

OFFICIAL MINUTES JULY 20, 2015

The Regular Meeting of July 20, 2015, 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
Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, stated that he is not favor of the Borough holding money from the Library. The Library does not only benefit children, it benefits everyone. Mr. Thomas said that he would like Borough Council be as forthcoming as they want the Library to be. He supports the Library and would like to see the issues resolved but does not like the way the Library is treating the Borough or the way the Borough is treating the Library.

Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street, stated that Magnolia Place is the top of her concerns this evening. She would like the Borough to learn more about zoning laws and reducing density. Ms. Watson complaints included the need for a stop sign on Mulberry Street, vehicles that park in no parking zones, the street lighting is too bright and the need to eliminate parking on along South Washington Street on the west side. She also wants a limit on the number of liquor licenses within the Borough. In addition, Ms. Watson stated she has always appreciated the Library and the Borough needs to continue to support it.

Isabelle Hanson stated reasons why she does not want programs or book clubs to stop at the Kennett Library. She concluded with "please do not stop the programs, we need them".

Victoria Hanson stated that she is in the Super Hero Book Club and does not want that program to stop.

Kevin Lomas, 335 North Broad Street, stated that he is in favor of continuing to fund the Library. He said that the Library is very important to his family and community and we should fund it properly.

Mia Fragale, 523 Kenview Avenue, said that she does not think Council should cut the funding because she participates in a lot of the programs at the Library.

Ivy Weir, 650 West Cypress Street and Program Coordinator at the Library, advised that this is a national awarded library. She stated that the Library Board, the Borough and concerned citizens of Kennett Square need to collaborate and not create conflict at this point. She invited Council to stop by and visit one of their programs. Ms. Weir said these issues have been going on for so long and it is time for us to come together and collaborate.

Myra Miller, 301 Scarlett Avenue, stated that the Library is not just for children but for adults as well. She reads about one (1) or two (2) book a week and 98 percent of them come from the Library. Ms. Miller said that there has to be a way to work this out without withholding the funds.

Kathleen Caccamo, 240 North Washington Street and downtown merchant, applauded Donna Murray and Ivy Weir for the Library's programs. She said it is her understanding that Council supports the Library and added that she supports the Mayor's letter to Council which asked the Library Board to come forward and answer questions. She also supports someone from the Borough being appointed to the Library Board and the proposed Task Force. Like Ms. Weir, Ms. Caccamo stated that this has been going on too long and she would like to see the issues resolved.

Kelly Rumbold, 120 Ridge Avenue, does not want Council to withhold funding from a successful library. She is not aware of any missing funds and noted that the minutes from the Library Board meetings are available on the Library's website.

Emily Fragale, 523 Kenview Avenue, said she hopes that they don't cut the funding because the Library's programs are fun to do.

Barbara Cairns, 215 North Garfield Street and former president of the Library Board, stated that there is really no debate that the Library serves its public and it is at the forefront of the industry. She noted that the current leadership of the Library does not represent the leadership of the past five (5) to seven (7) years, and that leadership does not represent the leadership of the past 15 years. The segment in the middle was composed of some members from past boards and new recruits. Although discussions could be lengthy, the Board always respected each other. Over the last two (2) years additional members have challenged a lot of the previous work. The issue is not about the Library's programs but about the leadership and the ability to move forward with the day to day operations and envision the future and make it happen. Ms. Cairns asked Council to focus on a few things - leadership that works with respect and civility, representation from the municipalities the Library serves, and expertise on the Board for the oversight of daily operations as well as what it will take to oversee potentially a 10 million dollar capital campaign and the construction. Ms. Cairns stated that the Library needs help with these things and we should focus on that and not threaten the children's' programs.

KENNETT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT – THANK YOU

Dr. Barry Tomasetti, Superintendent of the Kennett Consolidate School District, thanked Borough Council for the collaborative relationship that the School District has with the Borough. He also thanked Mayor Fetick and Chief Zunino for the outlook they have for the students and staff at the Kennett High School and Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center. Dr. Tomasetti said that it has been an excellent relationship and if there is anything more the School District can do to enhance that relationship to please let him know.

PUBLIC SAFETY**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On behalf of Chief Edward Zunino, Corporal Christopher Wills reported the following statistics for the month of June, 2015:

- Traffic Citations – 80.
- Written Traffic Warnings – 52.
- Criminal Arrests – 23.
- DUI Arrests – 1.
- Total Calls – 581, compared to 616 in June, 2014.

FIRE COMPANY

Fire Chief Christopher Plumley reported the following calls for the month of June, 2015:

- EMS Calls – 89 total calls with 32 being in the Borough, 41 in Kennett Township and the remaining 16 in other municipalities; year-to-date 529.
- Fire Calls – 44 total calls with 18 being in the Borough, 16 in Kennett Township and the remaining 10 in other municipalities; year-to-date 187.

The Chief advised that they will be signing for the ladder truck with Pierce on Wednesday. He thanked Council with their assistance of this purchase. The approximate delivery date will be the end of May or early June, 2016.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Mayor stated that he met with Dr. Tomasetti regarding the School Resource Officer and the continuation of that program. The combined total of staff and students at the High School and Kindergarten Center is 1,600. Both the Police Department and the School District are pleased with the way the School Resource Officer program has worked and it is something both parties want to continue. At this point the amount of the State funding is unknown until their budget is passed.

Other public safety items include the proposed ordinance to update the snow emergency routes and the proposed gateway for North Union Street.

PUBLIC WORKS and FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmember Bosley reported the following for the month of May, 2015:

- Our wells are running smoothly.
- The Manager attended a meeting regarding the EMS study and waiting for a couple of proposals.
- The Manager, President Spencer and the Mayor attended a transportation meeting with TMAC and Septa with regards to bringing additional public transportation to this area.
- They met with Karen Scherer, Borough Secretary, to discuss our trash and recycling program; we have a few years left on our current contract but we continue to look into ways to save money.
- They also discussed the Shade Tree Commission with Ms. Scherer. The Commission is in need of one (1) member. He advised any interested residents to contact Ms. Scherer.

He reported the following for the month of June, 2015:

- They met with Russell Drumheller, Codes Enforcement Officer, to discuss the Codes Department and their activity. Tina Porter, Assistant Codes Enforcement Officer, does over 2,000 inspections annually. They also discussed the Department's workload and where they are headed with the growth in the Borough in addition to form based zoning.
- The West Cypress Street Project is scheduled to begin in August.

CONSENT ITEMS

BILLS

President Spencer presented the bills to be paid on July 20, 2015, and the bills that were paid since the last meeting.

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

DISCUSSION

BAYARD TAYLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Mayor referred to the letter he presented to Council publicly two (2) weeks ago regarding the issues surrounding the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. The main focus of that letter was representation on the Library Board; nothing more, nothing less. Also in that letter, he recommended that the Borough participate in a task force with concerned residents, Kennett Township and other municipalities. This task force would be charged with ensuring that the greater community's needs are being met with the current library services and future planning. The Mayor stated that this could be a short term task force, i.e. 90 days, and believes we should still do this to make sure we are all moving forward.

The Mayor advised that there was no negativity regarding the Library's programming in his letter nor has he said anything negative about the programs. The Mayor stated that we couldn't have a better resource. As far as withholding funding, the Mayor stated that it was very clear in his letter that there was no timeframe mentioned.

The Mayor stated that over the past two (2) weeks there have been multiple meetings and he has had the opportunity to have conversations with a few of the Library Board members. Although he appreciated their input the Mayor said his concerns are not completely alleviated and he still stands by his recommendations. The Mayor asked for a Council discussion on this matter and where should we go from here.

President Spencer advised that he and the Manager met with three (3) members of the Board on Friday and added that there were some real positives that came out of the meeting. President Spencer agrees with the Mayor that the primary focus is representation and shared a couple of examples he has with County agencies. During the meeting on Friday, he and the Manager emphasized their strong belief that the Borough of Kennett Square should have the right to appoint a person of its own choosing to serve on the Library Board; this is a win-win situation on both sides. President Spencer totally supports that the Borough has representation on the Library Board and this should be the same for all of the other seven (7) municipalities. President Spencer and the Manager made another recommendation during that meeting to have diversity on the Board. The diversity is not only ethnicity but also includes work forces such as the labor industry, health care and finance. The need to review and revise the bylaws of the Library was also discussed in addition to the amount of turnover of the Board members. At the end of this meeting, both he and the Manager felt that the Borough's representation on the Library Board could be possible.

Councilmember Bosley stated that he could not agree more with the Mayor and President Spencer. Withholding funding is not a punitive measure but a matter of getting to the bottom of things.

Vice President Maffei stated that he has the utmost respect for the Mayor and his position. He also commended Donna Murray and her staff for the phenomenal programs that they provide. Vice President Maffei stated that we are not having this discussion because the Library changed their name or the location for their new building; these have nothing to do with the matter at hand. It is about the funds the Borough contributes and how they are handled. During his meeting with Ms. Murray last week he asked a lot of questions and she provided him the information. Vice President Maffei said it is important to note that the Borough gives funding to other organizations besides the Library such as the Kennett Area Senior Center, Kennett Area Parks and Recreations and Anson B. Nixon Park (KAPA). All of these organizations are what a healthy community needs to be truly healthy. He advised that the Borough of Kennett Square gives what it can and we give \$37,100 per year to the Library. Out of the seven (7) municipalities that contribute, we are the third largest giver and we also have the lowest median per capita income of all of those municipalities. Vice President Maffei says that he loves the Library and supports it and he supports the Borough's contribution to the Library but we need to have a voice on how those monies are spent.

Councilmember Sinclair thanked the Mayor for bringing this item up for discussion and maybe the other municipalities will have this same discussion and representation on the Library Board to do the same thing for their taxpayers.

President Spencer stated that if there is a Borough resident that has the desire to be a part of the representation process to please make themselves known.

The Manager referred to Vice President Maffei's comments about Library's financial reports being on their website and noted that the Library is making strides to become more transparent and have information available to the public.

AMENDMENTS to the AGENDA

President Spencer advised that the presentation regarding the Former Cannery Building - 360 Cream Street will not transpire this evening thus Action Item #2, Consider Temporary Use Permit - 360 Cream Street will also not transpire.

DISCONTINUE PARTICIPATION REGIONAL POLICE STUDY

The Mayor advised that just over a year ago we worked together to sign a document to have a study done for regional policing. Besides the Borough, the study also included Kennett and New Garden Townships. Eventually East Marlborough and London Grove Townships, and West Grove and Avondale Boroughs were added. The Mayor noted that he, President Spencer and Councilmember Taylor have worked with all of the other municipalities and invested a lot of time attending multiple meetings, reviewing multiple documents and looking at the study. Unfortunately, as of last week all of the other municipalities, with the exception of New Garden Township, have withdrawn their support. New Garden Township is at a point where they need to make a decision to continue or withdraw. With just New Garden Township and the Borough left in the study the financial impact has not gone down but up by three (3) to five (5) percent. The Mayor added that through these meetings the Borough has developed excellent working relationships with both Kennett and New Garden Township Police Departments and they plan to continue working together.

The Mayor stated there were two (2) major objectives for the Borough to consider regional policing - save money and no loss in the level of services; these objectives cannot be met and he does not find it feasible to continue with the study.

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to discontinue formal discussions in the Regional Police Study as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE,
CHAPTER 23, SECTION 23-30, ACCESSORY STRUCTURES
PUBLIC HEARING – SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

President Spencer presented the advertisement to hold a Public Hearing to consider the proposed ordinance amending Municipal Code, Chapter 23, Section 23-30, Accessory Structures. The Public Hearing will be held on September 8, 2015, 7 p.m.

Russell Drumheller, Codes Enforcement Officer, advised that keeping with the historic preservation this ordinance basically allows accessory structures such as barns in the rear of properties to become accessory apartments.

It was moved by Councilmember Bosley and seconded by Councilmember Sinclair to authorize the advertisement as presented.

Vice President Maffei questioned if the advertisement is posted now will meet the advertisement requirements.

Mr. Drumheller replied absolutely.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Spencer thanked the public for attending this evening and advised that Council holds budget meetings in October and November and invited them to attend.

President Spencer announced that National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 4th. He encouraged the public to participate. The event is held on East Linden Street and is guided by the Carter Community Development Corporation.

President Spencer explained the benefits and importance of Swift Reach. He encouraged the public to sign up for this program.

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

Vice President Maffei thanked the community for such a strong and positive turnout.

The Mayor concurred. He advised that he has received a lot of feedback from the public since presenting the letter to Council two (2) weeks ago. This is a public matter and it needs to stay in the forefront and these conversations need to continue.

The Manager reported that the Borough utility bills have been mailed.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Plumley to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.


Karen L. Scherer
Secretary