

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, James Gallen, Michael Morrill, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Police Chief Ed Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate, Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Clerk Stephanie Burkholder. Absent: Council Vice-President Michael Doyle; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Rebecca Keller	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Elizabeth Heckler	Resident
	Sheila Scott	Resident
	Audrey Schaeffer	Resident
	Ronald Schweitzer	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Paul Tiburon	Reading Hospital
	John Roland	Reading Hospital
	Darren Youker	Reading Eagle
	Darryl Jenkins	Great Valley Consultants

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Deacon Kase from Sacred Heart Church gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Council minutes of August 18th 2009. **Motion carried.**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Candlewood Suites- Mr. Georgeadis advised Council that the hotel is complete. He stated that by law the Borough is required to maintain a maintenance bond for a period of 18 months from the date of completion of the improvements. The Solicitor asked Council to approve the maintenance agreement and to authorize that it be executed by the borough.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the maintenance agreement for Candlewood Suites. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Mr. Morrill seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Cherry Street Sewer Main Replacement Bid- Bids were opened on September 14th. The lowest bidder for the project was BP Paterson Inc. in the amount of \$73,965. References were checked and everything was okay, according to Mr. Jenkins.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the award of the bid to BP Paterson Inc for the Cherry Street Sewer Main Replacement, not to exceed \$73,965. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Mr. Geddio, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved Payment Application No. 2, for the 2009 Streets Project to Windsor Service in the amount of \$2053.19. **Motion carried.**

Parkview Road Project- EJB Paving was awarded the project in the amount of \$63,094. According to Mr. Jenkins the paving layer will be removed from the top of the bridge and then the condition of the bridge will be examined.

Motion made by Mr. Geddio seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the bid of \$63,094 to award the contract to EJB Paving and Materials for the Parkview Road Bridge. **The motion was carried with a 4-3 vote (Mr. Morrill, Mr. Wert and Mr. Geddio voted “yes”; Mr. Gallen, Mr. Conrad and Ms. Kulesa voted “no”; therefore Mayor Keller voted “yes” to break the tie).**

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

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Conditional Use Hearing- The Reading Hospital has applied for a hearing for the property located at 401 Buttonwood Street. Mr. Roland advised council of the dates that were available. Council agreed to have the meeting on October 19th at 7:00 PM to be held at borough hall. The fire company would be available if needed.

Berks County Commissioners Police Study- A public meeting will be held on September 29th from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Spring Township Fire Company. Mr. Gallen asked if there was going to be a meeting scheduled for Borough residents. It was recommended that the Conditional Use hearing be moved up to 6 PM on October 19th, and the meeting for the borough residents pertaining to the study could be held at 7 PM on the same night. Chief Burkholder was going to check on the availability for the use of the classroom at the fire company for these meetings. The hospital would be notified of the time change for their hearing.

MMO Requirements- The MMO is for funds contributed by the borough to the retirement fund for the police and non-uniform employees. The employees can contribute but it would not be until 2011. Council could vote to have a portion of the salaries taken out for 2011 or have the minimum obligation as stated in the paperwork that was handed out to council. Mr. Morrill's recommendation was that the borough asks the employees to contribute towards the fund.

Motion made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Gallen to ask the pension committee to conduct the study so council can move forward in asking the employees to contribute to the retirement fund. **Motion carried.**

Bulk Electricity Purchase- Mr. Tindall advised that the borough is in the process of purchasing bulk electricity through the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council to save the Borough funds.

Main Street Phase 4 & 5 Update- Mr. Tindall advised that these phases are finished except for punch list items. He advised that there is a Phase 6 which is landscaping for the 200 block of Penn Avenue on the opposite side of Candlewood Suites. The grant for this is \$115,000 for the landscaping. Mr. Tindall advised that he has been in contact with some landscapers and they said it would be best to place a retaining wall in that area.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill to research the concept of the landscaping and the retaining wall. **Motion carried.**

Budget Workshop- Mr. Tindall advised council of the following dates that were scheduled for budget workshop meetings: October 1st, 15th and 22nd. The meetings would be held at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Motion made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Recreation Committee – There was discussion regarding the recent events that were held by the Recreation Committee. The report was given by Ms. Kulesa due to the absence of Ms. Klahr. The Tons of Trucks event was held this past weekend. About 250 people were in attendance. Ms. Kulesa thanked all departments that were involved. The Halloween Hayride will be held on October 23rd and 24th.

Safety Committee – There was discussion regarding the safety meeting. Mr. Tindall reported that the Safety Committee met on August 18, 2009 and driving safety video was viewed.

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad reported that the meeting for September was cancelled and has been rescheduled for September 24th. He stated that he will not be in attendance due to a scheduling conflict. Mr. Conrad advised that list of criteria has been put together regarding the parking meters on Penn Avenue. He stated that Mr. Jenkins is in the process of finding architectural firms that do this type of work. Mr. Tindall will begin preparing the RFP for the meeting on October 8th in which everything will be complete. Due to the funds that are not available for this item it will have to be budgeted for next year.

Motion made by Mr. Morrill seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Traffic Committee Report. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission – Mr. Wert advised that the conditional use application for 401 Buttonwood Street was discussed at the meeting. Two sections of the Zoning Ordinance were also discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Planning Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani reported that he & Mr. Tindall met with the Civil Service Commission. The Commission made some changes to the contract regulations which have to be ratified by Ordinance by Council. The Chief stated that civil service is requesting a motion to have the changes in the amendment advertised for adoption.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the changes to the amendment. **Motion carried.**

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller provided everyone with the Main Street report. Larry Schaub had attended the meeting and advised every one of the audit. There were no discrepancies found. Mayor Keller advised that the Fall Festival for the Arts will be held on September 19th from 1-9 PM. There are approximately 22 artists returning from Art on The Avenue. Mayor Keller also advised an inmate work detail has been secured by Berks County Prison. During this detail the sidewalks, gutters and tree wells will be cleaned every Friday. Mayor Keller plans to renew the B.I.D. for 2010.

Chief Fabriziani advised that the police department along with Spring Township and Wyomissing Borough are participating in a Citizens Police Academy which is set to begin in October and will go through November for seven weeks. The deadline to register is September 15th. There are several spots available. Information about the academy is posted on the Borough's Website.

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

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Fire Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

The report was given by the Borough Manager due to the Foreman not being in attendance. Mr. Tindall Reported that EMA is working on some goals for Code Red. The new 2009 Ford truck has arrived however the radio needs to be installed before it can be used. Truck #19 hasn't been sold and has not been taken out of service.

Motion made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Borough Foreman's Report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rohrbach provided his financial report for everyone. Mrs. Heckler asked when the expansion of the Elm Street district would occur. Mr. Rohrbach advised that a request for proposals was approved at the last meeting. He stated that it explains the details of the studies that will be done in the expansion neighborhood. The Authority is asking for cost estimates as well as qualifications from the consultants that will conduct the studies.

Motion made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Elm Street Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 8/31/09:

Motion made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Revenues Report for the eight months ending 8/31/09. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 8/19/09 TO 9/11/09:

Motion made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Payment Approval Report for 8/19/09 to 9/11/09. The motion was carried with a 6-1 vote (Mr. Conrad voted "no").

Ms. Amber Rambo asked if "Cruising on Penn Avenue"; is something the Borough is involved in. Mr. Conrad reported that it's a fundraiser by the Reading Buccaneers for their use. The borough was approached by Mr. Terry Rohrbach who is putting the fundraiser together. The event will be held on October 10th and is set to begin at the Pagoda and end on Penn Avenue. There will be areas along Penn Avenue for them to stop and go into the restaurants.

Mr. Rohrbach advised that Ms. Amber Rambo along with 25 other volunteers had helped to get rid of some graffiti in the Franklin Street tunnel which goes underneath the bypass and also along the Bertolet fishing dock. They also got rid of some weeds and picked up liter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Burkholder
Administrative Clerk

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary