

OFFICIAL MINUTES APRIL 15, 2019

The Regular Meeting of April 15, 2019, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:09 p.m. in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania with President J. Douglas Doerfler in the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: *President J. Douglas Doerfler*
Vice President Peter L. Waterkotte
Councilmember Wayne Braffman
Councilmember Ethan L. Cramer
Councilmember James Mallon
Councilmember LaToya M. Myers

Mayor Matthew W. Fetick
Borough Solicitor Michael G. Crotty

Absent: *Councilmember Brenda Mercomes*
Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise

ADOPTION of AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Cramer to adopt the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Doerfler announced that Council held an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2019. The session was held in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Co. No 1, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348. The purpose of this session was to discuss personnel matters.

SWEARING IN of FOUR (4) NEW PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Chief William Holdsworth introduced and gave a brief background on the following four (4) new part time Police Officers:

- Collin R. Vannicolo.
- Lyndsay M. Taylor.
- Brandon K. Krissing.
- Justin T. Fonock.

The Mayor swore in the Officers as members of the Kennett Square Police Force.

SWEARING IN of FIRE COMPANY OFFICERS

The Mayor swore in the following officers of Kennett Fire Company No. 1 for two (2) year terms:

- Thomas F. Brady, Battalion Chief.
- Jeffrey A. Singer, Jr., Assistant Chief.
- Steven T. Melton, Deputy Chief.
- Bruce A. Mitchell, Chief.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, commented that the Spring Newsletter format and content were very good this year; the best one he has seen. Mr. Thomas shared his concerns regarding the C2 zoning ordinance that will be discussed tonight. His particular concerns are regarding what he feels is an inappropriate amount of parking for the school and school visitors. Mr. Thomas also questioned the private school's licensure, regulations and staff certifications. He explained that he is not against the school, but wants to see zoning done appropriately. Mr. Thomas feels that this zoning amendment is made for this one place and situation.

Borough Solicitor Crotty explained that the parking standard is the same for any school, whether it is public, private, traditional or alternative and that the only change is to add "Alternative Learning Center". He also noted that if we held this school to a different standard, it would be against the Americans with Disabilities Act and therefore, illegal.

Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street, commented that Mr. Thomas has legitimate concerns regarding the amount parking for the school; she also feels the drop off and pick up location will negatively affect traffic in the neighborhood. Ms. Watson commented that the Spring Newsletter was very well done but she does not agree with the changeover to an e-newsletter and prefers a hard copy newsletter.

Renee Bowers, 208 South Union Street, commented she is a parent of a son that attends the White Clay Alternative Learning School. She noted that observing the Borough's process to consider zoning changes has been educational and she feels the Planning Commission did a thorough job. Ms. Bowers thanked Council for shepherding the ordinance through the process.

PUBLIC HEARING

AMENDMENT to ZONING ORDINANCE, ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER

A public hearing was held to discuss the proposed ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance by adding "Alternate Learning Center" in the C-2 District.

President Doerfler opened the public meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The public hearing was transcribed by Cara Fitzgerald, Court Reporter. A transcript of this public hearing is available through the Chester County Court Reporters Office for a period of seven (7) years.

President Doerfler closed the public meeting at 7:56 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Holdsworth provided a written report which was included in the packet and asked if Council had any questions.

Councilmember Cramer shared his surprise at the numbers in the year-to-date report of 48 offenses and 42 arrests compared to last year's lower numbers. He asked how we have gotten to where we are and about the possible trends.

Chief Holdsworth responded that the dedication of the officers and their level of expertise in solving cases has caused the upward shift.

Mayor Fetick noted that commercial and non-commercial motor carrier vehicle enforcement in the Borough is going very well. He noted that currently there is only one (1) officer certified to handle commercial truck inspections in the Borough and also noted a thorough truck inspection can take more than two (2) hours. The Mayor said it is critical that the Borough enforce citing overweight trucks. In addition, he stated we are seeing the benefits of truck enforcement and are appreciative of the Chief's commitment.

Mayor Fetick commented that during the first quarter of 2019, the Police Department collected 150 pounds of out-of-date/leftover prescription drugs through the Prescription Drug Take Back Program.

FIRE COMPANY

Borough Secretary Karen Scherer advised that the report was not available due to a power outage at the Fire Company today. She noted that she will place the report in Council's Dropbox when it is received.

KENNETT FIRE and EMS REGIONAL COMMISSION

Councilmember Cramer reported the following from their meeting held April 9th:

- A new member was voted onto the Commission.
- Quarterly distributions to fire companies were approved (without any change from the last quarter), \$214,000 to Longwood, \$74,000 to Kennett, and \$36,900 to Po-Mar-Lin.
- The Commission approved a new auditor.
- They discussed a push for recruitment and retention of volunteers.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

THIRD THURSDAY/FIRST THURSDAY

President Doerfler present the special event application for Third Thursdays on State Street to be held on May 16th, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, and September 19th, plus a First Thursday on August 1st.

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ORDINANCE NO. 947
AMENDING CHAPTER 23, ZONING, as it RELATES to
“ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER” USES in the C-2 DISTRICT

It was moved by Councilmember Cramer to approve the ordinance amending Chapter 23, Zoning, as it relates to “Alternative Learning Center” Uses in the C-2 District; seconded by Councilmember Myers.

Borough Council’s discussion was transcribed by Cara Fitzgerald, Court Reporter. The transcript is available through the Chester County Court Reporters Office for a period of seven (7) years.

Motion carried unanimously.

The ordinance was assigned No. 947.

CONSENT ITEMS

President Doerfler announced that the following Consent Items are deemed accepted with the approval of the agenda:

- Minutes of April 1, 2019.
- Bills that were paid since the last Council meeting.
- Authorize Auction of Municipal Equipment.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Doerfler welcomed Rachel Berkowitz as the incoming Borough Secretary.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

On behalf of Councilmember Mercomes, Councilmember Myers, reported the following activity of the Personnel Committee:

- An evaluation tool for the Borough Manager has been developed.
- A new job description is being created for the Borough Manager, as the prior description was no longer applicable.
- Both items will be presented to Council for their approval at a later date.

PUBLIC SAFETY and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Mayor Fetick announced a special meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 2 p.m. in the Monroe Nute Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 301 Dalmatian Street. The purpose of this particular public meeting is to address questions regarding the streets dedication of Magnolia Place.

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Mary Hutchins, Executive Director of Historic Kennett Square (HKS), shared that the Third Thursdays are a community celebration packed with residents dining outside and HKS continues to receive requests for more evenings. An additional evening was added in August and the events have been extended by an hour. She also noted that HKS partners with YMCA and the Youth Garage for children's activities.

It was moved by Councilmember Mallon to approve the special event application as presented; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.

Councilmember Waterkotte commented that he brings his family and friends to Third Thursdays and feels they are fun and magical evenings with a sense of community and appreciation for our local restaurants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charla Watson called the evenings "Thirsty Thursdays" and shared her thoughts that these events are an inconvenience to the town and the attendees are not characteristic of the town's population. She suggested holding the events at The Creamery and also suggested holding other events to bring out the residents that are absent from these type of events.

The motion carried unanimously.

KENNETT BREWING COMPANY ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 22ND

President Doerfler presented for approval the special event application for Kennett Brewing Company (KBC) Anniversary, to be held on June 22nd, 5 to 11 p.m.

Borough Secretary Scherer advised that this year's event will be located in the municipal parking lot at Church and Apple Alleys with the road closures beginning at 4 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Mallon to approve the event application as presented; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.

Councilmember Mallon commented that this is a very good event.

Mayor Fetick noted that KBC has learned a lot since their first year in business and is very open to helping all sorts of local events and fundraisers.

Councilmember Waterkotte stated these special events are for all of our citizens and encouraged all residents to attend and enjoy them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

The motion carried unanimously.

RESIGNATION COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE BRAFFMAN

President Doerfler announced Councilmember Wayne Braffman's resignation, effective April 15, 2019, at 11:59 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Cramer to accept Councilmember Braffman's resignation; seconded by Councilmember Myers.

Councilmember Cramer shared he has learned a lot from Councilmember Braffman and that he has set a standard for learning and understanding. He thanked Councilmember Braffman for all he has done during his time on Council.

Councilmember Waterkotte thanked Councilmember Braffman for mentoring him on the Finance Committee. He shared that his knowledge regarding the finances of the Borough was very helpful.

Councilmember Mallon noted that he and Councilmember Braffman joined Borough Council the same year and shared his feeling that they made many good decisions together.

Councilmember Myers thanked Councilmember Braffman for his sacrifice, explaining that he did not have to join Council, but did and we are thankful.

President Doerfler shared that Councilmember Braffman often said "trust the process" and it is true that the process does work. He thanked him for everything he brought to Council.

Councilmember Braffman shared that he would like to think Council is better off today than 41 months ago, before he came onto Council. He is very proud of being part of hiring Chief Holdsworth and of his work with Latino affairs. He noted that during his time on Council, antidiscrimination language was adopted, a stand against gun violence was made, the budget has become more transparent, a public drop box is now available with information for everyone to see, we have committees that include the appointment of residents, and the Borough is in better financial shape. He also explained that being a Councilmember is a great job and he has had the opportunity to meet many people he would not normally have met. Councilmember Braffman stated that it has been a privilege to serve the Borough and he thanked the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

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COUNCIL, MANAGER and MAYOR COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Doerfler announced the following:

- The Community Shred Event is Saturday, April 20th, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the parking lot behind the library.
- The Special Trash Pick-up is the week of April 22nd, and noted that additional information available in the newsletter.
- The Annual Spring Clean-up is Saturday, April 27th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., dumpster locations are in your newsletter.
- The newsletter will be converting to an e-newsletter in 2020; however paper copies will be available at Borough Hall and mailed to those who prefer to receive a paper copy.
- Berkheimer will be at Borough Hall for local taxes on April 30th and June 28th.
- He also encouraged residents to sign up for Swift 911. This is a great service that lets you know when something important is occurring in the Borough.

With the resignation of Councilman Braffman, President Doerfler announced that Council will begin accepting applications on April 16th from Borough residents who are interested in filling the vacancy on Borough Council. The deadline to submit an application is April 25th at 4 p.m. Applicants should include a letter of interest and a resume if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Doerfler adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Karen L. Scherer
Borough Secretary