

OFFICIAL MINUTES NOVEMBER 23, 2015

The Regular Meeting of November 23, 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 George P. Plumley, III
Mayor Matthew W. Fetick
Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise
Junior Council Person Meliton Gomez

Absent: Councilmember Brett M. Irwin
Councilmember D. Lynn Sinclair
Councilmember Patrick B. Taylor

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

The Mayor and Police Chief Edward Zunino presented Certificates of Merit to the following Borough employees for their meritorious life saving efforts:

- Corporal Richard E. Bell – July 7, 2013.
- Patrolman Christopher W. Gravina – June 9, 2015.
- Patrolman Pedro J. Serrano – June 9, 2015.
- Steven T. Melton – June 9, 2015.
- Patrolman Kenneth J. Rongaus – September 11, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, thanked the Police Officers and Mr. Melton for their life saving efforts. In addition, Mr. Thomas expressed his disappointed that the two (2) vacancies on Borough Council have not been advertised in the newspapers; it is better to have more competition.

CONSENT ITEM

MINUTES of NOVEMBER 16, 2015

President Spencer presented the minutes from November 16, 2015.

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

PROPOSED 2016 FEE SCHEDULE

The Manager gave a summary of the changes and additions to the Proposed 2016 Fee Schedule which includes the following:

- Addition of the Credit Card Administrative Fee of \$3.00 or 2.45%.
- The Overhead Banner Fee increased to \$110 per week.
- Land Development with/without Subdivision Escrow increased to \$5,000.
- Cell Tower/Satellite Change-Out Fee increased to \$350.
- Residential Use and Occupancy Permit for Change of Use increased to \$75.
- Zoning – Conditional Use Fee increased to \$5,000.
- Addition of the Historical Architectural Review Board – Certificate of Appropriateness Fee of \$100.
- Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fees increased by 3%.

PUBLIC MEETING

PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Spencer opened the public meeting at 7:22 p.m. for public comments on the Proposed 2016 Budget.

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, said that the 2010 Moody Report showed that were six (6) million dollars in debt and now we are at 14 million and our reserves are not increasing. There are only so many people in town and so much money and the most we could add to the Borough is another 1,000 people because we have no other place to build. The Parking Garage is still not breaking even and it takes \$45,000 to repair it annually. We are paying a lot for the water, sewer and trash fees and then transferring \$740,000 of that money into the General Fund. Mr. Thomas believes that if we had a water and sewer committee then we could not transfer those funds. He said that the Borough is spending way too much money and he's against the co pay reimbursements and every employee getting a raise.

Tony Talamonti, 584 East Cypress, stated that the salaries are out of line and we need to cut costs starting with the Manager's salary. He does not think a little town like Kennett Square can afford this. Mr. Talamonti recommended that we implement an amusement tax/recreational tax on the YMCA noting that it could amount to \$50,000 in revenue per year. He stated that it bothers him that he is unable to get the mileage from the Borough trucks without submitting an Open Records Request. Plus, he does not think that we have to buy a truck every 10 years if the current truck is still in good shape.

Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street, stated that she would like copies of the changes to the fee schedule. She would also like to see a pie chart that shows the expenses of the Borough. In addition, Ms. Watson would like information that shows why the fees have to be increased. She questioned if a citizen who owns a two (2) acre parcel would have to pay the Land Development Escrow Fee if they wanted to develop that property.

The Manager replied yes and stated that fee is an escrow and the applicant would be refunded any monies that were not used.

Ms. Watson said that the Land Development Escrow Fee is too high for a citizen to pay. She is against the increase in water, sewer and trash fees. Ms. Watson also questioned the implementation of the Credit Card Fee.

Councilmember Bosley explained that the Credit Card Administrative Fee is a pass through fee that the credit card company charges the Borough for each credit card transaction.

Tracy Martin, 512 East South Street, questioned why the budget and the minutes are not transcribed in Spanish. She also asked if there is an inventory of everything the Borough owns, including tools and staples.

John Thomas referred to the benefit package of the non-uniformed Borough employees stating that it amounts to \$228,000 annually and does not include the \$30,000 paid out in co pay reimbursements. He noted that he didn't look at the Police budget. He thinks the employees should pay a higher amount of their premium. Mr. Thomas stated that water and sewer funds are paying for themselves and we should have more money in the reserves.

Tony Talamonti, 584 East Cypress Street, stated that he supports charging fees for special events and is against the purchase of the new fire truck.

Thomas Trendelenburg, 725 Wayne Avenue, he expressed his support of Mr. Thomas' comments and noted that said his property taxes have increase over 100% in the past 10 years. In addition, Mr. Trendelenburg believes the Borough Codes are too strict.

President Spencer closed the public comments at 7:54 p.m.

COUNCIL/MAYOR DISCUSSION

The Mayor stated that one (1) of the full time police officer positions is covered by School Resource Officer grant and the department plans to add a Sergeant's position in 2016. He agrees that having a lot of non-profit parcels in town that are not required to pay property tax can be a challenge. The Mayor believes that there should be a way to generate revenue from the special events held in the Borough and urged Council to continue a conversation about implementing a fee.

President Spencer advised that YMCA agency also gives a lot back to the community including a significant number of scholarships to needy children.

Councilmember Plumley asked the Mayor if he is ok with the 2016 Police Department Budget.

The Mayor replied yes.

Councilmember Plumley asked Deputy Chief Mark Plumley if he is ok with the monies contributed to the Fire Company.

Deputy Chief Plumley replied yes but they will always accept additional funding.

Councilmember Plumley stated that Public Works and the Codes Departments provide a good quality of life and we need to find ways to cut without ruining that. He also thinks we should cut out the co-pay reimbursements. Councilmember Plumley asked if any other Councilmembers saw something that could be cut.

Vice President Maffei asked the Manager what would need to be done if we did transfer monies from enterprise funds into the General Fund.

The Manager advised that we would need to cut the budget by approximately \$600,000 to avoid the transfers; that amounts to about three (3) mills in property tax.

Vice President Maffei does not agree with cutting the budget. He realizes that the General Fund is a mess but we are slowly paying off debt service that was generated by bad choices that were made in the past.

Councilmember Bosley stated that we can't dig ourselves out of the hole overnight. We have made progress although we are far away from where we want to be. He asked the Finance Director to provide Council with the amount of the debt service in 2010.

Vice President Maffei said that there is a lot of prosperity in this town and we have a lot of work to do get ourselves out of the debt.

President Spencer referred to Ms. Martin's comments saying that translation is a valid point. He will asked staff to investigate the matter.

Councilmember Plumley said that some of the items that can be cut from the budget are contributions to the nonprofit organizations. He added that at this time, he has found about \$300,000 that can be cut from the budget but hasn't found enough cuts yet to eliminate the transfers.

President Spencer said that this is worth looking into but noted that it may cause some ramifications.

Councilmember Plumley stated that he voted against the tax increase last year. Although a tax increase is not projected for this year, he would prefer a mill decrease.

The Mayor advised that he prefers a millage increase rather than the fees being increased.

Councilmember Plumley stated that he thinks we can cut about \$300,000 from the budget.

Councilmember Bosley asked Councilmember Plumley to share his recommended budget cuts to all members of Council.

Councilmember Plumley agreed.

BID AWARD

POLICE VEHICLE, 2004 FORD CROWN VICTORIA

President Spencer presented the bid award for the 2004 Ford Crown Victoria.

The Chief Manager advised that the vehicle was placed for bid through MuniBid.com. The highest bid was \$900 from Johnita Robinson of Stowe Township, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Spencer also announced the following:

- The Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, November 27th. The parade will kick off at 6:15 p.m.
- The Residential Electronics Collection and Document Shred Event will take place on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a joint partnership with Kennett and New Garden Townships and will be held at Kennett High School, 100 East South Street. There is a \$20 collection fee for each TV and computer monitor.
- Council will hold a meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 7 p.m. to consider the adoption of the Proposed 2016 Fee Schedule, Budget and Tax Ordinance. Said meeting will be held in the Red Clay Room, 423 Dalmatian Street.
- The Kennett Fire Company will be hosting Breakfast with Santa again this year on Sunday, December 13th, from 8 to 11 a.m.
- Any residents that desire to be considered for appointment to Borough Council to fill the two (2) vacancies must submit their letters of interest and/or resumes to Borough Hall by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

COUNCIL, MANAGER and MAYOR COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Manager advised that Council is still accepting letters of interests from residents who are willing to serve on Library Board and Library Task Force.

Jr. Council Person Gomez reported that the Kennett Food Cupboard continues to accept donations of turkeys for Thanksgiving meals. The cupboard is opened from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jr. Council Person Gomez thanked the community for the general donation to the Humanitarian Club of Kennett High School. The donation was a result of the Community Thanksgiving Service.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice President Maffei and seconded by Councilmember Plumley to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



Karen L. Scherer
Borough Secretary