

# OFFICIAL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of September 22, 2009 of Kennett Square Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Company No. 1, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania with President David B. Miller in the Chair. Roll Call followed the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were:

*President D. Miller*  
*Council Member R. Pesce*  
*Council Member E. Avello, Jr.*  
*Council Member W. Carozzo*  
*Council Member Cocks; arrived at 6:42 p.m.*  
*Council Member J. Darman*  
*Council Member J. Thomas*  
*Manager B. Kucera*

## PARKING FORUM

President Miller stated that the purpose of this meeting is to conduct a parking forum to collect information and get public input concerning parking. This information will be considered when updating the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Susan Haines, 205 Meredith Street, read the following letter:

*"My name is Susan Haines and I live at 205 Meredith Street with my husband, Michael. I spoke at the July 6<sup>th</sup> Borough Council meeting about the frustration the residents of the 200 block of Meredith Street were feeling as a result of losing our parking privileges in Filbert Alley. These parking privileges had been extended to us for decades, and then suddenly last fall these privileges were suspended. At that time, we were never notified nor were we given an explanation. We had been using Filbert Alley for alternative parking whenever parking on Meredith Street was not possible because of a high volume of traffic at St. Patrick's Church and/or St. Patrick's School.*

*After I spoke that night, I thought I should educate myself about the other alleys in Kennett and determine how parking and traffic flow was handled in the various alleys. I discovered a dizzying array of options.*

*Some alleys were one way and some were two way. Some were one way in one direction for a couple of blocks and then were one way the other way for another couple of blocks. Some alleys were posted with "No Parking" signs, some with "No Parking This Side" signs. In some cases the signs indicated a school zone, and there was one with "Reserved Parking" signs. There were some with no signage at all.*

*It was easy in some cases to see that alleys were marked in a particular way for safety reasons, such as in the case of the "No Parking" signs in Schoolhouse Alley. Signage in others seems to aid in the flow of traffic or even helped establish a traffic pattern. Sometimes I couldn't easily determine the reason - the signage was puzzling or intriguing.*

*But I am not here to challenge you as to why one alley is marked this way or another alley is marked another way. I simply would like for you to consider restoring our parking privileges to what they had been for so many years. If for some reason you can't do that, then perhaps we could take a look at what I discovered in the other alleys and apply it in some way to Filbert Alley. Perhaps Filbert Alley could be made one way and posted with "No Parking This Side" signs, as in the case of Chestnut Alley. But, that may pose a problem for the businesses that bookend Filbert Alley, so that may not work. Perhaps, Filbert Alley could have parking on one side only, and the residents of Meredith Street could be issued parking permits. Perhaps, there could be "Reserves Parking" signs, as in the case of one section of Church Alley.*

*Whatever you choose to do, please make it something that will help us and will help alleviate our parking dilemma. If things are left as is - that is, no parking at all in Filbert Alley - I can guarantee you that there will be those times when I will park in the alley illegally. As a school teacher for 37 years, I know how important it is for a community to have fair rules and laws, and I dislike being put in a situation where I am forced to break one of those rules or laws.*

*Now, I've mentioned the words "parking privileges" many times. Because I believe parking in Filbert Alley is a privilege, then as responsible citizens we must park in the alley in such a way that is appropriate and safe - that is, parking as close to the property line as possible and not on the outside of trash cans or piles of debris. It may be necessary for some to "tidy up" a bit.*

*If you do restore parking on Filbert Alley to us, then I would recommend that you notify the residents involved by mail and spell out clearly that if a resident chooses to park in the alley when necessary then they must do so according to certain conditions. If someone doesn't comply, doesn't follow the rules to park*

*appropriately and safely, then please take a lesson from me that I have learned a long time ago as a teacher, suspend their parking privileges, not the parking privileges of those who do comply. In other words, don't punish the group for the misdeeds of one.*

President Miller thanked Ms. Haines for her comments.

Ms. Trish Vaughn, 217 Meredith Street, she stated that she agrees with the petition to restore parking on Filbert Alley. When there are evening activities at the church, funerals or mass on Sundays then she is unable to park on Meredith and is forced to park illegally on Filbert Alley. Ms. Vaughn noted that the garbage truck is able to travel the road each week. She questioned why the "No Parking" signs were installed on Filbert Alley.

The Manager advised that the "No Parking" signs were posted due to the request of the Fire Chief. Emergency vehicles are unable to safely travel on Filbert Alley when vehicles are parked there. The Manager advised that he and Mr. Joseph Scalise have looked at the alley and surrounding streets and understand the concerns of the residents.

President Miller thanked Ms. Vaughn for her comments.

Ms. Haines stated that she understands that the Fire Chief has their safety in mind however Chestnut Alley is a one way with no parking on only one side and St. Patrick's school children are present in that alley.

President Miller thanked Ms. Haines for her comments.

Ms. Mary Hutchins, Mainstreet Manager, stated that when parking concerns arise she presents them to the Parking Committee. Ms Hutchins stated that she believes that the Parking Committee has responded to the merchants' concerns. She added the Manager addressed parking with the merchants at one of their monthly meetings.

Ms. Hutchins stated that one of the merchants is interested in a reduced cost for parking for their employees during the holiday season.

The Manager advised that if this was offered, then this type of parking would be on the street.

Ms. Hutchins reported that she has not heard any comments regarding business owners parking in front of their establishments.

Council Member Thomas stated that he witnessed a business owner feeding the meter in front of their establishment twice this week.

President Miller thanked Ms. Hutchins for her comments.

Council Member Thomas suggested that the no parking on Filbert Alley be re-addressed.

President Miller thanked those who attended. He stated that he is surprised that more residents or business owners are not in attendance.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

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Brant Kucera  
Borough Manager