

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES September 21, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of September 21, 2020, 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 Rosa Moore*  
*Councilmember LaToya Myers*  
*Councilmember Peter L. Waterkotte*  
*Councilmember Mayra Zavala*

*Mayor Matthew W. Fetick*  
*Borough Manager Joseph C. Scalise*

### **ADOPTION of AGENDA**

*It was moved by Councilmember Moore to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.*

*Councilmember Myers motioned to amend the agenda by removing the minutes from the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Cramer.*

*The motion to amend the agenda carried unanimously.*

President Mercomes called for the vote on the amended agenda.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

President Mercomes announced that the following Consent Item is deemed accepted with the approval of the agenda:

- Approval of Bills

### **PRESENTATION of PROCLAMATION by MAYOR FETICK OCTOBER 2020 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Mayor Fetick shared that as we have done in years past, he is proclaiming October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Borough of Kennett Square. He noted this is in support of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) which offers bilingual services, shelter and support

to individuals who find themselves in domestic violence situations. Mayor Fetick stated the purpose of this month is to bring attention to domestic violence and remove the stigma for the many victims of domestic violence that choose not to report their situations or seek assistance and continue to live in fear. He noted that we draw attention to this issue each year in October so that victims can see they will be supported.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, posed two (2) questions from residents not in attendance. The first was in regards to the flooding on Mulberry Street and the cause, if it was the storm water basin or an accident; the second question was from a resident who is concerned and upset that Council would consider approving waivers for the Stan Ab project when the public has not had the opportunity to see the plans. He reminded everyone that there was a Council meeting where 100 residents came out to complain about the Stan Ab project and he suggested that Council listen to the residents they represent.

## **MINUTES**

**Councilmember Myers motioned to amend the minutes from the meeting on September 8, 2020 by changing the language regarding EIT to "as we move forward, if we begin to move towards the 10% mark, it will be more significant and we will need to be cautious"; seconded by Councilmember Cramer.**

Councilmember Myers noted that she wanted to clarify and correct her comment in the discussion regarding EIT so that it is more clearly understood.

President Mercomes called for the vote on the amendment to the minutes from September 8, 2020.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE HOULAHAN'S UPDATE – JOHN KERN**

John Kern shared that he works for the Office of the US Representative Chrissy Houlahan and thanked Borough Council for giving him the opportunity to address Council and the constituents. He noted that Representative Houlahan is a first term Congresswoman and the first woman to represent the Third Congressional District, serving on the Armed Services, Foreign Affairs and Small Business Committees. Mr. Kern stated that Representative Houlahan has three (3) offices, Washington DC, West Chester, PA and Reading, PA and while staff is working remotely, she has made it a priority to make sure everyone who reaches out receives a return call. He explained that staff can discuss legislation, constituent services and advocate for constituents on their behalf with federal agencies. He noted that the Representative was able to close over 1,400 cases with federal agencies, returned over \$3.5 million to the District and responded to over 130,000 pieces of constituent correspondence. He noted another way that Representative Houlahan's office can serve constituents is in the form of providing letters of support for federal grants and assistance with navigating the process. Mr. Kern shared that Representative Houlahan voted in favor of the Cares Act, which provided nearly \$5 billion in direct support for state and local governments, and voted for the Heroes Act, which is currently waiting for a vote in the Senate. He asked for any questions from Councilmembers or constituents, and seeing none, he thanked everyone for the opportunity to provide Representative Houlahan's update.

President Mercomes thanked Mr. Kerns for the update he provided on behalf of Representative Houlahan.

## **REPORTS**

### **PRESIDENT'S**

President Mercomes did not have a report.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Borough Manager Scalise submitted a written report that was included in the meeting packet. In addition, he noted the garage expansion is complete, aside from a few electrical concerns. He explained he is still working with PECO on removing and relocating the pole which has to be completed by April 2021. The Wastewater Treatment Plant project is complete and we are wrapping up final paperwork. He reported that Kennett Township approved the resolution to apply for the Birch Street and Magnolia Underpass grant which will be submitted this week. He advised that we continue to monitor the budget and EIT closely and noted that EIT is slightly higher this year than last year at this time.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Cramer reported that the Committee met this morning, Monday, September 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for a special meeting to discuss the MOU with Historic Kennett Square (HKS) and bond funding for capital improvement projects (CIP). He noted the MOU was discussed extensively, with three (3) issues discussed in detail. The first was the criteria for making the decision, including the economic return on the position indicated through Earned Income Tax (EIT) and property tax. Councilmember Cramer explained that in terms of revenue coming into the Borough, the position did not increase in either of those criteria in the last three (3) years. The second issue was whether there were secondary economic benefits, i.e. improvements to State Street businesses or improvements to the overall economic picture in the Borough. Councilmember Cramer shared there was discussion about the Revolving Loan Fund, which has benefited from the position, as well as a specific businesses but that in general, Mr. Bosely, a Finance Committee member, and other businesses have not had lot of contact with the position, therefore no conclusion was determined on the issue. Councilmember Cramer noted that the third issue was whether the function of government was improved by the position. He shared there were problems that arose, such as lobbying and advocacy issues, clarity issues and whether the Borough was being open to development; there was no overall consensus of improvement. However, Councilmember Cramer stated that a motion was made by Mr. Bosley to recommend moving the MOU forward to Council. Since Councilmember Waterkotte was not present, Councilmember Cramer explained that he did not second the motion, therefore no action was taken.

In terms of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list for the bonding process, Councilmember Cramer noted five (5) motions were made for Borough Council to preliminarily approve. First, the Committee recommends preliminary approval for the water mains on South Union Street from South Street to Schoolhouse Lane, East South Street from Union to Walnut Streets and the region, which is about \$2 million in bonding. Second, we asked that Council preliminarily approve prioritizing issuing bonds up to \$5 million for physical plant improvements for the Borough, including Borough Hall and the Police Station. Third, we recommend Borough Council preliminarily approve prioritizing issuing bonds in the amount of

approximately \$1,400,000 to improve the stormwater management on Meredith Street, replacement of water meters, replacement of the fire pump that provides pressure for sprinkler systems uptown and install a radio read system that would allow us to monitor usage and system function more carefully. Fourth, we recommend Borough Council preliminarily approve issuing bonds in the amount of approximately \$250,000 to install bump outs at sidewalk corners for pedestrian safety and accessibility benefits. Fifth, we recommend that Borough Council preliminarily approve efforts to manage traffic calming on a particular street, and the flooding issues in Stenning Hills. Lastly, Councilmember Cramer shared the Committee recommends Borough Council consider approval of the updated CIP and he noted he would like to give recognition to Borough Manager Scalise for having done a very thorough job of updating the CIP.

Councilmember Doerfler thanked Councilmember Cramer and the Committee for all of their work.

Councilmember Waterkotte thanked Councilmember Cramer for running the Finance Committee meeting this morning. He asked, in regard to the MOU if the Committee talked about possible further discussion and for his thoughts on the idea.

Councilmember Cramer commented that the discussion was at a high level and from his point of view, did not warrant further discussion, but noted that if Councilmember Waterkotte was so inclined, he could bring the discussion back to the Finance Committee, or it can go to Council. He noted that at this point, unfortunately, what the Committee is saying to Council is, we do not have a recommendation either way, therefore it is for the Chair of the Committee, Council and the President to decide if there is further discussion warranted.

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

Councilmember Cramer reported that the Commission met on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and explained that the Commission does see all the bills, checking statements and disbursements to each municipality. He commented that the Fire Companies have provided their preliminary budget requests, totaling a 30% increase in total funding for three (3) companies. He shared it was a difficult meeting because the firefighters were responding to a fire in Franklin Township, therefore the Commission is scheduled to meet again tomorrow for a special budget meeting.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief William Holdsworth submitted a written report for both July and August that was included the Council Meeting packet. In addition, he highlighted the commercial motor vehicle carrier enforcement program, noting that the officer has seen a significant number of vehicles (ten in July and five (5) in August) that he was able to mark as "out of service", stopping them before something safety related could happen. The Chief explained this shows us that we have a great deal of violators and the program is working effectively to find the safety concerns. He also shared that in July and August, training was held for the entire Police Department and he took part a various community events, including being a panelist.

### **FIRE COMPANY**

Gina Puoci submitted a written report that was included in the Council packet.

**ACTION ITEMS****ADMINISTRATION****A.J. BLOSENSKI CONTRACT EXTENSION – 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR OPTION**

Borough Manager Scalise explained that the original five-year contract with A.J. Blosenski expired at the end of 2019 and last year Borough Council authorized Option Year one (1) extending the contract through the end of 2020. He explained we are asking to authorize the Second Option Year, at a total amount of \$228,639.00 for 2021, which is a 6% increase from 2020. He noted that based on the increased costs of recycling across the County and Blosenski's Option Year Two (2) rate, we recommend awarding Option Year Two to A.J. Blosenski.

**Councilmember Cramer motioned to award Option Year 2 of the refuse and recycling contract to A.J. Blosenski.; seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte.**

Councilmembers Cramer extended his thanks the people who pick up the trash and recycling.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas suggested we look into the idea of bringing businesses into our trash system in the effort to get a better deal.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**CODES and ZONING****STAN AB STATE STREET LOFTS WAIVER REQUEST**

Russel Drumheller, Zoning Enforcement Officer noted we have a conflict between our Subdivision Land Development Ordinance and our Zoning Ordinance and the applicant, Stan Ab, would like to follow the Zoning Ordinance which states we are allowed to have a 20-foot wide, one-way aisle, with 90 degree parking in your parking structure. Meanwhile, our Subdivision Land Development says the aisle has to be 25 feet wide, and they are providing 22-foot wide aisle. Mr. Drumheller explained that by following the Zoning Ordinance, we thought it would be cleaner for the applicant to ask for a waiver for the Subdivision Land Development Ordinance. He noted he is not sure it is a requirement, but it makes the plan clean by following the Zoning Ordinance.

**It was motioned by Councilmember Doerfler to approve the waiver request from section 18.20 of our SLDL plan for the Stan Ab development; seconded by Councilmember Moore.**

Vice President Moore asked how we will align these Ordinances.

Mr. Drumheller explained that over the past year he identified few items that need to be cleaned up and h will bring those forward shortly, as well as the VPP grant funding.

Councilmember Moore thanked Mr. Drumheller for the robust ordinances and his keen eyes on keeping them current.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas commented that Council is giving the Borough's power away by granting waivers. He noted that the residents have not seen the new plans and the public should know what is going on. He asked that Council please take into consideration what the residents want.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**STAN AB STATE STREET LOFTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**

Russell Drumheller, Zoning Enforcement Officer, commented in response to Mr. Thomas' concerns, that the past two (2) Planning Commission meetings were held via Zoom and the applicant shared the plans on the Zoom screen so that attendees could review the plans accordingly. He advised that the Planning Commission reviewed the new plans very thoroughly, it is a use by right plan and the applicant is not asking for any zoning relief. He further noted the Planning Commission approved the preliminary plans at their September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with a list of conditions, as follows:

- The commitment to expand the amenities at the park.
- The commitment to put curbing and sidewalks on the north side of State St; and North Mill road
- Commitment to install a raised curbed median island at the entrance to the parking lot off North Mill road further directing vehicles to make a left hand turn only from the site.
- Commitment to provide parking stops (Bumper Blocks) along the frontage of the parking lot to prevent vehicles from encroaching onto sidewalks;
- Commitment to install a new crosswalk across S. Washington street between the proposed and existing handicap ramps just south of State street;
- Commitment to install an elevated crosswalk on State Street just to the west of the S. Washington street intersection;
- Satisfaction of the general comments from the Pennoni letter dated September 2, 2020 including but not limited to the required waiver to section 23-67(c)(1) parking aisle width along with the suggested resolutions of the following;
- Removal of blacktop and grassing areas of the parking lot where not needed for parking and access; and the possibility of including a canopy of plantings within the parking area;
- Providing escrow monies for the installation of accessible ramps along S. Washington street and Mill road, south of the Bernard Alley right-of-way.

**It was motioned by Councilmember Doerfler to approve the preliminary plans for the State Street Lofts with the conditions of the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Cramer.**

Councilmember Waterkotte commented that the Planning Commission, which dissected this preliminary plan, consists of a very diverse group of Borough residents. He feels it is important that everyone understand that the Planning Commission is not a committee made up of Councilmembers making decisions and recommendations, it is made up of our community members who have put a lot of time, effort and hard work into this project.

Councilmember Zavala shared that over the last several months she has heard the community loud and clear over two (2) big concerns, the additional traffic and the fact that there is no mechanism for enforcing affordability. She noted this does not align with the 2020 priorities of this Council and she will cast a protest vote in the hopes that we can continue to think about how to rebuild this community post this pandemic.

Councilmember Cramer disclosed that he has had conversations with both principals of Stan Ab and noted the Borough has a responsibility to follow through on the process as it was when the party entered into it at the beginning and that if we move forward, it should be under the rules we have. He shared he is also aware and appreciative of Councilmember Zavala's point, but he does not feel that changing course is a good faith option. He believes this developer has made multiple modifications of this project and he is grateful to the Planning Commission for their detailed work. Councilmember Cramer also suggested that Council consider the overlay under which this particular project was originally allowed and extend that across NVF as a means of creating character on the west side of town.

Councilmember Myers noted that early on with this project, she charged the developers to try to see what they could do regarding housing at all price points, and particularly affordable housing. She commented there was some conversation about a smaller footprint, for being a little cheaper, but there did not seem to be a clear path forward to integrate housing at every price point with this project. Councilmember Myers noted this raises the issue that we have to protect our existing affordable housing units built long ago and not convert them to other things, because it seems like we are unable to build new affordable housing.

Councilmember Waterkotte commented that what Councilmembers Myers and Cramer had to say was well-said and we cannot afford to have gentrification. He noted that it seems impossible for new builders to come in and build what we would like to see with affordable housing, and so protecting the affordable housing we currently have should be a priority. He also noted we do need growth in town and we need developers who are willing to work with us.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Clara Saxton, 120 West Linden Street, commented that affordable housing is a constant, consistent imperative and whenever we fail to hold a developer accountable to that, we minimize the opportunities to preserve affordable housing.

John Thomas commented that people are intimidated by Council and the Planning Commission and he believes Commission members are not just ordinary residents, they are hand-picked by Council. Mr. Thomas also suggested that the Borough does not have the land for affordable housing, and we need the support of the surrounding townships because they have land. He noted we need to deal with the traffic and we need a variety of affordable commercial as well.

Luis Tovar, Chair of ACOLA, commented that the Borough's diversity is valuable resource and an asset for the community and we need to try to retain some of the families that are having to leave because of the lack of affordable housing. He suggested that we keep catering to the exclusive shops and restaurants, but what we need is to devote a fair share to the people in the community. He believes there is a lot of work to do and there are developers out there that do not mind getting grants to subsidize housing.

Solicitor John Jaros, Counsel to the developer, thanked the Borough for the work they have put into this project, noting that it has been six (6) years. He noted this plan has been thoroughly reviewed by Borough consultants including Pennoni. Solicitor Jaros commented we have worked hand in hand with the Borough and we believe you are looking at a project that will benefit the community. He reminded everyone that this is a preliminary plan and we will be back with a final land development plan as we attempt to meet the conditions of approval of the preliminary plan.

Myra Miller, 301 Scarlett Avenue, shared she is on the Planning Commission and was not hand-picked by Council. She also wanted to remind Council that Commission has worked on the affordable senior housing project on Cope Road, which in a way balances out the Stan Ab project. Ms. Miller noted that we have gotten a lot of concessions from the developer and believes the Commission has done a good job. She commented that anybody can join the Planning Commission meetings as they are open to the public.

Carol Krawczyk, 521 West State Street, shared she is also on Planning Commission and lives just down the street from this new project. She shared she was very upset about the proposed tall buildings, but under the new plan, that is no longer an issue; the parking lot is now going to be a park and possibly even include farm plots for a community garden; she explained these are concessions we had not seen before from the developer. Additionally, Ms. Krawczyk shared that the Planning Commission agenda has been made public for the community and she has offered her time to people who have questions, but no one has taken her up on the offer.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

**The motion carried 6 to 1 with Councilmember Zavala voting no.**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **ORDINANCE to REFINANCE DEBT**

Borough Manager Scalise explained that The Borough has again retained RBC Capital Markets, Brian Bradley, as loan advisor and Marc Stein as Bond Counsel, Eckert Seamans, to assist in refinancing debt for the purpose of taking advantage of lower interest rates and capturing savings. The debt to be refinanced is sewer and parking debt and therefor the savings are in those funds exclusively. By refinancing we will save approximately \$440,000 with a rate under 1.0%. The majority of the savings will take place in 2021 with some minor savings this fiscal year.

**It was motioned by Councilmember Waterkotte to approve the Ordinance to Refinance Debt as presented; seconded by Councilmember Myers.**

Councilmember Waterkotte thanked everyone on the Finance Committee, especially Mr. Scalise, Ms. Ionata, Brian Bradley and Mark Stein for guiding us through this process.

Councilmember Myers thanked the Finance Committee for digging into this and saving a lot of money at such a low interest rate, noting it is wonderful that we are consistently looking for ways to improve.

Councilmember Cramer thanked everyone including Bond Counsel. He noted this an important way we have taken advantage of federal support and he shared he is very surprised about where we are right now, and it is good news.

Brough Manager Scalise commented that we are not extending the terms of any debt, we are just simply refinancing to a lower rate and noted that we asking for the approval for an ordinance incurring debt tonight.

Marc Stein commented that Mr. Scalise did a great job summarizing the transaction and the ordinance approves the issuance of the debt to do the refunding and go to closing which is scheduled for October 26, 2020.

Brian Bradley agreed that Mr. Scalise did a great job explaining everything. He pointed out that we were paying 2.82% interest on the prior loans and the rate we will lock in tomorrow will be less than 1%.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD (HARB)**

**HARB APPLICATION – 131 East State Street – Signage**

**HARB APPLICATION – 100 Block of East Cedar Street (100-118)**

**HARB APPLICATION – 306 South Union Street (Carriage House Improvements)**

Clara Saxton, HARB member, noted we have three (3) applications this evening and the HARB recommends issuing the COA's to each of the applicants.

*It was motioned by Councilmember Cramer to approve the COA's for the three (3) HARB applicants 131 East South Street, 100 Block of Cedar Street, and 306 South Union Street; seconded by Councilmember Zavala.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Clara Saxton shared that the Cedar Street project is a good example of moving forward with affordable housing and noted she has an appreciation for the property owner that is willing to make the investment and do the work.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**PUBLIC WORKS/MANAGER****ACCEPT AWARD for CFA SMALL WATER FUND GRANT for AUTHORIZATION**

Borough Manager Scalise shared that last November Borough Council authorized the grant application for a Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Grant to partially fund the replacement of the water main on East South Street. We have been awarded the requested amount of \$343,299.00 for a project estimated at approximately \$400,000.00. The Department of Community and Economic Development has sent the grant agreement and is requiring the Borough Manager and President of Council to sign the agreement electronically, but we need Borough Council to authorize the grant award. He noted he is asking Council tonight to approve the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Agreement.

**Councilmember Doerfler motioned to accept the award for the CFA Small Water Fund Grant; seconded by Councilmember Moore.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE****CONSIDER REVOLVING LOAN FUND PAYMENT EXTENSION**

Borough Manager Scalise explained that in April 2020, Borough Council authorized a six (6) month extension for the two active Revolving Loan Fund loans. It has been requested by Work2Gether to extend this (no payments and no interest) by an additional six (6) months. It should be noted that the regular RLF meeting took place, but a quorum was not present to make an official recommendation, although those in attendance were in favor of the extension.

**Councilmember Waterkotte motioned to extend for Revolving Loan Fund loans an additional six months; seconded by Councilmember Moore.**

Councilmember Waterkotte shared that he ran into owners of Portobellos and they extended their thanks to Borough Council in regard to closing a portion of State Street for outside dining because it has saved their business. He noted that no one knows what will happen as the cold weather comes in and whatever we can do to help these businesses is worthwhile and responsible.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas commented he is a big advocate for this and suggested the possibility of extending the loan out for a full year because six (6) months from now it will be winter, while a year from now, the weather will be better and they might be in a better place to make payments.

Councilmember Cramer motioned to extend the loans under the terms of the motion as it exists, until to September 1, 2021; seconded by Councilmember Myers.

The amendment to the motion carried unanimously.

President Mercomes called for the vote on the motion as amended.

The motion as amended carried unanimously.

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL INITIATIVE**

#### **MINORITY and WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS REGISTRY**

Vice President Moore explained this was an idea that was originally brought up by Councilmember Zavala, and Solicitor Crotty found there was a way to expand the Borough's purchasing and bidding options to minority and women owned businesses and putting that emphasis into our purchasing process. She would like to recommend that the Finance Committee review the minority and women-owned business form and the resolution drafted by Solicitor Crotty to make sure they will align with the Borough's purchasing policies. She also pointed out that the resolution is also for veteran and disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Councilmember Myers motioned to commit the minority and women-owned business registry to the Finance and Personnel Committees to create a certified registry; seconded by Councilmember Zavala.

Councilmember Myers thanked Councilmember Zavala for bringing this up a few months ago because it is important. She also offered her appreciation and thanks to both Councilmember Cramer and the Solicitor for looking into ways to support minority and women owned business. She commented that this is the art of us being creative, and being able to both meet the requirement of having to take the most reasonable, lowest bid, as well as getting that information out to minority and women owned businesses, to support everyone in our community and in their desire to potentially open or maintain their business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas commented that he believes in equality for everyone and that the Borough is open to everyone. He does not feel we should need a rule about, we should have a conscience. He noted that sometimes we have to take the lowest bid, and we have to be fair, open and honest. He is in agreement with developing the registry.

Councilmember Waterkotte commented that whenever we have an opportunity to support women and minority owned businesses, we should and he is 100% behind this registry, because although it is a small step, it is worthwhile and keeps us moving forward.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Waterkotte commented that at the beginning of the meeting, when Councilmember Cramer gave the Finance report on the discussion regarding the MOU, he noted that it was very detailed and went into high level discussion. Councilmember Waterkotte asked to make a motion or recommendation to have further discussion in a future Finance Committee meeting to continue those discussions, because he would like to hear more about it and he apologized that he was not able to attend this morning's meeting. He commented he would appreciate the opportunity to look at this one more time as a team.

**Councilmember Waterkotte motioned to continue the discussions in the Finance Committee on the MOU; seconded by Councilmember Doerfler.**

Councilmember Cramer explained that Councilmember Waterkotte is asking for the will of Council as to whether to commit the MOU back to Finance Committee for a second round of discussion, requesting that we do come back with some recommendation for Council. He noted we may have to add another meeting for this discussion.

President Mercomes called for the vote.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilmember Cramer commented on October being Domestic Violence Awareness month and that everyone knows someone who has experienced domestic violence. He shared that the DVRCCC is very good bilingual resource for victims. He noted there should never be judgement, domestic violence happens across cultures and it affects us all. He is grateful for the Proclamation

Councilmember Myers asked for our stance on Halloween, as a few neighbors have asked.

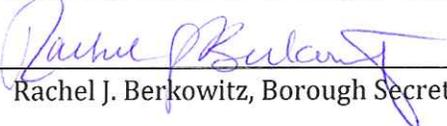
Mayor Fetick commented that trick or treat is not a Borough sponsored event and we cannot tell people they cannot trick or treat because we do not have the ability to enforce it. He noted we can put forth guidance on safety, using your porch lights to indicate your participation this year and as usual, the police will be out patrolling. He and Chief Holdsworth will provide safety guidelines and will do a press release in early October.

Councilmember Doerfler shared he attended the event on civil discourse that the Chief attended as a panelist over the weekend and it as a very good event He noted has been very quiet, reading and listening and he has found the listening to be very beneficial. He encourages anyone wo thinks they are self-aware to know that you are, but with our own perceptions and to always challenge your perception.

Borough Manager Scalise shared that in regard to the Census, the number of responders is up in the County but lower in the Borough than in 2010. He encouraged everyone to complete the Census and to talk about it with neighbors and friends. He also shared that he has been in touch with the firm we were going to use for Strategic Planning and they are doing them virtually, via Zoom and have had up to 40 people attend. He will bring this forward to Council at a future meeting to decide whether this should be pursued.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Mercomes adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

  
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Rachel J. Berkowitz, Borough Secretary