

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, Michael Morrill; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Dan Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman. Council Vice-President Michael Doyle arrived at 7:25 p.m. Absent: James Gallen Jr., Philip Wert.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Elizabeth Heckler	Resident
	Don Haines	Ephrata
	Amy Good-Ashman	Resident
	Rebecca Keller	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	John Pakradooni	Business/Property Owner
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Robert Behling	River Place
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Daryl Jenkins	Great Valley Consultants
	Rosie Skomitz	Presenter
	Ron Stauffer	Presenter

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roy Kissinger of St. James Church gave the Invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009. **Motion carried.**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Dan Becker was in attendance to present the Solicitor's report on Mr. Georgeadis' behalf. He stated that Mr. Georgeadis had spoken with County Treasurer Nelson Long regarding the cost associated with the County collecting Borough taxes. The cost for this would be \$2829.08 to cover the cost of postage, printing of the bills and collection of the fees. Regarding the legality of eliminating the position of tax collector completely, Mr. Becker said he had no information on this matter but said he would look into it.

Regarding the draft Sidewalk Café Ordinance, Council members stated that they had not received the latest version, therefore Mr. Becker said he would review it and forward it to Council **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to advertise the Sidewalk Café Ordinance, based on the revisions that were brought forward at the last meeting. **Motion carried.**

The Belovich Group development was briefly discussed. Mr. Tindall noted that the street lights are finally operational.

Moved by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins recommended payment of three project applications:

- **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of \$15,063.35 for the 2009 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project, subject to verification by the Engineer once the application is received. (It was noted that this will be the only payment application for this project.) **Motion carried.**
- **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of \$70,076.16 for the Main Street Phase 5 project, and to authorize the Engineer and Borough Manager to complete the necessary requisitioning paperwork with PennDOT. **Motion carried.**
- **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$28,972.42 for the pool painting project. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the Engineer's Report. **Motion carried.**

HR676 RESOLUTION:

Mr. Morrill introduced Ron Stauffer and Rosie Skomitz who spoke about supporting the National Health Insurance Act and the Family and Business Health Security Act (H.R.676) which would reduce the cost for healthcare and provide coverage for all Pennsylvanians through a single-payer system. **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to adopt Resolution 2009-8, as presented. **The motion was carried with a 4-1 vote. (Mr. Doyle voted "no".)**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

River Walk Signs – Bob Behling from RiverPlace showed the location of walking paths that have been created by utilizing existing sidewalks and trails throughout the Borough. He requested permission to install signs along the paths – which will be provided and installed at no cost/labor/maintenance to the Borough. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the installation of the signs as presented. **Motion carried.** Mr. Behling also provided information regarding the West Shore Trail signs and the upcoming Solar Flair event.

House Bill 795 – Legal Notices – Mr. Tindall stated that a bill is in front of the House to allow municipalities to advertise legal notices, public hearings, etc. online instead of in the newspaper. He noted that \$13000 had been allocated for advertising in 2009 and as of the end of May, 72% has already been expended. If passed, the Borough will save significant advertising funds. Mr. Morrill said he would draft a resolution in this regard to be considered at the next Council meeting.

BOSS 2020 – Mr. Tindall referred to a letter from the Borough of Sinking Spring regarding the revitalization plan for their borough. A grant has been awarded that will allow Sinking Spring to cooperate with 5 municipalities to write the 422 Corridor Study. A representative and an alternate has been requested from West Reading, therefore **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to appoint Mayor Keller and Mr. Morrill as representatives on the BOSS Steering Committee. **Motion carried.**

MET-ED RESOLUTION 2009-7A – Mr. Tindall stated that the resolution refers to the lighting for Main Street Phase 5 which has already been completed. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to adopt the resolution. **Motion carried.**

ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENT – It has become necessary to appoint an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board, therefore expressions of interest were requested by e-mail and one written submission has been received. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to appoint Amy Good-Ashman as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. **Motion carried.** It was noted that in future, more extensive means should be used to find interested residents.

CAPITAL PROJECTS / 2009 GENERAL FUND / 2009 GRANTS – Mr. Tindall briefly reviewed various ongoing projects and provided updates regarding recent purchases and grants.

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Geddio to accept the Borough Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Trate had nothing further to add to his written report. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – Mr. Tindall reported that the Safety Committee continues to work on the safe driving course. **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Doyle to accept the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr provided Council with an update regarding recent and upcoming events. She also reported that one staff member will be stepping down as Swim Coach due to accepting a full time job, therefore it becomes necessary to increase the pay rate for Kerilyn Patti, who will become the Head Swim Coach, to \$9.00 per hour. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the rate increase to \$9.00 per hour for Kerilyn Patti. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Klahr also reported that she had received a request from Susie Tranquillo who wishes to become a member of the Recreation Commission. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to appoint Susie Tranquillo to the Recreation Commission. **Motion carried.**

There was some discussion regarding the outdoor exercise equipment and Ms. Klahr noted that a grant has been written to request funding for security lighting, which will be located at the exercise equipment area.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to accept the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad stated that the minutes for the June 11th meeting had just been received therefore nothing would be brought forward until Council has had the opportunity to review the minutes.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabrizio reported that the new part-time Parking Enforcement Officer has completed his field training and has been enforcing parking regulations throughout the Borough. Chief Fabrizio noted that the second part-time PEO candidate declined the position when offered due to finding employment elsewhere, therefore the position will be offered to the third ranked candidate.

Chief Fabrizio also reported:

- The department has received an "Aggressive Driving Award" through the Smooth Operator program.
- The Armed Forces Day Parade went very well and Chief Fabrizio thanked Public Works and Fire Police for doing such a great job.
- Arrests have been made regarding multiple thefts from vehicles, most of which occurred at the Reading Hospital.
- Two new vehicles have arrived and have been striped, however the lighting won't arrive for several weeks.

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Geddio to accept the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller asked Council to approve the hiring of Barry McElwee as the second part-time Parking Enforcement Officer. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to authorize the hiring of Barry McElwee as Part-Time Parking Enforcement Officer at \$12 per hour, contingent upon passing the background screening. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Keller also presented the Main Street report and provided details concerning the upcoming Art on the Avenue event.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the Mayor's Report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane reported that in addition to his written report, there had been an incident with the tractor/mower at the playground, however there were no injuries and the tractor sustained only minor damage.

Mr. Beane requested permission to purchase two water hydrants. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to authorize the purchase of two hydrants, not to exceed a total of \$3900. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to accept the Borough Foreman's Report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder referred to his written report and asked Council to appoint a lieutenant for the remainder of 2009. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to appoint Helen Shaylor to the position of lieutenant for the remainder of 2009. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Fire Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dean Rohrbach reported the following:

- Elm Street currently has \$12,671 in funds which will sustain the program until mid August. State funds have been requested and should be received before then.
- The first Elm Street audit will begin on June 17th.
- West Reading was the only Elm Street community to win an award from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (for urban greening).
- At the conference (held in Johnstown), he received 'Honorable Mention' in the 'Outstanding Program Manager of the Year' category.
- The Kline Street mural corridor is moving ahead.
- He is currently working on two grants.

Mr. Rohrbach also reported that there is now a West Reading/Wyomissing Lions Club active in the community and he has been elected its first President. He said that the group meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 a.m. in West Reading's Council chamber and invited everyone to attend.

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Elm Street Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 5/31/09:

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the Revenues Report for five months ending 5/31/09. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 5/19/09 TO 6/11/09:

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Payment Approval Report for 5/19/09 to 6/11/09. **Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed for an Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 9:30 p.m. however no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by,

George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary