

KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 5, 2026

Following the Reorganization Meeting, President Gagliardo called the January 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, and Crystal Wanner.

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

Taking minutes was Tara Mountford, Secretary Treasurer.

The following residents of the Borough were present: Michelle Harker, Tax Collector, Virginia Leshner, Roger Shay, Tim Hart, Carolyn Gunster, and Scott Stamm. There were other residents in attendance who did not sign in.

President Gagliardo introduced Michelle Harker as the new Borough Tax Collector, and then opened the floor to any persons wishing to be heard.

Carolyn Gunster addressed Council to express a concern regarding the new composition of the Council.

Scott Stamm addressed Council to express a concern regarding solicitation permits.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

- ◆ ***Approval of Minutes:*** *President Gagliardo asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2nd workshop meeting and the December 4th council meeting. Councilman Grassley made a motion to approve the minutes, with Councilman Avilla offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

BOROUGH REPORTS

- ◆ **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Hatzas reported that the total fines collected for the month of December amounted to \$665.91. Mayor Hatzas stated that he had been approached by residents with questions regarding a change to a State rental inspection rule, which residents indicated the State had said was unconstitutional. Solicitor Gombar clarified that the court case did not find rental inspections to be unconstitutional.
- ◆ **Reading Police Department Report:** Officer Ryan Smith, Reading Police Department, filling in for Lt. Contreras, presented the report for the month of December.
- ◆ **Kenhorst VFD Report:** Chief Hart reported a total of 60 calls for the month of December and 695 calls for the year 2025. Chief Hart also thanked everyone who assisted with the Christmas Parade and Christmas Party and reported that both events were successful.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** *President Gagliardo asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer and Financial reports for December. Councilman Weidenheimer made a motion to accept with Councilman Grassley offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.*

- ◆ **Codes & Emergency Services:** Ms. Castner stated that she included a report from the Property Maintenance Inspector in the Council packets. The report details the significant amount of contact the PMI had with residents during the month of December.

President Gagliardo raised concerns regarding the large number of properties within the Borough that lack proper house number identification, which poses challenges for emergency responders such as fire and police personnel. Solicitor Gombar stated that he would review the Borough ordinance addressing this issue.

- ◆ **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 also thanked Council for his appointment as Borough Solicitor for 2026.
- ◆ **Engineer's Report:** No report.
- ◆ **Borough Manager's Report:** Ms. Castner reported that the annual Borough audit will take place in February and stated that she is confident it will result in another clean audit. She also noted that the Borough is in contact with UGI in an effort to improve communication and timelines related to no parking signage and to encourage greater consideration for residents. Additionally, she reported that the Borough's 2025 revenue from no-parking signs totaled \$20,550.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ **Council Meeting Dates:** President Gagliardo asked whether Council should address this now or proceed first to Workshops or Separate Committees, under New Business. Solicitor Gombar responded that it would depend on the outcome of Workshops and Committees and therefore recommended addressing those items first.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Vacant Council Seat:** President Gagliardo asked whether the vacant seat would need to be advertised. Solicitor Gombar stated that advertising is not required and is entirely at Council's discretion, but noted that Council has thirty days from today's date, to fill the vacancy. President Gagliardo asked Ms. Castner how vacancies had been handled in the past, and she stated that the last vacancy was advertised on the Borough's Facebook page and communicated to residents visiting Borough Hall. She stated that after letters of interest were received, Council then conducted interviews. Solicitor Gombar clarified that Council must hold a special interview meeting prior to the next Council meeting, advertise the meeting, and conduct the interviews in public. Because of the thirty-day time limit, he recommended

that Council establish a deadline for receiving the letters of interest and set the date for the special interview meeting. After deliberation, Council set the letter deadline for January 23 and scheduled the special interview meeting for January 27 at 6:00 PM. The appointment must be made by February 3rd to comply with the 30-day time limit. ***President Gagliardo asked for a motion to authorize the advertising of the vacant Council seat. Councilman Weidenheimer made a motion with Councilwoman Wanner offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.***

President Gagliardo asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Patrick Kozak. Councilman Grassley made a motion with Councilman Weidenheimer offering a second. Motion passed unanimously.

- ◆ **Workshops or Separate Committees:** President Gagliardo stated that Council must decide whether committees will operate as a committee of the whole during Workshop Meetings or as assigned members meeting separately outside of Workshop and Council meetings. President Gagliardo encouraged Council members to consider which committees they are best suited for and to contact Ms. Castner with any specific committee requests. Solicitor Gombar recommended that Council table a vote on Council Meeting Dates until the Committee topic at hand is resolved.
- ◆ **Annual Donations:** Ms. Castner reported that she was asked to provide a list of annual donations at President Gagliardo's request. She reviewed the list of the three recipients with Council and President Gagliardo asked if Council should vote on the donations individually or as a whole. Ms. Castner advised that the donations were already accounted for in the approved 2026 Borough Budget. President Gagliardo asked if any Council member wished to take any actions on the matter; there were no responses.
- ◆ **Borough Hours and Holidays:** President Gagliardo directed Council to the 2026 Borough Hall hours and holiday schedule included in their packets and asked if any Council member had proposed changes; there were no responses.
- ◆ **Reopening of the Budget:** President Gagliardo asked Council if there were any matters requiring the budget to be reopened; there were no responses.

FINAL REMARKS AND REMINDERS

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business Council adjourned at 8:40 PM with a motion by Councilman Grassley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara K. Mountford
Secretary/Treasurer