

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

September 20, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Elizabeth Heckler, Nathalie Kulesa, 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; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Terry Naugle, Great Valley Consultants.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Temple
	Audrey Schaeffer	Resident
	Jason Witman	Resident
	Jay Kupiszewski	Resident
	Mark Civitarese	Wyomissing
	Christian Doyle	Resident
	Chad Moyer	Resident
	Christina Horn	Resident
	David Weidenhammer	Resident
	Suzanne Thompson	Resident
	Jim Keller	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Property Owner
	Carol Wells	Property Owner
	Doug Geiger	Property Owner
	Robert Dellinger	Resident
	Jennifer Witman	Resident
	Dennis Wayne	Resident

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: *Due to the large number of residents attending, Mr. Conrad gave a five minute time limit for each speaker during public comment.*

Doug Geiger spoke about a code violation that he received for one weed growing between the buildings. He also spoke about the unfriendliness of the Codes department in general and issues he has had in the past. When Mr. Conrad interjected that he has had violations as well, Mr. Geiger stated that he had the floor and continued with his negative remarks. When Mr. Conrad stated that his five minutes were up, Mr. Geiger uttered an expletive and left the meeting.

Jay Kupiszewski said that he very glad that the Borough has a Codes Department that cares so much about the Borough. He added that he appreciates the work that they do, which ensures that residents maintain their property and in turn maintains property values.

Robert Dellinger spoke about the problem he is having with teenagers hanging around his house at night. Chief Fabriziani said that he should call police whenever it happens. Police will then be able to assess the situation and take whatever action is necessary. Chief Fabriziani also suggested that Mr. Dellinger to speak to Amber Rambo about joining the West Reading Watchers.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of August 16th, 2011.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Belovich Townhouse Development: There is nothing new to report.

Fire Department Ladder Truck Purchase: Borough Solicitor Dan Becker said he has reviewed the agreement as directed by Council, that the warranties are as they should be, and the agreement is ready to be executed. Chief Burkholder

ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:

CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Becker stated that the only remaining issue for his report is the fire truck purchase. At the last meeting the representatives from Crimson were asked to amend the contract to state that it was contingent upon the Borough obtaining satisfactory financing. It was also noted that Mr. Becker had found some discrepancies with regard to warranties, therefore an up-to-date version of the contract will be sent to the Borough for approval.

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

Engineer's Report – Mr. Naugle presented two items for approval; bids have been received for the Sidewalk Project "A" on S. 3rd Avenue between Chestnut and Kline Streets and the south east corner of 4th Avenue and Franklin Street. The low bidder was Heim Construction from Pottsville. It was noted that it came in at \$75,000 under budget. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to award the contract to Heim Construction in the amount of \$116,417.50 for Sidewalk Project "A". **Motion carried.**

Mr. Naugle also reported that he, along with Mr. Sichler and Mrs. Levering, had walked along Wayne Avenue looking at curb ramps and noted that there are 14 locations on Wayne Avenue that have been identified for this round of ADA curb ramp installations. Mr. Conrad noted that the Borough has received a \$50,000 grant for this work through Community Development Block Grant however the engineering for the project will be the responsibility of the Borough. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to authorize the engineer to put the ADA curb ramp project out for bid. **Motion carried.**

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sichler reported the following:

- The first meeting for the cable contract negotiation will be held at the end of August.
- After completing preliminary information requests, RFPs were sent to 4 banks requesting written proposals for the bank account transfer. This information will be shared with the Finance Committee.
- The school renovation is substantially complete. An awning and sign are the only remaining items.
- Approval to enter into an agreement is required to utilize the Federal Surplus Property Program. The Program, which the Borough has been involved in before, allows the purchase of surplus equipment. It costs nothing to join therefore it was **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the agreement with the Department of General Services. **Motion carried.**
- The vehicle approved for purchase for the road crew at the last Council meeting was actually intended to be leased for 3 years, at which time the truck will belong to the Borough. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to amend the motion made last month to purchase the truck, to now state that the truck will be leased instead. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT & MAIN STREET REPORT:

Mayor Keller reported that National Night Out had been a huge success and noted that Officer Karie Good had done an exemplary job. He also spoke about an incident on Chestnut Street where shots had been fired, and thanks to West Reading officers, along with the DA's office, the forensic unit and the Berks County Swat Team, an arrest was made the same night.

Mayor Keller also spoke about the Mayor's Advisory Committee meeting which had been held just prior to the Council meeting. At that meeting they had discussed the condition of curbs and sidewalks in the Borough, and reviewed the moratorium that was put in place in 2004. After discussing the situation and reviewing the dozens of photographs provided by Mrs. Levering, the Mayor's Advisory Committee recommended that the moratorium be lifted. It was also their suggestion that residents be given two years to complete the work. Council discussed this at length regarding if and how it should be implemented, and the possibility of obtaining better pricing by approaching contractors for group pricing. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to authorize Mr. Sichler to work with the Code Enforcement office as well as the Mayor to draft a letter to the residents informing them of the upcoming lifting of the mandate to repair curbs and sidewalks. **Motion carried.** It was also suggested that information be placed in the newsletter.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Code Enforcement – Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering presented her written report for consideration. Mrs. Levering was congratulated for passing the testing required for the Chief Code Enforcement Officer certifications. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the Chief Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

Police Department – Chief Fabriziani provided some follow-up information concerning the handicapped parking space on Penn Avenue. He noted that he, along with Ms. Shenk, Mr. Sichler, the business owner and the requester of the space will meet in the coming week to discuss options for a possible solution.

- The two new vehicles are now in service, the two older vehicles that were replaced are scheduled for de-striping and are currently being stored at the fire company parking lot. **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to authorize Mr. Sichler to sell the 2006 Impala SS. **Motion carried.**
- National Night Out came in under budget thanks to the donations that Officer Good was able to obtain.
- The Wyomissing Area School District has requested a memo of understanding between the school district and both West Reading's and Wyomissing's police departments concerning how incidents will be dealt with if situations arise. Chief Fabriziani noted that Mr. Becker has reviewed the document and recommended some changes which the school district has agreed to change. Mr. Becker also noted that this is legislated by the State. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to authorize Chief Fabriziani to sign the memo of understanding. **Motion carried.**
- Chief Fabriziani elaborated on the drive-by shooting that was mentioned earlier and provided information concerning the arrest of the shooter. Chief Fabriziani noted that Officer Good was the lead investigator who along with Wyomissing detectives, have determined that the shooting was domestic in nature, not drug related nor a random shooting.

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

Public Works – Public Works Director Dean Murray presented his written report. Mrs. Heckler asked when the handicapped parking space signs would be removed and it was noted that it could not be completed until the ordinance is advertised and approved by Council. The signs in question are for handicapped parking spaces that are no longer needed. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Gallen to advertise the ordinance for the removal of certain handicapped parking space signs. **Motion carried.**

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

Fire Department – Chief Burkholder presented his written report and thanked Mr. Sichler and Mr. Becker for their assistance with the fire truck project.

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

Elm Street – Mr. Rohrbach presented a brief overview of his written report and highlighted the "Let's Paint the Town" project which has achieved 100% participation and is receiving a lot of good press.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Elm Street Manager's report.
Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Environmental Advisory Council – There were no questions for the Environmental Advisory Council, however Mr. Conrad stated that a member of the EAC has missed three consecutive meetings which contravenes the regulations. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to remove Michael Morrill from the Environmental Advisory Council. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Environmental Advisory Council report.
Motion carried.

Recreation Commission – Mrs. Kulesa presented the Recreation report and noted that the playground program had been very successful due largely to the great staff members. She added that the pool is doing well and that Tons of Trucks is coming up in September.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to approve the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission – Mr. Wert reported that conditional final approval has been given to Kuhn Funeral Home for their expansion project, contingent on some minor housekeeping items. Mr. Naugle said he would review the information to determine if an escrow amount would need to be obtained for the public areas that are going to be affected such as the sidewalk, curb, and a parking space.

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to conditionally approve the final plan for the expansion of Kuhn Funeral Home contingent upon:

1. receipt of a letter from the Berks County Conservation District approving the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan;
2. receipt of an acceptable Temporary Construction Easement from the adjoining property owner; and
3. Mr. Naugle verifying the escrow requirements.

Motion carried.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Planning Commission report.
Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the revenue report for the seven months ending July 31, 2011. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to approve the Payment Approval Report for 7/16/11 to 8/12/11 and 8/13/11 to 8/15/11. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:49 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. When the meeting reconvened at 9:08 p.m., it was **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to authorize an independent medical evaluation for the police officer who applied for heart and lung benefits.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant