

**BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. George Kusterer, Chairperson. Members present were: Mr. George Kusterer, Mr. Fred Engelhardt, and Dr. Derek Mace. Also present: P. Michael Clery, Chief of Police; Mr. Gabriel Khalife, Borough Manager; Mr. James Schlegel, Mayor; Mr. Joshua Young, Code Enforcement Officer; and Ms. Carolann Bartik, Recording Secretary. Public Attendance: Ms. Barbara Vogelgesang, representing Kutztown Community Partnership; Ms. Gianna Harrison and Ms. Amanda Ferrero representing Delta Phi.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Amanda Ferrero and Ms. Gianna Harrison requested to hold a hot dog fundraiser to raise money for their philanthropy. Proceeds will be donated to Sanctuary at Haafsville, a dog and cat shelter. Motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to grant permission to hold the fundraiser on October 19th from 9:00 PM until Midnight. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

KUTZTOWN FIRE & RESCUE:

● **YTD Monthly Report – September 2024/3rd Quarter 2024**

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

● **October IST Training**

Mr. Young mentioned that the training has been changed for October to allow the Emergency Managers to bring their resource manuals to review and be sure they are all updated properly.

TOPTON AMBULANCE:

Mr. Young mentioned that there was nothing to report regarding Topton Ambulance. He added that Chief Todd Evans stated that Cannibus Fest will only be one day next year due to Easter.

Mr. Kusterer mentioned that the year-to-date calls for Topton Ambulance are 2204 and 484 of those calls were in the Borough of Kutztown.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES:

Members reviewed the September 10, 2024 Committee meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Engelhardt and seconded by Dr. Mace to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes as written. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Mr. Young mentioned that the Planning Commission is working on a short-term rental ordinance, adding that the chicken restaurant is now open.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- **DCR Report – September 2024**

Mr. Young mentioned that there were three DCR's for the month of September.

Mr. Young stated that on September 18, 2024 there was a Housing License Appeals Board hearing. The agent of a rental property is arguing against the 5-mile radius stipulation. They wanted a variance for the stipulation to be 12 miles, however, the person who was supposed to be at the meeting never called or showed up. The request was denied.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- **Monthly Report – August 2024**

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

There was a brief discussion regarding BYOB License.

KCP/MAIN STREET:

Ms. Barbara Vogelgesang reviewed her report with Committee members.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- **Incidents Reported – Year to Date 2024**

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

- **Arrest Report – Year to Date 2024**

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

- **Reportable Crimes – September 2024**

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

- **Discuss Crime Alert Berks County \$500 Donation**

Chief Clery reviewed the annual request from Crime Alert Berks County. Following a brief discussion, motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to recommend Borough Council approve a \$500 donation to Crime Alert Berks County.

- **Discuss Resolution to donate 19 bicycles to Kutztown Boy Scout Troop 101 to repair**

Chief Clery reviewed with Committee members the proposed donation of bicycles to Kutztown Boy Scout Troop 101 to be repaired. Following a brief discussion, motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to recommend Borough Council approve a resolution to donate 19 bicycles to Kutztown Boy Scout Troop 101 to repair. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chief Clery mentioned that the Police Department recently hosted Coffee with a Cop at Dunkin' Donuts and it was well attended, adding that the owner of Dunkin' is very community minded and supplied all the coffee and donuts at no cost to the Police Department.

Chief Clery stated that he tested last Sunday for a patrol officer, there were a few applicants, and are now working on the next step in the process.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Peach Street bridge.

There was a brief discussion regarding National Night Out.

Chief Clery added that he received a resignation letter from one of the officers.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

There was no report from the mayor.

OFF AGENDA:

Dr. Mace thanked Chief Clery for doing events that involve the community, adding that he appreciates it. Chief Clery mentioned that there are a few more events being planned, Cocoa with a Cop with Santa, as well as Cops and Caboozes to coincide with the Toys for Tots event.

Dr. Mace also mentioned that he appreciates Chief Clery's diligence in setting high standards for new officers.

Mayor Schlegel stated that Toys for Tots will be in Kutztown on Sunday, November 24th.

Mr. Engelhardt reviewed an update regarding the joint comprehensive plan with Committee members.

There was nothing else to discuss off agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dr. Mace and seconded by Mr. Engelhardt to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20.