

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of November 19, 2018, of Council for the Borough of Kennett Square was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania with President LaToya M. Myers in the Chair.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

### **MOMENT of SILENCE**

#### **MEMORY of KENNETT SQUARE POLICE OFFICERS WILLIAM W. DAVIS and RICHARD J. POSEY**

Chief William Holdsworth advised he placed a remembrance wreath and flowers last week on the graves of Kennett Square Police Officers William W. Davis and Richard J. Posey who were slain in the line of duty 46 years ago on November 15, 1972. He does this annually for a person who wishes to remain anonymous.

In addition, Chief Holdsworth announced the Officers were remembered and honored during the Police Unity Bike Tour in May 2018 and he was presented with a plaque marking the occasion.

President Myers called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Officers Davis and Posey.

### **ADOPTION of AGENDA**

*It was moved by Councilmember Doerfler to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Braffman. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street, commented he knew both Officers very well and it was a tragedy for the Borough. He continued his comments saying he is glad Amazon is not coming to Pennsylvania because it would have raised rental rates as noted in an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Another article was about a list of contractors using the bare minimum to build houses and Mr. Thomas noted that there are local builders on the list.

Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street, commented people do not want large apartment complexes in the Borough and she is concerned that our rental ratio is becoming too high. Ms. Watson said the traffic patterns need to be revisited and she believes there are streets and alleys that should not have permit parking.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

President Myers announced that the following Consent Items are deemed approved if there are no objections.

- Minutes of November 5, 2018.
- Bills that were paid since the last Council meeting.
- SPCA Animal Protective Services Contract, Year 2019.

There were no objections.

## **REPORTS**

### **PRESIDENT'S**

There was no report.

### **FIRE COMPANY**

Chief Christopher Plumley, reported their October Open House was phenomenal. The new fire engine is here but is not in service yet. Chief Plumley said the Truck Committee, headed by Steve Melton, did a wonderful job. He announced the Fire Company will host Breakfast with Santa and the Ornament Drop on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

## **PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET – 2<sup>ND</sup> PRESENTATION**

Councilmember Braffman reported the Finance Committee met this morning and reviewed the second draft of the proposed 2019 Budget. He provided an overview of their four (4) goals: achieve fiscal stability; keep the total cost of living as low as possible; provide high quality and wide range of services; and, infrastructure maintenance.

Borough Manager Scalise presented the highlights of the proposed balanced 2019 Budget with the following:

- A 0.4 mill tax increase for Public Safety (approximately \$50 for the average home).
- No increase in Water, Sewer, Parking or Solid Waste Fees.
- Potential water credit on bills totaling \$120,000 in refunds or ~\$60 per account for 2019. The final amount will be determined by the final Water Budget.

He continued his presentation by reviewing the balanced General Fund, projects and planned expense that are still being deferred, and debt service and then addressed questions presented by Council.

Councilmember Braffman advised that the Finance Committee has endorsed the budget with (1) exception – the allocation for the Kennett Area Senior Center and SCOOT. It is not a lot of money but the functions and activities provided by these two (2) organizations are probably not something a town of our size would provide. Perhaps there are other ways to support the fundraising efforts of these organizations through our social media and newsletters.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Thomas questioned why we give so much money to the Park and noted we gave our fair share to the Library when we gave them the property. He commented we don't need 50 employees and questioned how many people who work for the Borough make \$110,000 a year. Mr. Thomas stated we need to get out of the Fire and EMS Commission.

Charla Watson commented the Police Department has always been the biggest part of our budget and we now have enough Police Officers. She shared her disappointment that we don't have our own Borough building but we are the biggest municipality in the area. She is against excessive spending with the parking garage expansion and added that we should give money to the Senior Center and SCOOT. In conclusion.

Jack Lawler, 502 West South Street, recommended that Council stand up when they talk so those in the back of the room can see them. He commented that our road crew does a great job; they work long and hard hours during snowstorms to keep our roads clear. Mr. Lawler suggested cutting spending to the Park and give the money we receive from auctioning the vehicles to the Senior Center and SCOOT.

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

Vice President Cramer advised during the meeting of the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Commission voted 5 to 1 to accept Longwood Fire Company's EMS proposal to be the sole EMS provider across the region. He noted this was the hardest decision he had to make and said it was not about the hard work of the volunteers or Fire Chief McCarthy and Fire Chief Plumley who are honorable and heroic. This vote was not about loyalties or politics; it was for the municipal benefits.

He proceeded with his PowerPoint presentation with a summary of the new system with the following:

- Upgrades service in the Borough.
- Maintains response time.
- Reduces service delays.
- Reduces costs for individual patients.
- Reduces taxpayer subsidies.
- Distributes future costs among six (6) municipalities instead of two (2).
- Preserves regional collaborative opportunities.

Vice President Cramer continued by reviewing the new system's benefits and also the myths. He stated that this is not a done deal; each individual municipality will need to vote.

Councilmembers expressed their concerns and presented questions to Vice President Cramer.

A discussion ensued among Council regarding the standard of care.

Mayor Fetick commented on his approach to this matter from his nearly 30 years serving as an EMT with eight (8) of those years serving as president of the largest EMS provider in Chester County. In his opinion, the Commission's request for proposals from Kennett Fire Company and Longwood has been an unfair playing field since day one because Kennett does not have an ALS ambulance and Longwood does. He finds both proposals to be reasonable however not one member of the Commission was qualified to ask questions. Until benchmarks are established, there is no way to determine if either proposal is adequate. He stated that he is not prepared to support this proposal and added that as Mayor, he is responsible for the public's safety in the Borough along with the Fire Chief, Chief of Police, and the Emergency Management Coordinator. He has discussed the matter with each of them individually and none of them support this proposal.

President Myers asked the Mayor, an Alternate on the Commission, if he was able to express these concerns to the Commission.

The Mayor replied yes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comments were made by the public opposing the vote taken by the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The comments also included support for the Borough's ambulance service to remain with, and be provided by, the Kennett Fire Company. The members of the public who made comments included the following:

- Ken Edward, 412 Meredith Street.
- Tony D'Ottavio, 516 East South Street.
- Leon Spencer, 423 South Union Street.
- Myra Miller, 301 Scarlett Avenue.

- Wayne Warren, 217 South Broad Street.
- Carol Krawczyk, 521 West State Street.
- Penny D'Ottavio, 516 East South Street.
- Theresa Roberts, 524 Kenview Avenue.
- Christine McDonald, Executive Director of Friends Home.
- Sally Warren, 217 South Broad Street.
- Clara Saxton, 120 West Linden Street.
- Kathleen Tavoni, 615 Worrall Avenue.
- Brian Casson, 545 Hazel Avenue.
- Jack Lawler, 502 West South Street.
- John Thomas, 406 South Broad Street.
- Charla Watson, 523 Magnolia Street.
- Chris Plumley, 515 Richards Road and Fire Chief.
- Ralph Hunter, 601 Peacock Lane and past Fire Chief of Kennett Fire Company.
- Jessica Casson, 545 Hazel Avenue.

President Myers advised there is no vote on this matter tonight; this was a presentation only. She added that the vote on this item has not planned yet however when it is scheduled, it will be posted with the agenda. With regards to transparency, President Myers stated that is why there is no vote tonight; Council had this conversation to allow for public input.

### **APPOINTMENT of BOROUGH SOLICITOR, SIANA BELLWOAR**

President Myers presented for approval the engagement letter from Siana Bellwoar appointing their firm as the Borough's Solicitor.

Councilmember Mercomes gave a background of the RFP process and advised that the Personnel Committee unanimously supports appointing Siana Bellwoar.

*It was moved by Vice President Cramer and seconded by Councilmember Waterkotte approve the engagement letter as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENT of PARKING AGREEMENT KENNETT CENTER, LP and MIDCAP FINANCIAL TRUST**

President Myers presented for approval the Collateral Assignment of Parking Agreement.

Borough Manager Scalise advised the agreement is between Kennett Center, LP, Midcap Financial Trust and the Borough. As part of a refinance, the lender has requested a collateral assignment of parking related to 128 East State Street.

*It was moved by Councilmember Braffman and seconded by Councilmember Doerfler approve the agreement as presented.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no comments from the public.

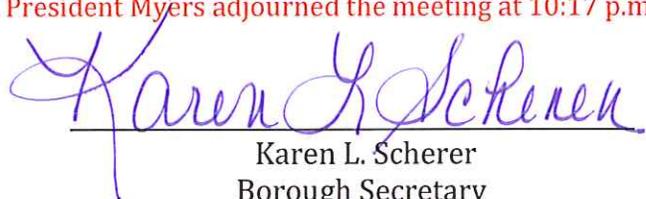
*The motion carried unanimously.*

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

There were no comments or announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, President Myers adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.*



Karen L. Scherer  
Borough Secretary