

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

July 20, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman, Elizabeth Heckler, Deborah Hutcheson, Nathalie Kulesa; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Socrates Georgeadis, Kozloff Stoudt; Code Enforcement Officer Gerry Trate; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Public Works Crew Leader Dean Murray; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Darryl Jenkins, GVC.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Fire Police
	Rebecca Keller	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Business/Property Owner
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Rev. Caseras	Lighthouse Christian Center

Council President Kevin Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Reverend Caseras gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the minutes of June 15th, 2010.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Diving Well Recommendations - Ms. Klahr noted that the recommendations for the diving well are included in her Commission report, per Council's request. Mr. Conrad stated that the information will be used during the budget process and asked Council to speak with Ms. Klahr if they had any questions about the proposed uses for the diving well.

Red Flag Regulations - Mr. Sichler told Council that there is additional information to be reviewed before a recommendation is brought to Council.

Belovich Development - Mr. Georgeadis stated that there has been limited contact with the developer however a lien has been filed for weeds. He recommended that the Borough be patient until the market improves and a developer is found.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Conrad stated that Mr. Trate is retiring from the position of chief Code Enforcement Officer as of July 30th, however he has offered to stay on as a part-time code enforcement officer. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Gallen to keep Mr. Trate as part-time Code Enforcement Officer effective July 31st.
Motion carried.

Mr. Conrad explained that the Police Pension Fund Committee currently has one council member and one former council member, therefore Mr. Conrad appointed Mr. Gallen as the second council member for the Police Pension Fund Committee, effective immediately.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the annual salary of \$40,000 for the newly appointed chief Code Enforcement Officer, effective June 7th (Mrs. Levering's hire date). **Motion carried.**

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Jenkins explained that Resolution 2010-6 sets the rates for sewer surcharges for industrial users of the sewer system. Mr. Conrad noted that the rates are set by the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley based on their calculations, and the collected fees are paid directly to the JMA. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve Resolution 2010-6. **Motion carried.**

CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Georgeadis had no report but was asked to remain for Executive Session.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Jenkins referred to his written report and noted two action items. **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Payment Application #1 in the amount of \$92,944.80 to Mr. Rehab for the 2010 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Payment Application #1 in the amount of \$47,560.56 to EJB Paving and Materials Company for the Grape/Yarnell Reconstruction Project. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Jenkins stated that a preconstruction meeting would be held on the 21st for the Sunset Road widening project and noted that the project will begin with the removal of 6 Sycamore trees at 3rd and Sunset. The curbs will then be removed, the street cut back 4 feet on either side, and new curbing constructed. The final portion will be the removal of the existing pavement, the placement of the new sub-base, and repaving of the entire roadway. The project is scheduled to begin on the 26th and is anticipated to be complete in 3 to 4 weeks.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Engineer's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sichler stated that the Borough will soon have a surplus vehicle (the Parking Enforcement "Gator") and asked Council what they wished to do with it. There was much discussion concerning the state of the vehicle, the annual costs to keep it running, and the potential value if it were to be sold. The other possible option is to allow the Recreation Department to use it to transport equipment for various events, summer program, etc. It was also suggested that an alternative for the Rec Department is the possibility of sharing the Elm Street "buggy", which Mr. Rohrbach stated was very acceptable to him. Mrs. Nathalie made a motion (Mrs. Heckler seconded) to give the gator to Recreation, however agreed to withdraw it if Recreation could use the Elm Street vehicle. It was then decided that Ms. Klahr would meet with Mr. Rohrbach, and Mrs. Kulesa would discuss the issue with John Woodward (Main Street Chairman) and create a formal agreement if necessary. It was also recommended that a policy be put in place concerning who will be permitted to use the vehicle. This will be further discussed at the next Council meeting.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Code Enforcement – Mr. Trate presented his final written report and thanked Council for their support during his tenure as head of Code Enforcement. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the Code Enforcement Department report. **Motion carried.**

Police Department – Chief Fabrizio stated that the new electric parking enforcement vehicle should be in service within the next week. He also noted events that would be taking place in conjunction with National Night Out which will be held on Tuesday, August 3rd at the pool.

Chief Fabrizio stated that the County Police Chiefs Association is looking at forming a county wide consortium that would test new candidates who are eligible for hiring throughout the county. This would be for the written portion of the testing as well as the physical agility. He noted that in doing so, Berks County would join the many other counties are doing this, which will allow Berks County police departments to select eligible candidates from a much larger pool.

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Police Department Report. **Motion carried.**

Mayor / Main Street – Mayor Keller spoke about National Night Out and noted that as part of the events the new fish tail bicycle rack will be dedicated at 6:00 p.m. He thanked Mr. Rohrbach and the borough crew for seeing the project through to completion.

With regard to personnel, Mayor Keller stated that the vacant positions in Code Enforcement need to be filled and requested that they be advertised. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to advertise the hiring of a full-time and part-time Code Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried.**

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

Public Works – Crew Leader Dean Murray presented his written report, and added that on Monday, work will begin to refurbish the flag pole at the pool.

Mr. Gallen noted that there has been some damage to the newly renovated tennis courts and asked if the gates are being locked at night. Mr. Murray said that they are supposed to be locked once the basketball players are finished each night.

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Public Works report. **Motion carried.**

Fire Department – Chief Burkholder noted that the June report had been distributed in error however the correct report was distributed at the end of the meeting. As part of his report, he highlighted the fire on June 5th at 436 Franklin Street. **Moved by** Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

Elm Street – Mr. Rohrbach stated that things are working well and there have been many volunteers for the resident garden. He also stated that the third Elm Street expansion meeting will be held on Monday, August 9th at Borough Hall. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Elm Street Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

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

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr reported the following:

- The Kim Manning Memorial Swim Meet will be held on July 26th. All proceeds will be donated to her sons' college trust fund. Both sons swim for the West Reading Swim Team.
- A tennis block party will be held on July 31st with free tennis lessons being offered. She thanked Fromuth Tennis, Pat Shields and Matt Jacobs who did such a great job in refurbishing the Borough's tennis courts. As part of this event, there will be a ribbon cutting at 2 p.m.
- The Marines and Me program is doing very well and the kids are really enjoying it.
- Pool memberships are still being sold – a record year (25% higher).

Ms. Good-Ashman asked about other options for the diving well and it was noted that the proposed costs seem to be very high. It was noted that some of the proposed projects could be done in-house at a much lower cost.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission – Mr. Wert reported that the Commission continues to work on the "Official Map" and it has been suggested that input from residents should be obtained as part of the project. It was decided that a map of the borough could be placed in the hall lobby and information about the map be placed in the borough newsletter, which will be published at the end of August. Mr. Wert said that the more comprehensive the map is when adopted the less costly it will be in the future.

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

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad said that the Traffic Committee did not meet due to the lack of a quorum, however Mr. Gallen referred to the Sunset Road project and asked if consideration had been given to the possibility of changing the direction of the traffic. He felt that doing so would redirect traffic up to S. Fifth Avenue which would be a safer flow of traffic. Chief Fabriziani suggested that the issue be discussed further at the Traffic meeting and that the borough engineer be consulted. Mr. Conrad asked that this issue be placed on the Traffic Committee agenda.

Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Sichler stated that the commission did not meet due to the lack of a quorum however Mrs. Heckler asked when the tree would be planted at the Wunsch property. It was noted that Council had approved the planting of the tree many months ago, therefore Mr. Sichler will look into it.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the revenue report for the 6 months ending June 30, 2010. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Payment Approval Report for 6/15/10 to 7/16/10 and 7/17/10 to 7/19/10. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Conrad told Council that a copy of the 2009 audit has been distributed and will be placed on the August agenda for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Hutcheson invited everyone to attend the "Taste of West Reading" which will be held on August 15th. The event will include the Farmer's Market vendors as well as the restaurants of West Reading.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. When Council reconvened at 9:25 p.m., the following actions were taken:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to approve paying Mr. Trate his remaining vacation balance upon his retirement. (Maximum 5 days) **Motion carried**

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to promote Dean Murray to the Director of Public Works position effectively immediately, at a salary of \$52,500. **Motion carried**

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant