

**KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2026**

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Hatzas called to order the January 5, 2026 reorganization meeting followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Hatzas conducted the Oath of Office for new Council members:

- **Kerry Grassley**
- **Nathan Kreider**
- **Crystal Wanner**

SWEARING IN OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Hatzas conducted the swearing in of Fire Department Officers:

- **Timothy Hart, Assistant Fire Chief**
- **Roger Shay, Fire Police**

ROLL CALL

Roll call was then conducted. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Roger Weidenheimer, Anthony Avilla, Kerry Grassley, and Vince Gagliardo, Crystal Wanner, and Nathan Kreider.

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 Lesher, Roger Shay, Tim Hart, Carolyn Gunster, and Scott Stamm. There were other residents in attendance who did not sign in.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor Hatzas announced that a Council seat is currently vacant, as the elected official will not be assuming the position. Solicitor Gombar explained that the matter was placed on the Reorganization Agenda to formally acknowledge the vacancy and to clarify that only six (6) Council members would be voting in the election of the Council President and Vice President.

Solicitor Gombar further advised that Council is required to fill the vacancy and that any official action regarding the appointment would be addressed at a subsequent Council meeting.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Hatzas explained the nomination and election process for the Council President position and opened the floor for nominations. Councilman Avilla nominated Councilman Weidenheimer, and Councilman Kreider nominated Councilman Gagliardo. With no further nominations, a roll call vote was conducted for each nomination.

Councilman Weidenheimer received three (3) yea votes and three (3) nay votes. Mayor Hatzas cast the tie-breaking vote opposing Councilman Weidenheimer.

Prior to the roll call for Councilman Gagliardo, Councilman Grassley brought up a previous personnel issue as a concern, and Solicitor Gombar recommended that Council hold an immediate Executive Session to discuss the matter. Council went into Executive Session privately and upon returning, Solicitor Gombar announced that the reorganization meeting would reconvene.

Mayor Hatzas asked for roll call for Councilman Gagliardo.

***Councilman Gagliardo received three (3) yea votes and three (3) nay votes.
Mayor Hatzas cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of Councilman Gagliardo.***

Councilman Gagliardo was declared the new Council President and was presented the gavel by Mayor Hatzas.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

President Gagliardo opened the floor for nominations for the office of Council Vice President. Councilwoman Wanner nominated Councilman Kreider. With no further nominations, a roll call vote was conducted.

Councilman Kreider received six (6) votes, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Kreider was thereby elected Council Vice President.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Resolution #739 (Making Robert's Rules of Order the Parliamentary procedure for Borough Meetings)

President Gagliardo requested clarification regarding the Borough's past practice in utilizing *Robert's Rules of Order*. Ms. Castner explained that the Borough has been following *Robert's Rules of Order* since the beginning of her tenure as Borough Manager; however, the Council had not formally adopted them by resolution.

President Gagliardo called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 739, establishing Robert's Rules of Order as the official parliamentary authority for Borough meetings. Councilman Grassley made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Avilla.

The vote resulted in three (3) yeas and three (3) nays. Following the vote, Mayor Hatzas requested input from Solicitor Gombar regarding the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order. Solicitor Gombar provided his opinion outlining the advantages and disadvantages of adoption.

Mayor Hatzas then cast the tie-breaking vote in the negative.

Motion was not approved, and Resolution No. 739 was not adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Gagliardo announced that Council would convene in Executive Session at this time.

RECONVENE

Council convened in Executive Session privately and, upon returning, President Gagliardo announced that the Reorganization Meeting would reconvene.

Resolution No. 740 – Municipal Appointments

President Gagliardo called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 740, establishing municipal appointments. Councilman Grassley made the motion to appoint Systems Design Engineering (SDE) Inc. as the engineering firm for the Borough, which was seconded by Councilman Avilla. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM with a motion by Councilman Grassley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara K. Mountford
Secretary/Treasurer