

OFFICIAL MINUTES April 5, 2021

The Regular Meeting of April 5, 2021, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference with President Mercomes in the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: *President Brenda Mercomes*
Councilmember Ethan L. Cramer
Councilmember J. Douglas Doerfler
Councilmember LaToya Myers
Councilmember Peter L. Waterkotte
Councilmember Mayra Zavala

Mayor Matthew W. Fetick
Interim Borough Management Team – Chief William Holdsworth

Absent: *Councilmember Rosa Moore*

ADOPTION of AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Doerfler to approve the Council meeting agenda; seconded by Councilmember Myers.

It was moved by Councilmember Myers to amend the agenda by removing the March 15th minutes from the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Doerfler.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, commended Mayor Fetick, the Chester County Department of Health and Kennett Fire Company for how well the vaccine event went. He feels that Council needs to send commendations to help keep their spirits up, as they have all done an extraordinary job on this event. He thanked Mayor Fetick for his hard work. Mr. Thomas commented on his second concern, the purchase of the 600 South Broad Street property, which he is strongly in favor of. He shared that he does not know what the problem is but would really like to see the Borough purchase the property for many reasons but most importantly to create a center of the Borough with the police department and the borough office in one location. He does not believe the borough will ever find another location like this one.

Doug Hayes, 611 Magnolia Court, commented that he is in agreement with Mr. Thomas regarding the vaccine clinic on Saturday and thanked everyone involved. In addition, he commented that Magnolia Place continues to see impact from the incident at Victory, namely the streetlights on D street which are still not working. He noted that residents are feeling unsafe at night without the lighting. He hopes that the Victory incident report is completed soon so that the lighting can be resolved for the safety of the community.

CONSENT ITEMS

The following Consent Items are deemed accepted with the approval of the agenda:

- Approval of Bills
- Resolution to Approve Chester County Tax Collection Committee Delegates
- Resignation of Jason Ferrell, member of the Planning Commission

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S

President Mercomes reported that she would also like to thank all the parties involved with the efforts to get people vaccinated this past weekend. She commented that there were and still are so many people who did not know what course to take to find and receive a vaccine because they do not use social media or even have computers, so it was wonderful to see these people get their vaccines.

FINANCE

Councilmember Waterkotte reported that the Committee met this morning, Monday, April 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. He shared the Committee:

- Reviewed bills and monthly financials;
- Guest speaker from Athena Services, a woman-owned refuse removal company that has been in business for 31 years with a large clientele in the Philadelphia region. He noted that we are coming into the time when we will be put the Borough's trash contract out for bid. He shared that owner herself is one of the managers and we will see where this leads.
- Renegotiated our contract with PECO via a third party and locked in our rate for five (5) years.
- Discussed moving the late fees for Township water/sewer bills from 45 – 60 days.
- Discussed the American Rescue Plan, as the Borough will receive approximately \$600,000 to be used as relief, and the ideas around the disbursement of that money.
- Discussed upgrading the sewer lines.
- Discussed the issue that both Councilmember Cramer and Waterkotte finish their Council terms in December 2021 and will come off of the Finance Committee; he suggested reaching out to the new Borough Council candidates to ask them to attend the Finance Committee meetings going forward so they are prepared for the issues.
- Held an Executive Session regarding the purchase of real estate.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Doerfler shared that the Personnel Committee met last week, and had about one minute of public normal meeting, the remainder of the time was all an Executive Session dealing with personnel matters.

BOROUGH MANAGER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Councilmember Doerfler reported that the Committee met today to review the timeline provided by Strategic Government Resources (SGR) the borough manager search firm. He shared that over the last three weeks SGR has been collecting resumes and applications from applicants across the country. They

have a timeline established, reviewed today, and hopefully we will have resumes for Councilmembers for review and their input as we look at the next steps of the screening and the initial round of interviews. He noted that the next month and a half is going to be extremely busy, and the Committee will meet again on the 19th, with an update at the next Council meeting on where we are with the initial applicants, since the last day to apply is April 12th.

PUBLIC MEETING and ACTION ITEM

CONSIDER AMENDMENT to POLICE PENSION PLAN

Borough Solicitor Mike Crotty explained we need to amend the Police Pension Plan so that we comply with the 2021 to 2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement and to bring some of the wording in line with Act 600. He noted it has been advertised after our last meeting and it is ready for Council's adoption.

Councilmember Doerfler motioned to approve the amendment to the Police Pension Plan; seconded by Councilmember Cramer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Administration

MUSHROOM CAP HALF MARATHON REQUEST

Chief William Holdsworth apologized that this item was to Council until today due to an email server issue. He shared that it is a minor request, similar to last month's request from the Mushroom Festival Committee. He noted that the Mushroom Cap group is requesting the use of the 600 South Broad Street property should the Borough own it at that point in time, as part of their process to bring back the half marathon in early November 2021. Chief Holdsworth commented that they will go through the normal process of submitting a special event application that will be reviewed by all necessary staff, but this is to specifically grant the approval for the use of the parking lot.

Councilmember Waterkotte motioned to approve the Mushroom Cap Half Marathon request for the use of the parking lot at 600 South Broad Street; seconded by Councilmember Doerfler.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, commented that this is a classic example of what that property could do to alleviate traffic uptown and again commented that it is a wonderful idea.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Architecture Review Board

HARB APPLCIATION – 300 MARSHALL STREET

Andrew Froning, HARB Chair, reported there was just one application this month from 300 Marshall Street for the addition of a roof dormer to third story, rear of the building facing Church Alley. He noted the design is simple and typical of the neighborhood and the HARB recommends the approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

It was motioned by Councilmember Cramer to issue the COA for 300 Marshall Street; seconded by Councilmember Myers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously.

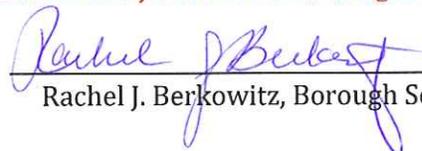
COUNCIL, MANAGER and MAYOR COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Fetick commented that the Kennett Fire Company was very accommodating for the vaccine clinic this past Saturday. He noted that the Red Clay Room has been closed because the county has been using it, so the Fire Company agreed to empty out the engine bay and allow us to use it for the vaccine clinic. The goal of the clinic was to vaccinate our hard to reach citizens who were struggling to get appointments online and we managed to vaccinate 203 people. Mayor Fetick noted that the entire clinic was staffed by 23 volunteers and seven (7) medical providers, as well as the pharmacist. He explained that this group of 203 people is scheduled for their second shots on Sunday, May 2nd. He also commented that he has requested the opportunity to have a mass clinic in the Borough once the vaccine is open to everyone. He shared that this is not a promised event, but a hopeful one and he already has 18 nurses lined up for a bigger vaccine clinic. Mayor Fetick will keep everyone posted on the vaccine clinic.

Rachel Berkowitz, Borough Secretary reminded everyone of the Library's Shred Event from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 10 in the Library lot.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Mercomes adjourned the meeting at 7: 40 p.m.



Rachel J. Berkowitz, Borough Secretary