

OFFICIAL MINUTES July 1, 2019

The Regular Meeting of July 1, 2019, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Monroe Nute Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 301 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 Ethan L. Cramer
Councilmember Brenda Mercomes
Councilmember Lorenzo C. Merino
Councilmember LaToya M. Myers

Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise

Absent: *Mayor Matthew W. Fetick*
Councilmember James Mallon

ADOPTION of AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Cramer to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Myers. The motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Doerfler announced that Council held an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2019. The purpose of this session was to discuss potential legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, commented that 100 people attended the last meeting to tell Council something and their concerns were not acknowledged. Mr. Thomas expressed his frustration with the Council's handling of the builder and his concerns for parking in the area to accommodate residents and visitors. He feels this was not well thought out and the project is not what Kennett needs, wants or is in its best interest. Mr. Thomas also asked for an update on the streetlights, if money has been saved and if the lights have paid for themselves yet, as was suggested by Council.

Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street, expressed her opinion that Council has failed and has ignored the citizens. She shared her concern that Council is not considering that rental properties will outweigh homeownership in the Borough, reminding them that renters are transient, while homeowners with roots in the community make the town.

Clara Saxton, 120 W. Linden Street, commented that it did not sound like Council heard the community at the last meeting, but noted she also heard that the vote was for changing the zoning, not passing the Stancato project. Ms. Saxton shared that what is really needed in the community are new jobs and affordable housing.

Ken Edwards, 412 Meredith Street, shared he was very disappointed with the last Council meeting vote. He is not sure anyone considered what the project will look like, explaining that from Washington Street to Mill Road, it drops approximately 15 to 20 feet and suggested that it will not look good, even brand new. Mr. Edwards also shared his concern that there is not much of a sidewalk or set back accounted for in the project.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Minutes of June 17, 2019.
- Bills that were paid since the last Council meeting.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Doerfler did not have anything new to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmember Merino, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the following activity from their meeting on July 1st, 2019:

- The Committee reviewed the bills and monthly financials.
- The Kennett Library shared a proposal to potentially increase taxes for 3 years to help the building of the new library; the Borough's contribution is 1.5 percent of the total project cost.
- A proposal from a collections agency was discussed to help the Borough collect delinquent fees.
- The Committee is looking into purchasing wireless microphones and headsets for translation purposes at Council meetings; the total cost is under \$1K to obtain 15-20 headsets; we will look for sponsors to cover the cost; we will also look to local organizations for volunteers to serve as translators.

- A parks and recreation fee ordinance was discussed; a meeting will be arranged to discuss creative ways to use any leftover fees.

Vice President Waterkotte explained that the increase in taxes would amount to less than 10 cents per day, per person; this increase would be brought forward as a recommendation from the Finance Committee to Council.

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (MRC)

President Doerfler reported that the Committee discussed forming an Interim Human Relations Committee and a proposal has been brought forward to Council which will be discussed later in the meeting. He advised the Committee also discussed various communication options to help get information out to the public in a better way, such as press releases and Facebook. President Doerfler noted the Committee also discussed the issue-based community forums being planned and the MRC hopes to have a proposed structure and date for the first forum at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Mercomes reported that the Committee had its second meeting with the Kennett Square Police Association at 5 p.m. today and it was very productive.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Nate Echeverria, Economic Development Director, submitted a written report which was included in the Council Packet.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSIDER HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE BOARD (HARB) APPLICATIONS

208 LINCOLN STREET – INSTALL FENCE

200 MARSHALL STREET – INSTALL FENCE

124 N. WILLOW STREET – REPLACE EXISTING EXTERIOR STAIRCASE

300 MARSHALL STREET – REPLACE FENCE

President Doerfler asked Councilmembers if there were any objections to handling the four (4) applications as a slate. There were no objections.

Ms. Clara Saxton explained that each application in the slate has been reviewed by HARB and each is unanimously recommended to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

Councilmember Cramer motioned to approve the slate of HARB Applications for COA; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

The motion carried unanimously

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION –
APPROVAL of HARASSMENT FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Councilmember Mercomes reported that Borough Solicitor Chris Gerber alerted the Personnel Committee that the Borough's policy manual needs to be updated to include a policy on a harassment-free work environment and shared that Mr. Gerber will train everyone on the new policy, free of charge. Councilmember Mercomes read a summary of the proposed policy and Resolution.

It was moved by Councilmember Mercomes to approve the Resolution for the Approval of Harassment-Free Environment as presented; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

The motion carried unanimously.

The Resolution was assigned No. 2019-17.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL – INTERIM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

President Doerfler advised that an anti-discrimination ordinance was passed two (2) years ago that included the provision for the establishment of a Human Relations Commission (HRC), but the Commission has not yet been formed. He noted the proposal was drafted by Ms. Mayra Zavala and calls for an Interim HRC consisting of four (4) to eight (8) members with the mandate to implement a permanent HRC by January 1, 2020. President Doerfler advised that according to the proposal, membership would consist of candidates who won the last primary but are not seated on Council or the School Board yet, and residents of the Borough who complete the Borough/Commission application form. Ms. Stephanie Oyler has expressed interest in chairing the Interim HRC until the election of a chair by the permanent HRC.

The Interim HRC would:

- Receive training from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission;
- Create a work plan for its mandate;
- Participate in community outreach activities;

- Create an HRC Procedures Manual and forms;
- Recruit and vet candidates for the permanent Commission and begin training;
- Train Borough staff on procedures.

President Doerfler explained that if this proposal is accepted, the Interim HRC would be established by a resolution.

It was moved by Councilmember Myers to accept the proposal for an Interim HRC as presented; seconded by Councilmember Mercomes.

Councilmember Cramer shared this has been a long time coming and he looks forward to the establishment of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Edwards shared this is something he has been waiting to hear for a long time. He commented that he was one of the first people interested in working on the Commission, along with a few other residents, but he could not find enough people to get involved to move forward. Mr. Edwards noted that the Commission was set up as a buffer for people who feel they have been discriminated against and to point them in the right direction. He shared he is happy that Ms. Zavala and Ms. Oyler have the courage to move forward with this work.

Charla Watson asked what the difference is between Interim and Ad-Hoc, noting that from her understanding, an Interim Committee performs a function, while an Ad-Hoc Committee develops the structure and priorities. Ms. Watson noted there should be a big advertisement and invitation to the whole community in the effort to recruit people to serve on the Commission. She also asked who has the expertise to manage the Commission and commented that she feels someone with expertise in Human Resources or another appropriate field should have a place on the Committee.

Councilmember Cramer motioned to amend the name of the Committee from an Interim HRC to Ad-Hoc HRC; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte. The motion carried unanimously.

President Doerfler called for a vote on the motion to accept the proposal for an Ad-Hoc HRC. The motion carried unanimously.

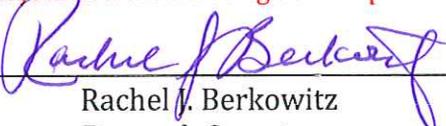
COUNCIL, MANAGER and MAYOR COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Borough Manager Scalise provided a brief update on the streetlights, explaining that we are using the electricity savings to pay the debt as intended. It cost a couple hundred thousand dollars to update the lights. Since installation, we have had to do zero maintenance, which is helpful in both saved time and money. Manager Scalise explained that PECO bills us for the number of known

lights and we had 10 lights that were not accounted for, which amount to about \$100 per month. Because of this, the cost savings are not as great as expected, although we will pay the debt off in five (5) to 6 (six) years, after which we will see the full cost savings; meanwhile the lights have a lifespan of 15 years.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Doerfler adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.



Rachel J. Berkowitz
Borough Secretary