bosley and seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESENTATION of PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET**

The Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2015 Budget with the following highlights:

- The balanced budget includes a 2.75% increase in uniformed and a 2.5% in non-uniformed wages.
- One mill tax increase to a level of 6.35 mills.
- Water, Sewer and Solid Waste fees include a 3% increase. This will help continue the growth of the Fund Reserves.
- Long term parking for the garage increased \$60 annually and long term Street permit parking increased \$10 annually.

2015 Capital Projects include the following:

- Propose \$275,000 for maintenance repairs to the Borough's streets - \$245,000 from Liquid Fuels and \$30,000 from the General Fund.
- Completion of the Closed Loop Traffic Signals Project, \$1,100,000 - Entire project is reimbursed.
- West Cypress Street reconstruction, \$1,226,000 - CRP grant funds totaling \$956,000; \$100,000 from the Water Fund and \$170,000 from the General Fund.
- Relocation of South Street Pump Station, \$650,000 - Applying for a grant to fund 75% (\$487,500). The remaining \$162,500 would be funded through a short note.
- Parking Garage expansion, \$3,200,000 - Looking for grant funding. Debt service issued for all of the remainder.

Councilmember Bosley noted that we took a three (3) year grace period for payments on the sewer bond. That period is over and the payments have not increased from what they were before. He also noted that a lot of the Capital projects will be accomplished if we are awarded grant funding.

Vice President Maffei referred to the proposed Parking Garage expansion stating that is far from a done deal. Discussions are being held with EDIS who is the lease holder of the old Borough Hall property and Genesis HealthCare, the major employer in the Borough. We are making a significant increase to the parking garage rates but our rates have been significantly low compared to the standard. The rate increases will help fund the expansion project.

President Spencer stated as a member of the Kennett Area Community Development organization they have been engaged in conversations with Representative Ross and Senator Pileggi about possible funding for the garage expansion. These conversations will continue with the State officials.

Vice President Maffei noted that the vast majority of the one (1) mill increase is aimed at the Street Improvement Program. The program has been in our plan but has not been funded. The program includes paving each street every 20 years. He noted that some of our streets are suffering despite the hard work by our Public Works Department. Vice President Maffei also noted that .15 mills of the tax increased are designated for the purchase of a new fire truck.

President Spencer announced that the copies of the Proposed 2015 Budget is available for review at Borough Hall and the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. The Public Meeting regarding the budget will be held next Tuesday.

Vice President Maffei noted that Council will not vote on the budget at the Public Meeting on Tuesday; the meeting is for discussion only and public input.

## **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) APPLICATION 121 WEST STATE STREET**

President Spencer presented the following ARB application:

- 121 West State Street, Basciani, "Marcel Cruz" - New Awning with Lettering.

**It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Bosley to approve the application as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **2015 AGREEMENT with the CHESTER COUNTY SOCIETY for the PREVENTION of CRUELTY to ANIMALS (SPCA)**

President Spencer presented the 2015 Full Service Agreement with the Chester County SPCA for approval.

The Manager advised that the base cost is \$1,500. The Borough must have an agreement with the SPCA in order for them to provide services in the Borough.

Chief Zunino stated that he supports approval of the full service agreement.

**It was moved by Councilmember Bosley and seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **LEASE/PURCHASE of POLICE VEHICLE 2015 FORD UTILITY SUV**

President Spencer presented the request from Chief Zunino to lease/purchase a 2015 Ford Utility SUV.

Chief Zunino advised that the Police Department's 2004 Ford Explorer needed extensive repairs including the replacement of the timing chain. Council approved the auction of this vehicle via Municibid. The Chief expressed his concern that the Police Department will be without a four (4) wheel drive vehicle with winter approaching. He advised that the purchase of a new SUV is in the Proposed 2015 Budget. The total cost of the new vehicle is \$27,406.00 with three (3) annual payments of \$9,821.54 and Ford Motor Credit will defer the first payment until January 2015.

**It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to approve the lease/purchase as presented.**

Vice President Maffei questioned if the 2015 Ford Utility SUV is same type of vehicle as listed in the 2015 budget.

Chief Zunino replied yes.

Vice President Maffei stated that he does not argue that the vehicle needs to be replaced but the purchase is based on Council approving the 2015 Budget. He feels that is putting the cart before the horse.

The Mayor advised that the new vehicle is currently ready for delivery.

Vice President Maffei expressed his concern that purchasing this vehicle in 2014 will bind us to the obligation of funding the purchase in the 2015 Budget.

President Spencer concurred with the Vice President Maffei's point however President Spencer noted that this is a critical purchase especially if we have a winter like we did last year.

Vice President Maffei stated that he would like to defer this decision until after the adoption of the 2015 Budget.

Councilmember Irwin questioned if we always lease/purchase police vehicles.

Chief Zunino replied that the 2012 Charger was obtained through a lease/purchase and at the end of the lease, the Borough bought the vehicle for \$1.

The Mayor advised that the 2012 lease/purchase was done because there was not enough funding in the budget for an outright purchase however a lease/purchase proves to be a good way to budget these types of items. Both the Manager and the Finance Director approved of the 2012 lease/purchase.

**Motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1 with Vice President Maffei voting no.**

## **BID AWARD**

### **2004 FORD EXPLORER**

President Spencer presented the Bid Award for the 2004 Ford Explorer through Municibid. The highest bidder was Vincent DeCicco with a bid amount of \$1,750.

**It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to approve the bid award as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **FREE HOLIDAY PARKING**

### **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup> and DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> through JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Manager advised that the merchants are requesting three (3) free hours of parking on Small Business Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, and again from Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**It was moved by Councilmember Bosley and seconded by Councilmember Irwin to approve free parking as requested.**

The Manager noted that this is an extension of four (4) days of free parking compared to 2014. With the Longwood Gardens Shuttle and the Mushroom Drop on New Year's Eve, the free parking may encourage more people to come to the Borough.

Vice President Maffei questioned the amount of loss in parking revenue.

Chief Zunino replied that it is approximately \$1,000 for a week and the extra four (4) days could be about an additional \$400.

Councilmember Sinclair questioned if the Parking Enforcement Officers will enforce the three (3) hour limit.

The Manager replied yes.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Spencer reminded the public to sign up for Swift Reach.

President Spencer thanked Joan Holliday for all that she does in this community. He reminded the public of the Walk for Hunger and Homelessness to be held on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be two (2) walks; one (1) at noon and the other at 4 p.m. Participants are to meet under the town clock on the Genesis HealthCare building. Food donations will be accepted during this event to benefit the Kennett Food Cupboard. Flyers are available at the Borough Secretary's table.

President Spencer announced that Council will hold a Public Meeting for the Proposed 2015 Budget on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Red Clay Room, 423 Dalmatian Street.

President Spencer announced that Council will hold a Public Meeting to consider the adoption of the 2015 Budget and Borough Tax Rate on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Red Clay Room, 423 Dalmatian Street.

President Spencer announced that the 2014 Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The parade will kick off at 6:15 p.m. He thanked Mary Hutchins for her hard work planning and preparing for this event.

### **COUNCIL, MANAGER and MAYOR COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Sinclair advised that tickets are on sale for the 2014 Holiday Candlelight Tour to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online and are also available at Borough Hall.

The Mayor noted that an incredible amount of support has been shown for Junior Council Person Gomez which speaks highly of his character and dedication to the community.

The Mayor thanked the Fire Company representatives for being present this evening and for assisting the High School with the bonfire.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

*Karen L. Scherer*

Karen L. Scherer  
Secretary