



THE TOWN OF KENNETH CITY, FLORIDA

Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021

A. Call to Order

B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Councilmember Noble
Councilmember Cummings
Councilmember Roberts
Vice Mayor Zemaitis
Mayor Howell
Town Manager Cavalli
Attorney Mora

D. Police Chief Presentation of Awards

Chief Vazquez presented Officer Thomas Howsare and Officer Cody Farrington with awards in recognition of their outstanding performance in keeping the residents of Kenneth City safe.

- Ofc Howsare was given the *Tactical Excellence Award* for his adherence to the department's *use of force* policy that maintains the sanctify of life as a core value.
- Ofc Farrington was given the Award of Commendation for his use of exemplary investigative skills.

E. Consent Agenda

1. November 3rd, 2021 *Special Workshop*
2. November 17th, 2021 *Council Meeting*

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Councilmember Noble
Second was offered by Vice Mayor Zemaitis
All in favor
Motion to approve consent agenda passed

F. Public Comment

Councilmember Roberts apologized to the community for behaviors that were demonstrated at the last council meeting. She asked the mayor to take responsibility for “stopping that from taking place.”

Jensyn Schmidt, 5740 47th Ave N

Shared concern regarding a neighbor at 5700 47th Ave “running a UPS distribution site out of his house.” Manager Cavalli informed Schmidt and the council that our Code Enforcement Officer is investigating the report and will be in touch with Ms. Schmidt thereafter.

Ashley Torrey and Patrick, 6400 46th Ave N

Ms. Torrey shared concerns regarding the semi-tractor trailers parking overnight “sometimes 2 and half days” behind the Old Time Pottery. Patrick shared that it gets very loud and disturbs their sleep as the vehicles are running. Manager Cavalli shared that the town’s new Code Enforcement Officer is investigating the disturbance and that he will be contacted as soon as there is an update.

Paul Ashe, 6412 44th Ave N

Read a letter stating his resignation from the Town’s Zoning and Planning Board to the Town Mayor, Council, Manager and Attorney. Mr. Ashe stated his reasons were regarding his concern over the way a resident was treated at the November 17th Council Meeting.

Mayor Howell closed public comment.

G. Action Agenda

1. Duke Energy ROW. Ordinance No. 2021 656 *SECOND READING*

Atty Mora introduced ordinance No. 2021-656 which grants Duke Energy an electric utility *right of way* utilization franchise in the Town of Kenneth City. Manager Cavalli introduced representatives from Duke Energy. Vice-Mayor Zemaitis asked the representatives from Duke Energy on behalf of a resident what their protocol is when they need to get into someone’s backyard, but the gate is locked. Mr. Kris Tietig responded “What we’ll do is knock on the door and if no one is home, we’ll put a door-hanger on there with the inspector’s information, phone number and email so the resident can call them and schedule a time to come back.”

Manager Cavalli asked Mr. Tietig to explain the efforts they are making to improve communication. Mr. Tietig explained that Duke has a public engagement team that will be engaging with the Town whenever they are doing a project such as “pole replacements or any type of major work. Especially when we’re impacting traffic and things like that.” He said, “those

are all things I'm sure the Town wants to know so we're looking forward to do that."

Councilmember Cummings asked, "how do you replace a pole when you can't get a truck back there." Mr. Tietig said, "we have what's called *side-yard* equipment" and "we make it work."

Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-656 made by Councilmember Noble
Second was offered by Vice Mayor Zemaitis

Mayor Howell asked the Public for comments. No comments were made.

A roll call vote was taken.

Councilmember Noble	Yes
Councilmember Cummings	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Yes
Vice Mayor Zemaitis	Yes
Mayor Howell	Yes

All in favor
Motion passed.

2. Town-Wide Maintenance of Sign Inventory

Manager Cavalli shared a presentation regarding the current state of the traffic signage in Kenneth City and an overview of the steps needed to update all of them (approximately 707) in a series of phases. Phase one will include regulatory, warning, and general guidance signs. Manager Cavalli stated this project will cost approximately \$100,000 compared to the previously projected budgeted amount of \$270,000. Phase one is scheduled to begin immediately with a possible completion of before the start of the new year. Manager Cavalli requested that the Town Council approve a \$50,000 expenditure to move forward with phase one.

There was a discussion regarding golf cart signage and regulations.

A motion to approve the \$50,000 expense for Town sign improvements made by Councilmember Noble. A Second was offered by Councilmember Roberts.

Mayor Howell asked the Public for comments.

Alma Dalvo, 4726 58th St. N

Ms. Dalvo commented on historical discussions and a study regarding placing a 4 way stop at 58th Street and 49th Ave.

Manager Cavalli said he is working with Pinellas County Transportation Management Group and that they will be revisiting this intersection to determine next steps.

Councilmember Noble commented that she has also witnessed cars speeding on 58th St and has felt unsafe at times due to people speeding and driving recklessly. There was a brief discussion.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the allocation of funds.

Councilmember Noble	Yes
Councilmember Cummings	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Yes
Vice Mayor Zemaitis	Yes
Mayor Howell	Yes

All in favor. Motion was approved.

H. Department Reports

Chief Vasquez shared year-to-date stats with the council. Chief Vasquez commented briefly on the traffic sign project. He agreed that this is a critical component of improving traffic conditions. Chief Vasquez then provided a recap of November special events to include the Thanksgiving meals the PD and Winn Dixie provided to 6 families, The CASA fundraising efforts and the trainings KC PD officers attended.

I. Officer Reports

Manager Cavalli asked that everyone review the Fire Department and Building stats attached to the meeting agenda packet.

Manager Cavalli then debriefed the Town on current important happenings at Town Hall. He reported that the Town has been dealing with *ransomware* attack that has presented some challenges despite the damage being relatively small. He said this was a “triggering event” that will result in additional training for Town staff as well as exploring other data protective options possibly through our Microsoft contract. Manager Cavalli said he is also exploring state contract options to improve accessibility of our website. He will be presenting to the Town at a future date, what he believes are the best options available to us to improve the local accessibility and function of our Town website.

The VFW Memorial Project is currently pending a flag permit. Manager Cavalli stated that construction should start sometime in January.

Manager Cavalli stated that the traffic sign project will be soon and be completed before the start of the new year.

Manager Cavalli shared that he attended the “last meeting” of the Kenneth City Social Club and that he is interested in saving this club, “either in its current state or a modified version of it.”

Manager Cavalli provided updates regarding the Tree Lighting Ceremony that will occur on December 11th.

Manager Cavalli provided a few updates on our new Code Enforcement Officer. He reports he is very pleased with our new officer and believes he has the perfect disposition for this type of work as he has been working on getting to know residents, build relationships and seek out mentors.

Manager Cavalli’s final comments were regarding the Town’s Board of Adjustment. He reported that he will be coordinating with the Town Clerk soon to schedule their first meeting of the new year so that those pending projects can be closed out.

Attorney Mora had no report.

Town Clerk Cabezas had no report.

J. Mayor/Council Comments

Councilmember Noble commented on the previous discussions surrounding building a swimming pool in Town. She stated that she did some research and has concerns that this is not something the Town can afford and that she believes the current priority should be in cutting down costs, not incurring new ones. Councilmember Noble discussed what it costs the Town to run the Splashpad. She added that resident’s primary needs and wants are infrastructure related. She concluded that she would like to table further talks of a pool and that we focus on “the things that we have to do to get our Town up into compliance” and that we refrain from using Town resources to research “something we can’t afford.”

Vice Mayor Zemaitis commented that the Town desperately needs a proper balanced budget.

Councilmember Cummings said he would like to continue discussions about what we can do to save the Town money, stating he’s not a fan of the splashpad.

Mayor Howell commented that he believes the problem along 58th Street needs to be addressed expeditiously. The mayor asked Chief Vazquez to share any suggestions he might have. Chief Vazquez shared that “throughout the United States, every police department that I know of adheres to the “Three E’s,” of traffic management: Engineering, Education and Enforcement. He added “we have to work on the engineering portion of it” referring to the traffic signage which is scheduled to be improved soon.

K. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice Mayor Zemaitis
Second was made by Councilmember Cummings
All in favor
Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm