

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, 2021. MAYOR LINDA KARLOVITCH PRESIDED.

Mayor Karlovitch read the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and said in light of the public health emergency caused by Corona Virus the Council meetings will continue on their regular scheduled meeting dates. Please note the time for the work session has been changed to a new commencement time of 6PM, the regular council meeting will continue to commence as soon as possible after the work session.

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Karlovitch.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call at 8:00 P.M. showed the following Council Members present: Kaye Ceceri, , Mark David, Joseph Finistrella, Gerry Laudati, Scott Pentz. Fred Pugliese was absent.

MINUTES

It was moved by Councilman Laudati, seconded by Councilwoman Ceceri and carried that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 10, 2021 be approved as submitted. (Copies furnished each Council Member prior to the meeting).

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

- NJSLOM Notices (emailed to all)

It was moved by Councilman Laudati, seconded by Councilman Pentz and carried that the above communications be received and filed, and any money amounts indicated be spread over the minutes. All in favor.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Karlovitch said Kenilworth currently has a total of 843 COVID19 cases that have been reported to the Health Department, 127 of these cases have fallen in the last 30 days with 29 new infections in the past 7 days. In the past month Kenilworth has been ranging between 20 and 30 new cases per week, similarly we are seeing increase of cases coming from school age children, currently 37 have tested positive in the past 14 days. She urged all residents to please follow all protocols to keep yourself and your families safe. The Board of Health, the VFW and the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on April 12th from 1-6PM. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person, the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, please consider coming out and donating. The Mayor sent out a shout out and gratitude to our DPW and Superintendent and staff who have been working tirelessly during these winter months keeping our roads safe and our town clean. She thanked them for all their hard work for our Borough, and said we all appreciate it. Mayor Karlovitch extended her appreciation and upmost gratitude to our retiring Chief of Police, John Zimmerman. She wished him a long and happy retirement and thanked him for serving our Borough for over 30 years and wished him the absolute best.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Councilman Laudati reported notices for unpaid taxes through 1st Quarter 2021 were mailed on Friday, Feb 19th. The Finance committee met with department supervisors on Monday to review Capital budget requests. The Auditors started the 2020 audit process for the Borough, letters were mailed from Suplee Clooney to random residents asking them to verify tax payments made or any balances owed to the Borough for the year 2020. The letters are legitimate and we ask if you received one to please complete it and return to Suplee Clooney. Should you have any questions regarding information requested, please call the telephone number provided on the letter. The State has started to mail the 2020 Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) books. If you have not received your book, please allow a few weeks of mailing time. If you do not receive a book by March 5th and feel you should have, please call 1-800-882-6597 to request one. If you call to request a book, it is extremely important to verify with the State which book you should receive, a PTR 1 or PTR 2. Paperwork for the Senior or Disabled persons deduction were mailed a few weeks back. The completed form with your 2020 income statement are due back to the tax collector no later than March 1st.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman David thanked the DPW for all their hard work through all the snowstorms that we had during this month. Last month's bill for recycling in January was \$7,450.44 and based on that figure, he is pretty sure it is a standard amount for every month that we have been collecting recycling since we went to DPW taking over that. We are saving around \$10,000.00 by not going to a private disposal company, the last company we had wanted to jack up the price to \$20,000.00 per month. The DPW has been out in the center of town and on South Michigan, Washington Ave and Epping Drive and have been using the front end loader going curb to curb removing snow. There is still an issue with parking in this Borough when we have a snowstorm, still cars that never move. He said there are still a few cars that are still snowed in from the blizzard which is amazing in itself. We definitely have to look into that, we keep saying it but we have to do it. Based on the past snow there are a few pieces of equipment that are broken down at the DPW. He said we need to keep up with the equipment for the DPW since it is always hard to get anything new, they have been working with the same equipment for the last 20-25 years and it's time they start getting upgraded. He said starting pretty soon tree work will begin, they received proposals to address 12 trees so far and the work will start, weather permitting, there is a great backlog as far as tree work goes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Ceceri read a letter from Captain Scott Breslow, Union Police Department regarding Captain Fred Soos. He stated that his 91 year old father was shopping at the Acme on Friday the 12th of February and fell in the parking lot and hit his head. He is stubborn and refused the recommended trip to the hospital. Captain Soos was off-duty and stopped by to help and eventually gave me a phone call letting me know what happened. He even took the time to follow my dad home to make sure he got home safely. I wanted to let you know I appreciate **the** time Captain Soos took to help my father. Quite often we get complaints and criticisms about our

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officers, so I thought you should hear the good as well. Complicating matters on my end is that we were moving our son into The University of Delaware and we were getting ready to leave when I got the call. My dad seems OK and I guess it worked out for now. Chief Zimmerman posted a Memorandum of vacancy on February 11th regarding the promotional interviews to be conducted by the police committee and police chief in March:

Eligibility Requirements for Promotion Interview:

- To be eligible for consideration for promotion for the rank of Sergeant, the officer must have 5 or more years of service as a Kenilworth Police Officer.
- To be eligible for consideration for promotion for the rank of Lieutenant, the Sergeant shall be in their current rank for no less than 1 Year.
- To be eligible for consideration for promotion to the rank of Captain, the Lieutenant shall be in their current rank for no less than 1 year.
- Any officer meeting the requirements for the promotion interview for the rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain must submit a letter and their resume to the Chief of Police no later than March 3rd 2021 @ 4 P.M. regarding their intent to be considered for the upcoming promotion interviews.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ZONING & ORDINANCE

Councilman Finistrella had nothing to report, the last meeting was cancelled.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND FIRE

Councilman Pentz reported for Recreation, Softball registration is open this week. There is a problem with the payment module and they are working on that. Baseball tryouts for the Middle School level will be held on March 9th and 12th. Flyers will be sent out to the schools next week. The Valentines Day Hunt went over very well. Councilman Pentz said he gave the Fire Report to the Deputy Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

Councilman Pugliese was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions No. 1 thru 2 are listed on Consent Agenda and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. All items will be recorded individually in full in the minutes.

Councilman David moved that all items under the Consent Agenda be approved, seconded by Councilman Ceceri. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Finance Officer be authorized to make payments and transfers for necessary obligations prior to the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Body authorizes, Assistant Finance Officer Lisa Wood to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer as outlined in Borough Code Chapter 5-34, in the event of his absence.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

PARTICIPANT'S RESOLUTION - LEAP CHALLENGE GRANT

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has allocated \$150,000 within each county for a statewide total of \$3.15 million in Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) funds to promote innovation among peer local units across New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) administers the LEAP grant program; and

WHEREAS, the LEAP Challenge Grant exists to challenge municipalities and counties to collaborate on more extensive partnership and collaborations to produce efficiencies through shared services; and

WHEREAS, the County of Union and the Borough of Fanwood, Borough of Garwood, Borough of Kenilworth, and Borough of Roselle have determined to apply for a LEAP Challenge Grant through the State of New Jersey Local Efficiency Achievement Program in the amount of \$150,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the County of Union has agreed to be the lead agency in this program; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has made LEAP grants available to assist local units to study, develop and implement new shared services initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project submitted in this grant application is intended to provide benefits to the participant local units' residents through the sharing of a Regional Emergency Services Dispatch Center offering public safety answering, dispatch, and associated computer aided dispatch support for fire, rescue, EMS, and police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Kenilworth, that the Borough of Kenilworth does hereby join with the County of Union in applying for a LEAP challenge grant to support undertaking this endeavor.

Proposed Ordinance No. 2021-01 was read for a first reading as follows: (Copy attached)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH AMENDING CHAPTER 120 LAND USE, PART 4 STORMWATER CONTROL, ARTICLE 34 STORMWATER CONTROL STANDARDS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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COVID -19 SPECIAL EMERGENCY

Mayor Karlovitch said the purpose of this ordinance is to update the Borough's storm water ordinance to align with the new DEP regulations.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by Laudati, adoption moved by same.

Seconded by Ceceri. Upon roll call all in favor.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the ordinance #2021-01 entitled:

An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Kenilworth Amending Chapter 120 Land Use, Part 4 Stormwater Control, Article 34 Stormwater Control Standards Of The Code Of The Borough Of Kenilworth.

Heretofore introduced, does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the March 24, 2021 at 7:00PM or as soon as thereafter as the matter can be reached, at the regular meeting place of the Borough Council, and that at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, and that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

PROCLAMATION – JOHN ZIMMERMAN

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Chief Zimmerman has served the Borough with kindness, humor and an ever-present smile while providing community policing of the highest quality; and John Zimmerman's career with the Kenilworth Police Department began on February 1, 1990, where he took the oath as patrol officer until his promotion to detective in 1994, serving in various positions including Sergeant (2006), Lieutenant (2010) and ultimately Chief in July of 2013; and During John's tenure as Chief the department continued to pursue the most rigorous operational standards, resulting in the agency's continued accreditation by New Jersey State Department of Criminal Justice; and

A three-decade career with the Kenilworth Police Department earned Chief Zimmerman numerous awards and recognition from his peers in law enforcement and the Kenilworth community, including the Kenilworth Board of Education, the Local Assistance Board, the Union County Municipal Alliance and countless other professional and civic organizations; and Chief Zimmerman's dedication to the community and law enforcement extends beyond the Kenilworth Police Department and because of the many important professional and civic contributions that John Zimmerman has made to the great Borough of Kenilworth, he is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2021, members of the Kenilworth community will join with the Kenilworth Police Department to celebrate the distinguished career of Police Chief John

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Zimmerman during his farewell “walk out” ceremony from department headquarters in recognition of his over 33 years of honorable service in law enforcement, 31 of which was with the Borough of Kenilworth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Linda Karlovitch, Mayor of the Borough of Kenilworth on behalf of the entire Borough Council and the citizens we serve, take great pride and pleasure in drawing special public attention to Chief John Zimmerman. for his record of service to and concern for the protection of life and property and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in all his life’s pursuits.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of February 2021.

The Mayor presented a plaque to Chief Zimmerman which read: In recognition for over 31 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Kenilworth Police Department from a grateful community, 1990 to 2021.

Chief Zimmerman thanked everyone.

Councilwoman Ceceri and Councilman Laudati congratulated the Chief on his retirement.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion was made by Councilman Laudati, seconded by Councilwoman Ceceri to open the meeting to the public. All in favor.

Diane O’Neil, Police Department Administrative Secretary – Diane said she wanted to take this time to congratulate Chief Zimmerman on his retirement and said he has set an excellent example for all of us to follow. She said many of you will never know the tireless hours and commitment he has poured his heart into for the Kenilworth Police Department and his community. His passion for his profession and the town of Kenilworth is second to none. She wished the Chief and his lovely family all the best and said he will be greatly missed by all. It has been both an honor, pleasure and privilege working with such a man of high caliber. Congratulations Chief Zimmerman!!

John Zimmerman – Chief Zimmerman said that Councilman David mentioned something about cars that are snowbound. He said up until recently we’ve used the abandoned vehicles statute, but it really doesn’t apply to cars that are snowbound. We have had a hard time in court with that statute. He is asking the Mayor and Council and the Police Committee to look into the Borough ordinance that deals with specifically cars that are snowbound over 24 or 48 hours instead of relying on an abandoned vehicle statute or Title 39. He said he thinks that would be more appropriate and easier for officers to issue a summons in that arena. Chief Zimmerman said it has been a pleasure and honor serving the Borough of Kenilworth. When he retires next month, the first of March, he will have served for over 33 years in law enforcement with over 7 ½ of those years as a Chief of Police for the Borough of Kenilworth. He thanked the men and women, both civilian and sworn of the Kenilworth Police Department for their support over the years. Without them and all their hard work, Kenilworth Police Department would not be where it is today which is a very fine and professional department that is customer service driven to keep our Borough and citizens safe. He said he wanted to end on a quote from Albert Einstein who said “Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living”. He said so far for him, after more than 33 years of

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service, he agrees with Albert Einstein. He said he hopes to find ways to serve other than law enforcement in his retirement.

Councilwoman Ceceri wished Chief Zimmerman the best and said when she was first on Council she was in charge of the Police Department, didn't know what she was doing, sat down, listened and learned and then she was on another committee and now back on the Police Department again. She has had the pleasure of serving with you and she appreciates everything that has been done by you, you have served this town well. She wished him the best and congratulated him on his retirement.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Ceceri, seconded by Councilman Laudati to close the meeting to the public. All in favor.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Mayor said she hopes no one minds that Sarah Kossor is here now, unfortunately with COVID19 we run right from the work session into the Council Meeting and she was not here during that time. The Mayor presented her award now.

PRESENTATION - Certificate of Appreciation Sarah Kossor

Mayor Karlovitch said having more female leaders is important because female leaders change the perceived conception about who can lead and what qualities are necessary to have in leadership positions. Women in these types of roles breakdown barriers and show everyone what women can achieve. When empowered young women rise up together, they break isolation, build solidarity, and strengthen movements that challenge the prevalent social, economic, and political barriers to their vision and their voice. She believes we must empower our girls and it is with great pride and admiration that she congratulates Sarah Kossor for her recent girl scout award. Sarah's leadership and initiative to help support young women in our community by creating a Women in Leadership and Service Club. She believes we must inspire and empower our girls; it is said that girls with dreams become women with vision. The Mayor said it is her honor to present this Certificate of Excellence to Sarah Kossor in grateful recognition of her tireless work creating an environment where young women can gain confidence, knowledge and cultivate supportive relationships. The Women in Leadership and Service Club thank you for making a difference through example and mentorship, your vision, courage, compassion, and success will carry you over obstacles that may once have seen insurmountable.

The Mayor presented Sarah with a plaque and congratulated Sarah and said we are all very proud of you. Sarah thanked everyone.

Councilman Pentz congratulated John and said it was always a pleasure and honor working with him, he remembers when he came on the County Police many moons ago and said there is a rocking chair waiting for him on the front porch.

Councilman Laudati said there is position with cast. He said we should all be sending our prayers out to Councilman Pentz's brother who is in the hospital right now suffering from COVID.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved by Councilman Laudati seconded by Councilman Pentz and carried, that the meeting be adjourned to the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Moschitta
Deputy Borough Clerk