

**BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Community Development and Public Safety Committee was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at the Kutztown Municipal Building, 45 Railroad Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. 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. Joshua Young, Code Enforcement Officer, and Ms. Carolann Bartik, Recording Secretary. Public Attendance: Chief Todd Evans, representing Kutztown Fire & Rescue; Sgt. P. Michael Clery, representing Kutztown Borough Police Department; Ms. Allison Fuller and Mr. Rodney Freeman, representing Kutztown Area Transport Service; Ms. Sandy Green representing Kutztown Community Partnership; and Ms. Mindy Wagaman and Mr. Eric Boyer, Borough residents.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no comments from the public.

**KUTZTOWN FIRE & RESCUE:**

Chief Evans stated that Kutztown Fire & Rescue responded to 61 calls for the month of April and 5 of those calls were in the Borough of Kutztown. Total calls to date are 212.

Chief Evans mentioned that the new apparatus has arrived, adding that they should be in service within the next month or two, following equipment being mounted and driver training being completed. He added that the apparatus they are replacing has been sold.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Mr. Joshua Young mentioned that Berks County Communication Center is planning on hosting ICS 300 (Incident Command System) training.

**KUTZTOWN AREA TRANSPORT SERVICE:**

Mr. Rodney Freeman mentioned that KATS responded to 144 calls in April, 44 of which were in the Borough of Kutztown. Total calls to date are 715.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES:**

Members reviewed the April 11, 2023, Committee meeting minutes. Motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Fred Engelhardt to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes as written. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**PLANNING AND ZONING:**

Mr. Young mentioned that the Planning Commission met last night and will be submitting a letter regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

Mr. Young stated that Rita's has been approved for the 478 W Main Street location and they picked up the paperwork at the end of last week. He added that the gentleman opening an Indian restaurant at the former Spuds location submitted his final paperwork.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

- **DCR Report – April 2023**

Mr. Young reviewed the DCR report with Committee members. There were no questions or comments.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- **Monthly Report – April 2023**

Mr. Young reviewed the Monthly Report with Committee members. There were no questions or comments.

**KCP/MAIN STREET:**

Ms. Sandy Green updated the Committee members regarding the former Strand Theatre.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

Chief Summers reviewed the report with Committee members. 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 – December 2023**

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

Chief Summers updated Committee members on the hiring/promotion status for the Police Department.

Mr. Kusterer mentioned an incident that occurred on Main Street last week, stating the officer that responded (Officer Matthew Yerger), held the accident victim's hand until he was put on a stretcher. He stated that after the victim was put on a stretcher, Officer Yerger showed so much compassion to that gentleman, which he has not seen in a long time. Mr. Kusterer mentioned that Officer Yerger knelt down, held the man's hand, spoke to him, and comforted him. He mentioned that Officer Yerger was amazing and should be commended. Chief Summers stated he will do that.

Chief Summers mentioned that this is his last Committee meeting. Mr. Kusterer stated that it has been a pleasure to know and work with him. He added that he wishes Chief Summers all the best and he is sorry that he is leaving.

Motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to commend and thank Chief Summers for his work on this Committee and wish him well in his second retirement. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Schlegel thanked Chief Summers for his service and added that he will be missed.

**OFF AGENDA:**

There was a brief discussion regarding the camera system located at Kutztown Fire & Rescue. Mr. Kusterer questioned if the Borough would be willing to purchase updated cameras, since those cameras are beneficial to the Police Department as well. Dr. Mace stated he will mention this at the Finance & Electric Committee Meeting.

Mr. Young mentioned that Mr. Keith Mooney, Borough Solicitor, did get back to him regarding the IPMC (Property Code) update and that will be included on next month's agenda for discussion.

Mr. Young added that it is hard for him to write violations for tall grass when the Borough is not keeping up with their grass either.

There was nothing else to discuss Off Agenda.

**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 8:12 p.m.