

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

April 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Nathalie Kulesa, Elizabeth Heckler, Deborah Hutcheson, James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Dan Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Terry Naugle, Great Valley Consultants.

VISITORS: Amber Rambo Resident
 Valdis Lacis Reading Eagle

Council President Kevin Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the minutes of March 16th, 2011.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Schedule and Chair Appointment – Mr. Conrad referred to the resolution which establishes the Borough of West Reading Environmental Advisory Council, provides for its purposes and powers, authorizes its creation including composition of its members, requires records to be kept and the filing of an annual report, authorizes appropriations and the utilization of program assistance, and determines its effect upon other agencies. He noted that initial membership is composed of the following:

Michael Morrill	1 year	expires January 31, 2012
Erica Lavdanski	2 years	expires January 31, 2013
Amber Rambo	3 years	expires January 31, 2014
Richard Sichler, Borough Manager		
Philip Wert, Borough Council Member		

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Resolution 2011-3, establishing an Environmental Advisory Council in the Borough of West Reading. **Motion carried.**

Recommendations concerning skunks - Mrs. Levering recommended that the ordinance be amended to stipulate that all trash must be placed in solid trash containers, not in trash bags. Council discussed this proposed change as well as various methods for getting rid of skunks in the Borough. Information will be published in the next newsletter concerning trash cans, rabid skunks, and methods to deter skunks from staying on residents' property. Mr. Sichler will look at costs associated with trapping skunks. It was decided that Mr. Becker would prepare an ordinance to amend the existing ordinance concerning

trash containers. The ordinance will be reviewed at the May meeting, then advertised, with adoption being scheduled for the June meeting.

Traffic Study – Sycamore Road and Museum Road – Mr. Naugle stated that Great Valley Consultants would be able to complete the traffic study within the stipulated cost and noted that it has been scheduled but not started as yet.

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 996 – Airport Zoning

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to recess the Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

A public hearing was convened for the adoption of Ordinance 996 which amends in its entirety Chapter 26 entitled Airport Zoning. Mr. Becker explained that the amendment restricts heights of buildings and other structures for the flight path of the Reading regional airport. He noted that the ordinance has been properly advertised and has been reviewed by the Berks County Planning Commission. Mr. Conrad then opened the floor to public comment. As there was none, the floor was closed to public comment and the public hearing adjourned. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to adjourn the Public Hearing. **Motion carried.**

Upon reconvening the Council meeting it was **moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to approve Ordinance 996. **Motion carried.**

Ordinance 997 – Sewer Rate Amendment

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve Ordinance 997. **Motion carried.**

Ordinance 998 – Water Rate Amendment

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to approve Ordinance 998. **Motion carried.**

CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Becker updated Council regarding Dominion Power and stated that more information will be forthcoming, hopefully at the May meeting.

Mr. Becker also updated Council regarding the Belovich development and noted that the attorney for Fulton Bank has stated they are in the process of foreclosing and intend to do the necessary upkeep on the property. When questioned about a fence that requires repair, the Fulton Bank attorney requested further information including photographs in order to take the information to Fulton Bank.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

Engineer's Report – In addition to his written report, Mr. Naugle stated that he had observed the installation of new manholes at South 4th Avenue and Grape Street, which is being done as part of the school renovation project.

Mr. Naugle also stated that DEP and EPA are in the process of negotiating the terms of the MS4 permit and as part of that process, the Wyomissing Creek has been declared a high quality coldwater fishery which means that there will be rather stringent regulations for municipalities that have storm water discharges to that stream. They are in the process of determining what that will entail. An informal group of representatives from Reading, Great Valley Consultants, Mohnton, Spring Township, and West Reading has been working together with DEP to determine what the conditions should be, and are now requesting that each municipality that has discharge into the Wyomissing Creek designate a representative as a contact for that group. It is recommended that the Borough Manager be that contact person and that Council approve that. Mr. Sichler added that they have been meeting informally for the last six months to work proactively to achieve a good relationship with DEP and to ensure them that the municipalities will comply. Mr. Conrad then appointed Mr. Sichler as the representative.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Engineer's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Yard Waste Pilot Program – Mr. Sichler said that he, along with Public Works Director Dean Murray have scheduled a pilot program for yard waste in the Borough, and that on the first Saturday of each month beginning in May, residents will be able to bring their yard waste to the Borough Garage for disposal. Mr. Sichler said that they will have a borough crew member on hand to oversee the disposal of branches, grass clippings, etc. and that they expect to save money immediately by offsetting tipping fees at the landfill. He provided other information and noted that they will run the pilot project until September but will consider continuing if it is working well. It was also noted that the crew will continue to pick up leaves and street tree limbs as usual.

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT AND MAIN STREET REPORT:

Mayor Keller read a letter from Officer David Brown announcing his intention to retire effective September 30, 2011. The letter also states that he would be willing to fill in for the Parking Enforcement Officer as needed. Mayor Keller added that Officer Brown would be greatly missed. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the retirement of Officer David Brown effective September 30th, 2011. **Motion carried.** Mayor Keller also stated that he had a second item that he would present at Executive Session.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to accept the Mayor's report. **Motion carried.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Code Enforcement – Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering presented her written report for consideration. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Chief Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

Police Department – Chief Fabriziani stated that an area of Met-Ed property in the Borough has been used in the past for K-9 training, and in order for that to continue, Met-Ed would like the Borough to approve a hold harmless agreement. An agreement was prepared by Mr. Georgeadis, Met-Ed has signed it, and is now ready for Council's approval and signature. Chief Fabriziani also noted that there is no cost associated with the two year agreement. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to authorize the Borough Manager to sign the agreement to allow the K-9 officer to train at the First Energy Corporation property on the 100 block of Chestnut Street. **Motion carried.**

A request was also made by the resident at 124 S. 2nd avenue for a handicapped parking space. Chief Fabriziani stated that in keeping with the Borough's policy, a space could be allocated at the corner, however this would be 5 parking spaces away from the resident's house which her Doctor said is too far for her to walk, given the knee and hip replacement that she has had. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to advertise the placement of a handicapped parking space on the west side of 2nd Avenue at the corner of Chestnut Street, contingent upon the resident still wanting the space. **Motion carried.** If the resident doesn't want the space, the ordinance will not be advertised.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

Public Works – Public Works Director Dean Murray presented his written report. A sewer main blockage was briefly discussed as well as the patching of potholes. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the Public Works Director's report. **Motion carried.**

Fire Department – Chief Burkholder referred to his written report. It was noted that they are in the process of flushing hydrants. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

Elm Street – There were no items highlighted by Mr. Rohrbach in reference to his written report. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Elm Street Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr had nothing to add to her written report. Mrs. Kulesa thanked Chief Burkholder for the use of the fire house for the Easter egg hunt and Jason Witman for his assistance.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Recreation Commission report.
Motion carried.

Planning Commission – Mr. Wert stated that the Commission continues to discuss zoning ordinance proposed changes. **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Planning Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Sichler referred to a letter dated April 13th that details the types of trees that will be planted throughout the Borough. He noted that this was being done through a TreeVitalize grant that the Borough received with the help of a state forester. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Shade Tree Commission report. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the revenue report for the three months ending March 31, 2011. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Payment Approval Report for 3/11/11 to 4/14/11. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS: Council was informed that on April 30th a biker block party would be held from 6 – 10 p.m. on Penn Avenue as part of the “Ride for Life” and MDA events. Parking spaces along Penn Avenue will be blocked off for their use, but a street closure will not be required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:07p.m. to discuss personnel. When Council reconvened at 8:44, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant