

## OFFICIAL MINUTES July 15, 2019

The Regular Meeting of July 15, 2019, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:00 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 James Mallon*  
*Councilmember Brenda Mercomes*  
*Councilmember Lorenzo C. Merino*  
*Councilmember LaToya M. Myers*

*Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise*

Absent: *Mayor Matthew W. Fetick*

### ADOPTION of AGENDA

*It was moved by Councilmember Waterkotte to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Mallon. The motion was approved unanimously.*

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, stated he is very opposed to a tax increase to support the library and feels that the community has paid its fair share for the Library over the years. He also shared his concern with the outside influences making design choices for the Library in the Borough. Mr. Thomas noted that there are more apartments in the Borough with temporary people, as compared to homeowners with families rooted in the community, and the tax burden is on the property owners. He feels that additional taxes, like this possible Library tax, are the kinds that chase older people from their homes in the community because they cannot afford the tax increases. He strongly suggested the Borough cut back on apartments.

Clara Saxton, 120 West Linden Street, commented she is very happy with the Borough's new website. She noted she called Borough Hall to learn how to sign up for Swift 911 and then shared the link with friends and colleagues. Ms. Saxton feels it is really a great service, a quick way to learn about an emergency in the Borough. Ms. Saxton also voiced

her concern with the number of apartments in the Borough and suggested the possibility of building condos instead.

Ken Edwards, 412 Meredith Street, commented on last week's water main breaks, commenting that it is a very serious problem and we need to repair this system that dates back to the 1920's. He suggested that money for the parking garage should have gone to upgrade the water system infrastructure and shared his belief that water supply is the Borough's biggest problem.

## CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2019 (Item #1)
- Approval of Bills (Item #2)
- Approval of Special Event Applications:
  - Mushroom Festival Parade, Dancing & Dining on State (Item #3)
  - Mushroom Festival (Item #4)
  - Carter CDC's Annual National Night Out Event (Item #5)
  - Historic E. Linden Neighborhood Community Block Party (Item #6)
  - Kennett Brewing Co. – Wise Wedding Celebration (Item #7)

## REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Doerfler reported that July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. is the Joint Economic Development Committee Meeting with Kennett Township in the Kennett-Pennsbury Room of Genesis building at 101 E. State Street.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager Scalise submitted a written report which was included in the Council packet. In addition, he explained that he is a member of the Housing Choices Committee for the County which met last week. At the meeting, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) reported on the current housing trend of rentals over home ownership, and also reported on affordable housing, traffic and parking issues. Once finalized, the DVRPC's report will be made available to the public.

Borough Manager Scalise advised that there was a water main break on South Street which was the result of routine maintenance on the elevated tank near the high school. He explained that the tank was taken out of service for maintenance and at that time there was an increase in pressure which caused the break. Mr. Scalise further explained that new valves were added, the break was fixed and water went back in service, but as soon as the Chester Water Authority began pumping, another pressure issue was found. Since then we have asked Chester Water Authority to not pump until the tank is back online.

Councilmember Mallon asked if there is pressure monitoring where Chester Water pumps into the system and Mr. Scalise noted there is pressure monitoring on the Maple Street tank. He shared that Public Works Department is talking about installing a pressure gage and a relief valve on a fire hydrant in the area near the break. Borough Manager Scalise also noted that the 'boil water notice' was a precaution; all of the water samples came back clean.

Councilmember Cramer thanked everyone, on behalf of the Borough, for their hard work fixing the water main break. He commented that the Public Works crew were extraordinary, PA1Call showed up onsite quickly and Steven's Excavation assisted with backhoe operators, which was very appreciated. Councilmember Cramer expressed his opinion that the water and sewer systems are where money is needed in the Borough.

### **KENNETT FIRE and EMS REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Councilmember Cramer reported there was a gas leak above the Green-Eyed Lady last week and shared that the Fire Chief was the one who pushed the door down to find the leak. He noted that we need a paid fire company, that our volunteers work full time jobs outside of the Borough and are not always available for these emergencies.

Councilmember Cramer advised that the Kennett Fire and EMS Commission (Commission) met and shared that the ambulance issue has completely stalled out. The current focus of the Commission is on finding money for volunteer recruitment and retention and he stated that the Commission would like an additional allocation of money to help support these efforts.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Holdsworth provided a written report which was included in the Council packet.

Vice President Waterkotte shared that the entire police force recently took part in a "Coffee with Cops" session at Tallulah's Table and he was very pleased to see officers and residents talking together. He commented there was a great turnout and the out-of-town visitors at Tallulah's were very impressed.

Councilmember Cramer advised that police officers are spending time at the Carter Center twice a week this summer and will continue to visit once a week during the school year.

### **FIRE COMPANY**

Chief Mitchell provided a written report which was included in the Council packet.

Councilmember Cramer thanked Gina Puoci for the informative reports she shares with the community.

**PRESENTATION of the 2018 AUDIT**

Deborah Bacon, Principal, Zalenofske Axelrod, LLP (ZA) gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Borough's Audit for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. The "clean opinion" audit was conducted in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards.

Ms. Bacon thanked management and staff for appointing ZA as our Auditor and she looks forward to working with us in the coming years. She thanked staff for their cooperation and assistance with the preparation of the audit and then entertained questions from Council.

**PRESENTATION OF THE KENNETT LIBRARY**

Mr. Jeff Yetter presented the Kennett Library's proposal for supporting the construction of the new Kennett Library which is committed to staying in the Borough, as it has been in the Borough for 124 years.

Mr. Yetter explained that the Library has developed three (3) ways for the Borough to help:

1. Pay the yearly amount out of the general revenues of the Borough at a rate of \$72,711 per year over three (3) years, totaling \$218,133.
2. Pass a temporary tax increase of .3 mil over three (3) years, which is \$33.71 per household per year, or \$101.13 over three (3) years.
3. Place a referendum on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot and let the voters decide if they want to support the new Library's construction.

Councilmember Myers asked Mr. Yetter if they factored in the price of the land the Borough helped the Library purchase.

Mr. Yetter explained that most of the other municipalities involved in the effort are paying more than the Borough.

Councilmember Cramer expressed that no matter what choice is made regarding the Borough's financial support of building the new Library, our social capital is behind the Library. He would like to ensure that Council considers other ways to contribute aside from monetarily, and further noted that he is very concerned with the idea of putting the decision out for a referendum.

Vice President Waterkotte stated that there are over 6,200 residents of the Borough who should have a say in how the Borough supports the Library and suggested a referendum is a good way to move forward.

Mr. Yetter asked when to expect a decision from Council.

Borough Manager Scalise explained that the Finance Committee will review the proposal and give a recommendation to Council on August 5, 2019.

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

Councilmember Merino shared that all of the necessary funds have been raised to purchase headsets and transmitters for translation purposes. He advised that the next task is to look for volunteers to translate during meetings.

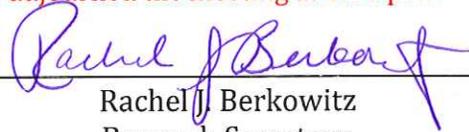
Vice President Waterkotte expressed his confidence that we will find volunteer translators and shared his hope that within 30 days we will be able to offer translation services to the public.

Borough Manager Scalise advised everyone to encourage residents to sign up for Swift911 and explained that we do not sell the collected contact information. Swift911 is a service purely for the benefit of our community to share information about emergencies in the Borough. Mr. Scalise noted that although it is not a requirement to sign up for Swift 911 right now, it may become required in the near future, which is a matter that will be discussed in the Public Safety and Infrastructure Committee. He advised that residents can call Borough Hall to sign up for Swift 911 or you can click on the Swift911 tab on the Borough's website.

Councilmember Cramer noted that there are several members of the public in attendance regarding the Human Relations Committee, which will be on an upcoming Council agenda as soon as possible.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Doerfler adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



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Rachel J. Berkowitz  
Borough Secretary