

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 16, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Vice-President Kevin Conrad; Council Members James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman, Elizabeth Heckler, Philip Wert; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Police Chief Ed Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate, Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Clerk Stephanie Burkholder; Mayor Shane Keller arrived at 7:20 p.m.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Tina Shenk	Business/Property Owner
	Alan Trobman	Resident
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Sheila Scott	Resident
	Chris Rajotte	Resident
	Krysta & Anthony Reber	Resident
	Carol Wells	Business/Property Owner
	Robin Horman	Business/Property Owner
	Deborah Hutcheson	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	John Woodward	3 rd & Spruce Café
	Rick Allenbach	Resident
	Todd Daniels	Resident
	Jay Kupiszewski	Resident

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Woodward of the Third & Spruce Café commended the road crew and their efforts in clearing the snow and he appreciates the great job that they do.

Carol Wells of Sweet Surprises spoke on behalf of Deborah Hutcheson and stated that she feels Deborah Hutcheson would make a good candidate to serve as a council member.

Tina Shenk of Tina's Salon advised that her business had been burglarized recently and questioned why she wasn't notified sooner of the recent burglaries going on in the area. Chief Fabriziani advised that the Main Street secretary was asked by his department and himself not to send the notification out at that time. She also asked if anything could be done as far as clearing snow off the sidewalks when the plows are coming through. Borough Foreman Jim Beane stated that they can put the snow out when they see the loader coming down the street. She also commended on the great job the crew did getting rid of the snow. Ms. Shenk also recommended that Deborah Hutcheson be considered for a council seat.

Krysta Reber of 371 Sunset Rd advised that she was not happy with the way the removal of the snow was handled and had expressed some concerns that she had concerning the situation. She also stated that a plow had never been up her street. Borough Foreman Jim Beane and Chief Fabriziani addressed the issue to Ms. Reber to give her a better understanding of what occurred.

Ben Franco of the Winedown Café also commended the Borough on a job well done in removing the snow. He also stated that when the Mayor declares a snow emergency, it hurts his business. Ben asked if the businesses could use Reading Hospital's shuttle service in order to get people to Penn Avenue and if there were any other suggestions. Chief Fabriziani stated that the Business Association may want to look into it to contact the hospital in regards to them being able to use their shuttles and garages.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Gallen seconded by Mr. Wert, Council approved the Council minutes of January 19th 2010. **Motion carried.**

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS:

There was discussion for a vacant council position. Mark Macrina had submitted a letter of intent; however he was not present at the meeting. Alan Trobman and Christopher Rajotte both were not able to be considered since they haven't lived in the borough for at least one year. The following individuals were interviewed: Oswald Herbert, Todd Daniels and Deborah Hutcheson.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert, Council approved to accept Ms. Hutcheson as a member of council. There was a 3-3 vote. Voting no was: Mr. Gallen, Ms. Good-Ashman and Ms. Kulesa; voting yes were: Mr. Wert, Mrs. Heckler and Mr. Conrad. Mr. Keller voted yes breaking the tie then making the vote 4-3. **Motion carried.** Council recessed at 8:11 p.m. for swearing in Ms. Hutcheson. The meeting resumed at 8:17 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Motion made by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the adoption of ordinance # 988. This was to clean up the ordinance based on the report that was given by Chief Fabrizioani and Mr. Tindall at the last meeting for changes that were made to the traffic ordinance. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler, Council voted to advertise the Ordinance which would allow the borough to charge an additional \$175 for work being done prior to getting a permit. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Ms. Good-Ashman seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Gallen inquired about the State Senator not including West Reading as one of the municipalities to receive gaming money from the proposed casino in Wyomissing. The money would be going directly to the City of Reading. Mr. Gallen advised that West Reading is going to be the first to respond to any calls at the hotel compared to the city. The Solicitor advised Council that he will generate a letter which will be sent to the Senator regarding this issue.

Motion made by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the issuance of a letter to the State Senator in regards to the borough obtaining monies from the proposed Wyomissing Casino. **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, Council approved Payment Application #4 to B&R Construction in the amount of \$9247.48 upon receipt of the two fire hydrants. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Ms. Hutcheson, seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved Payment Application #1 in the amount of \$10,588.50 to the Warko Group for the Olive Street Sewage Pumping Station emergency generator. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Jenkins advised that the generator is scheduled for delivery on Friday.

Motion made by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the Engineer's Report. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Georgeadis and Mr. Jenkins left the meeting following their reports.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Kulesa announced Mr. Tindall's resignation and his last full work week of employment will be the week of March 29th, 2010. After which Mr. Tindall will be working 16 hours per week. Mr. Conrad congratulated Mr. Tindall on his retirement.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mrs. Heckler, Council accepted Mr. Tindall's retirement.
Motion carried.

Authorization to Advertise Borough Manager Position- Mr. Tindall's position will be advertised on PSAB website, Reading Eagle and Lancaster newspapers also including the Pottstown Mercury and the Morning Call. The advertisement will run beginning on Sunday and applications must be submitted by March 19, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Gallen, Council authorized the advertisement of the Borough Manager position. **Motion carried.**

Act 32 Reappointment- Mr. Tindall advised that Act 32 is mandated by the State Legislature and that the Borough needs to come up with one tax collector for the county for collecting the earned income tax. Mr. Tindall is the primary person involved at this time. Mr. Conrad is the secondary voting delegate as well as Mr. Morrill. Everything can remain the same for now, until a replacement new manager has been found, a second can be appointed as a replacement for Mr. Morrill. This is for attendance and voting at the Act 32 meetings.

Planning Commission Vacancy- Mr. Tindall announce that there is still a vacancy on the Planning Commission. All those interested need to let Mr. Tindall know. Ms. Good-Ashman suggested that everyone be contacted that submitted a resume and see if they are interested in being a member of the Planning Commission.

Streetscape Phase 6- Mr. Tindall advised Council of the last budget process which eliminated \$21,500 for engineering and inspection of Phase 6. This Phase 6 project was to be a retaining wall storm water control and retaining wall on the west side of the 200 block of Penn Avenue. The Phase 6 grant is \$115,000 and the total estimated cost is \$350,000. Mr. Tindall advised that extra funding may be available from other projects in the County. Mr. Conrad advised that if Council can figure out a way the borough doesn't have to come up the \$21,500, then we can look into it and see what can be done. Berks County Transportation will notify West Reading to attend a meeting in April. Dean Rohrbach advised that he has been assisting Mr. Tindall with the possibility of installing a solar panel system along the embankment. The owner of this property has agreed to a 25 year easement and still maintains the sidewalk.

Committee/Commissions Reappointments- The reappointments will be done at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Tindall commented on the snow storm briefly. He also commended the police chief and his department for removing vehicles from the streets. Mr. Tindall advised that there were five private contractors which assisted in helping to remove the snow and the cost of the removal hasn't been determined until the bills arrive.

Motion made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, Council approved the Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Motion made** by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Conrad, Council approved the Safety Committee Report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Committee – Ms. Klahr reported that interviews will begin February 24th and a total of 47 applications have been received. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday March 20th and will be held at the firehouse if there is inclement weather. Received a letter from DCNR advising that they have accepted the grant, and the borough will be receiving \$19,500 which is for our portion of the trail grant. The letter should arrive within the next few weeks.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Wert, Council approved the Recreation Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission – Mr. Tindall advised that the zoning ordinance map and overlay district were discussed at the meeting and will be advertised for the meeting in March.

Motion made by Ms. Hutcheson, seconded by Mr. Gallen, Council approved the Planning Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad advised that the traffic meetings will now be held every other month starting in January. The time of the meetings is also being changed from 7pm to 6pm. Mr. Gallen asked if the handicapped issues have been resolved and Mr. Conrad advised that they were not. Mr. Conrad said that the chief is now taking care of the handicapped permits. The Chief will review them and then they will go to Council for their review. The committee will still be going over the handicapped applications every quarter as planned the previous year.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Gallen, Council approved the Traffic Committee Report. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani made some additional comments regarding the snow removal and stated that all the departments handled it very well. Chief Fabriziani commented on the recent business related burglaries that occurred and the special detail the department has been conducting for the past few weeks.

Mr. Gallen advised that he had received some information from Smith Barney in regards to the unfunded pension plan and stated that it's something to look into. Chief Fabriziani reported that the pension plan for police seems to be doing better than it has in the past. The non-uniform pension plan doesn't to be doing too well. Mr. Gallen thought it would be a good idea to have someone from Smith-Barney come in to talk to Council about the pension plans.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Ms. Hutcheson and passed, Council approved the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller advised that he signed the Title 35 declaration declaring a state of emergency in our Borough which enabled the borough to get the contractors in to help remove the snow. At the previous council meeting he had requested the purchase of a POW/MIA flag which is going to be displayed on the flag pole in the rear of the building. Mayor Keller has been in contact with a local nonprofit group entitled the "Forget Me Knots" and they can provide the borough with a \$25.00 donation for the flag.

Armed Forces Day Parade – Mayor Keller advised that the City of Reading has declined to participate in the Armed Forces Parade. He would like for council to consider West Reading holding the parade in conjunction with the Borough of Wyomissing. The parade route would be similar to the one for the

centennial parade. The parade would start in Wyomissing, come through our borough and end at the Scottish Rite. The sheriff's will provide deputy's at county costs.

Main Street Report– Mr. Keller advised that the Authority held their reorganization meeting. John Woodward was elected chairman; Mr. Keller was elected vice-chairman; Caitlin Degler remained Treasurer and Carol Wells as secretary. The Authority was having issues with their bookkeeper charging them high rates and was replaced with someone better qualified and offered a more competitive rate. The Authority will be contracting to bring in AARP Senior Citizen workers who are paid through federal funding at no expense to the Main Street program to assist with filing, etc. A \$2,000 grant has been submitted to the tourism office for out of county advertising for Art on the Avenue.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Gallen, Council approved to Support the Armed Forces Day Parade in Wyomissing and West Reading. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, Council approved the Mayor's Report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane advised that there was a water main break on First Avenue recently.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, Council approved the Borough Foreman's Report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane gave the report in Chief Burkholder's absence. Responses are still needed from anyone wishing to attend the fire company banquet on Saturday at Chef Alan's.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, Council approved the Fire Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dean Rohrbach provided the Elm Street report. He advised that on March 15th there will be a meeting with a consulting firm in council chambers which is for the neighborhood expansion. An Earth Day clean-up and beautification project has been scheduled for April 17th. The NAC volunteers helped clean up 6 to 7 blocks of sidewalks for the residents from the recent snow storm.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Ms. Hutcheson, Council approved the Elm Street Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 1/31/10:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Wert, Council approved the Revenues Report for one month ending 1/31/10. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 1/20/10 TO 2/12/10:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Wert, Council approved the Payment Approval Report for 1/20/10 to 2/12/10. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Wert, Council was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Burkholder
Administrative Clerk

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary