

BOROUGH OF KUTTOWN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF 11 APRIL 2023

A regular meeting of the Community Development and Public Safety Committee was held on Tuesday April 11, 2023, at the Kutztown Municipal Building, 45 Railroad St.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs. by Mr. George Kusterer, Chairperson. Members present were Mr. George Kusterer, Mr. Fred Engelhardt, and Dr. Derek Mace. Also present: Mr. Craig Summers, Chief of Police; Mr. James Schlegel, Mayor; Mr. Gabriel Khalife, Borough Manager; Mr. Joshua Young, Code Enforcement Officer; Mr. Eric Boyer, Recording Secretary. Public Attendance: Ms. Ashley Weckerry, representing Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority; Ms. Sandy Green, representing KCP; Mr. Chris Manmiller, representing Kutztown Fair Association; Mr. Rich (Illegible), representing Action Track USA; Mr. Doug Rose, representing Action Track USA; Ms. Allison Fuller, representing KCP & KATS; Mr. Rodney Freeman representing KATS; Mr. Brandon Bullock representing KATS; Mr. Joel Seidel, representing Planning Commission; Mr. Michael Shaw, Borough Resident; Ms. Mindy Wagaman, Borough Resident.

Public Comments:

None.

Kutztown Fire & Rescue:

Deputy Chief Young reported in March 2023 totaling 49 calls for service, of which 11 were in the Borough of Kutztown, 19 in Maxatawny Twp. The remaining calls were split between Greenwich Twp., Richmond Twp., Albany Twp., and Pike Twp. New apparatus' are being completed with final outfitting and will be on station in the coming weeks.

EM:

Emergency Management Coordinator Young updated the committee on ICS/NIMS training they he will be completing.

KATS:

Mr. Freeman reported they handled 191 total dispatches for the month of March 2023. Borough of Kutztown = 69 calls. Total calls YTD = 555. Mr. Freeman discussed with the committee what he called a "meltdown" situation which occurred on St. Patrick's Day, relative to Mr. Kusterer's concerns for mutual aid availability. The committee and KATS representatives discussed the matter at length.

Review and Accept the Minutes:

Members reviewed the March 14, 2023, committee meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Engelhardt and seconded by Dr. Mace to approve the March 14, 2023 minutes as written. The motion passed by majority vote.

Planning & Zoning:

Mr. Engelhardt presented further discussion of proposed noise ordinance and enforcement of it after having received a review from Solicitor Mooney. The ability to incorporate some method for waivers or exemptions from the ordinance's requirements was discussed.

Motion by Dr. Mace to forward the proposed ordinance to Borough Council for consideration as written and seconded by Mr. Kusterer. The motion passed by majority vote.

Code Enforcement:

- **DCR Report – March 2023**

Committee members reviewed the DCR report.

Mr. Young discussed the property at 144 Noble St. that their office was looking to turn in on a Blighted Property Commission of Berks County. However, there is a sale pending on same day as a hearing with DJ Greth on 4-5 previous violations. He expects to have an update next month. Mr. Young is working on updating the IMPC sections of Borough Code with Solicitor Mooney.

Community Development:

- **Monthly Report – March 2023**

Committee members reviewed the report.

Mr. Khalife made the committee members aware that Planning Commission had meet the night prior and sent two letters to council related to a county comprehensive plan and the Hilltop Subdivision.

KCP/Main St.:

Ms. Green updated the committee on meetings for the upcoming Wall that Heals event occurring in September and asking for volunteers. She provided an update on the re-development of the property at 32 N. Whiteoak St. with the contracting with an architect and general contractor.

Police:

- **Incidents Reported – Year to Date 2023**

Chief Summers reviewed the report with Committee members. Chief Summers noted most statistics are back to pre-pandemic levels. A short discussion of March 25th incidents occurred. There were no questions or comments.

- **Arrest Report – Year to Date 2023**

Chief Summers reviewed the report with Committee members. There were no questions or comments.

- **Reportable Crimes – March 2023**

Chief Summers reviewed the report with Committee members. There were no questions or comments.

Ms. Weckerry answered the committee's questions about the proposed Phi Sigma Sigma fundraising sale planned for 15 April 2023. Motion by Dr. Mace to allow the sale during the hours of 10PM to 12AM, and to waive the fee due to all proceeds being donated to nonprofit scholarship, seconded by Mr. Engelhardt. The motion passed by majority vote.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Off-Agenda:

There were no off agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Engelhardt and seconded by Dr. Mace to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2012 hrs.