

KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 5, 2026

President Gagliardo called the February 5, 2026 Council Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken. Those present were Mayor Hatzas and Council Members Anthony Avilla, Roger Weidenheimer, Kerry Grassley, Nathan Kreider, Crystal Wanner, and Scott Stamm.

Also in attendance: Cindy Castner, Borough Manager, Michael J. Gombar, Jr. Esq., Solicitor, Dwayne Hart, Fire Chief/Public Works Superintendent, Pamela Stevens, Engineer, Systems Design Engineering, Inc., and Officer Ryan Smith, Reading Police Department.

Taking minutes was Tara Mountford, Secretary/Treasurer.

There were no residents present at the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

- ◆ ***Approval of Minutes:*** *President Gagliardo called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5th Reorganization and Council Meeting. Councilman Grassley made a motion to approve the minutes, with Councilman Stamm offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

BOROUGH REPORTS

- ◆ **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Hatzas reported that the total fines collected for the month of January amounted to \$60.49. Mayor Hatzas also stated that he had received a phone call from a resident requesting that he publicly convey their appreciation and gratitude to Fire Chief Hart and members of his crew for their actions on the morning of Christmas Eve to assist a family.
- ◆ **Reading Police Department Report:** Officer Ryan Smith, Reading Police Department, filling in for Lt. Contreras, presented the report for the month of January.
- ◆ **Kenhorst VFD Report:** Chief Hart reported a total of 56 calls for the month of January.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** *President Gagliardo asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer and Financial reports for January. Councilman Grassley made a motion to accept with Councilman Weidenheimer offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*
- ◆ **Codes & Emergency Services:** No report.
- ◆ **Personnel:** No report.
- ◆ **Property & Buildings:** No report.
- ◆ **Sanitation:** No report.
- ◆ **Streets:** No report.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- ◆ **Parks & Playground:** No report.
- ◆ **Sanitary Sewers & Stormwater:** No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

- ◆ **Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Gombar stated that all items he needed to discuss had already been addressed or would be addressed during the course of the meeting. He further reported that Kraft Codes has issued two separate citations regarding property maintenance matters, which will be forwarded to the District Justice.
- ◆ **Engineer's Report:** Pamela Stevens of Systems Design Engineering, Inc. was introduced to Council by President Gagliardo. Ms. Stevens expressed her enthusiasm about working with the Borough and noted that her partner, Ralph Johnson, would attend meetings in her absence. She added that Mr. Johnson is collaborating closely with Public Works Superintendent Hart on the sanitary sewer projects. Ms. Stevens also reported that Chip Pohronezny from her office will oversee upcoming road projects and assist both Ms. Stevens and Ms. Castner with several grant applications, including one related to recent snow removal efforts. Additionally, she stated that the LSA grant application has been submitted for the Borough Hall building, with a decision expected to take approximately one year. Ms. Stevens will continue to support the Borough with future grant applications as needs arise.

Ms. Stevens announced one action item for Council's consideration: approval of the Chapter 94 Annual Wasteload Report. She then reviewed the January Engineering Report with Council members. At the conclusion of her report, **Ms. Stevens requested a motion authorizing the Borough Manager to sign the Chapter 94 Report for submission to the City of Reading. Councilman Grassley made a motion to accept with Councilman Stamm offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.**

- ◆ **Borough Manager's Report:** Ms. Castner reported that approximately 60 tons of snow from the recent snowstorm cleanup is currently stockpiled at the Playground. Public Works Supervisor Hart added that snow is also stockpiled near New Story.

Ms. Castner stated that there were no issues with the sanitary sewer system during or following the storm.

Ms. Castner further reported that the Property Maintenance Inspector has been actively engaging with residents and that matters are progressing well. She indicated that the January report will be forwarded to Council shortly.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ **Sub-Committees vs. Committee of the Whole:** *President Gagliardo requested a motion to approve the Committee of the Whole as the operative process for conducting committee meetings, with discussions to take place during the monthly workshop meetings. Councilman Grassley made a motion with Councilwoman Wanner offering a second. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) nay.*
- ◆ **Ken Grill Pool offer for Kenhorst Residents:** President Gagliardo reviewed the proposed \$7,500 payment to Ken Grill Pool on behalf of Borough residents, to secure a reduced membership rate for the 2026 season. He also announced that Ms. Castner will be working with the pool on a free day event for Borough

residents. **President Gagliardo asked for a motion to approve the contract. Councilman Grassley made a motion with Councilwoman Wanner offering a second. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) nay.**

- ◆ **Animal Control Update:** President Gagliardo reviewed the proposed animal control contracts with the Animal Rescue League of Berks County for services involving both cats and dogs. Councilman Grassley inquired about the current Borough ordinance regarding cats, and Solicitor Gombar stated that he would review the existing language for any potential conflicts.

Dog: The contract would provide for a fee-for-service arrangement for dogs, with the Borough paying on a per-occurrence basis. **President Gagliardo requested a motion to approve the signing of the contract. Councilman Grassley made the motion, and Councilwoman Wanner offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.**

Cat: The proposed contract would provide vouchers for TNVR services at a cost of \$50 per voucher, to be purchased in advance by the Borough. Residents may obtain a voucher from Borough Hall and then take the cat to the Animal Rescue League of Berks County for rendering of the TNVR services at no charge. Following the TNVR procedure, the cat would be released back into the area where it was originally found. Ms. Castner clarified that the vouchers do not expire and unused vouchers can be rolled over to the following year. **President Gagliardo asked for a motion to approve the contract and to purchase five (5) vouchers, conditioned upon the current ordinance language. Councilman Grassley made a motion with Councilwoman Wanner offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.**

FINAL REMARKS AND REMINDERS

- ◆ Next Workshop Meeting – Tuesday March 3rd, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Next Council Meeting – Thursday March 5th, 2026 at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Council adjourned at 7:45 p.m. An Executive Session was held immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara K. Mountford
Secretary/Treasurer