

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

JANUARY 16, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on the above date. Council President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council Members Kevin M. Conrad, Amy Good-Ashman, Nathalie R. Kulesa; Mayor Shane J. Keller, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis, Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster, Borough Foreman Jim A. Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Becca Keller – 395 Oak Terrace
William Damore – 325 Kline St
Barbara Ciervo – 304 Reading Ave
Sam Loth – Main Street Executive Director
Sheila Scott – 322 Chestnut St
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut St
Philip Wert – 214 Olive St
Chris Reinert – 158 Penn Ave
Don Haines – 156B West Fulton St
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Ave
Jay Kupiszewski – 228 South Third Ave

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Mayor Shane J. Keller gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Damore – 325 Kline St – Mr. Damore discussed his neighbors at 323 Kline Street regarding noise and about the three big dogs that live and bark constantly at 223 South Fourth Ave. The Codes and Police Department will follow up.

Barbara Ciervo – 304 Reading Ave – Mrs. Ciervo discussed the property owned by Oswald Herbert on Reading Avenue and his continued neglect of it. The Solicitor replied that the Borough is working on this continuing challenge. The Borough has filed citations, been to the District Justice office, Court of Common Pleas, and to federal court with this individual.

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the regular minutes of the December 19, 2006 Council meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Manager's Report. The following items were discussed:

Swimming Pool Vacuum – Mr. Tindall requested permission to purchase a Gemini vacuum from Aquatic Distributors, Inc. This unit replaces the non-operable Aqua King, which filtered 4200 gallons per hour. The Gemini will filter 10,000 gallons per hour and includes an extra set of filter bags that will pick up larger debris such as Sycamore leaves and twigs. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the purchase of a Gemini Vacuum from Aquatic Distributors, Inc. for the delivered price of \$4,850 from Account #90-452-374.

Tree at 398 Oak Terrace – Mr. Tindall requested permission to remove this tree that is slowly dying. The cost of \$1500 includes stump grinding. The declining health of this tree will pose a safety issue very soon. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to remove the tree located at 398 Oak Terrace by Picture Perfect Landscaping for \$1500 from Account # 01-455-376.

42nd Annual Shade Tree Symposium – Mr. Tindall requested permission for Dean Murray and himself to attend the 42nd Annual Shade Tree Symposium held on February 5 and 6, 2007 in Lancaster, PA. We will commute. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved for Dean Murray and the Borough Manager to attend the 42nd Annual Shade Tree Symposium for \$390 from Account # 01-400-416.

PSAB – Spring Legislative Conference – March 18-20, 2007 – This conference is geared more towards elected officials. If any Councilpersons are interested in attending, please notify Borough Hall.

Executive Session – Mr. Tindall requested an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation.

2006 UCC Code – Mr. Tindall requested permission to advertise for the 2006 UCC Code, which was passed January 1, 2007. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to advertise to adopt the 2006 UCC Code.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Engineer's Report. The following item was discussed:

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Belovich Group Town Homes - Release No. 8 - Project Manager for Great Valley Consultants, Michael H. Muffley, recommends the payment of Release No. 8 from the escrow account for \$11,776.24 to Belovich Group. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved for payment \$11,776.24 to Belovich Group for Release No. 8.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Solicitor's Report. The following items were discussed:

Ordinance No. 946 – Ordinance No. 946 increases the water rates for quarterly and monthly customers as follows:

Residential/Public Quarterly Rates - from \$3.53 to \$3.85 per 100 cf.

Commercial/Industrial Quarterly Rates - from \$3.92 to \$4.14 per 100 cf.

Residential/Public Monthly Rates - from \$3.81 to \$4.24 per 100 cf.

Commercial/Industrial Monthly Rates - from \$4.20 to \$4.55 per 100 cf.

Because of Western Berks Water Authority increasing its rates by 10% to the Borough, this pass through is necessary. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to adopt Ordinance No. 946, which increases water rates.

Ordinance No. 947 – Ordinance No. 947 changes the frequency of residential rental inspections. On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 947, which changes the frequency of residential rental inspections.

Ordinance No. 948 – Ordinance No. 948 amends Chapter XIV, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, which establishes a 15 MPH speed zone on Fifth Avenue and removes parking at South Fourth Avenue on the east and west sides. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 948, which amends parking.

Resolution No. 2007-1 – In preparation for the January 8, 2007 Main Street Foundation and Authority Board meetings, Main Street Solicitor Dan Becker of Kozloff Stoudt Main Street Executive Director Sam Loth reviewed the lists of Board members and the various terms of office for each. The recorded terms of office had become skewed, and the two men worked to bring accuracy back to the records. This resulted in the decision to reaffirm the terms of each Board member. Borough Council is the body that created both the Foundation and the Authority and therefore is the body that must ratify these reappointments. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-1.

Resolution No. 2007-2 – This resolution appoints Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, LLP, a firm of certified or competent public accountants registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to make an examination of all the accounts of the Borough for the fiscal year of 2006. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-2.

Political Sign Ordinance – At the December Council meeting, Council advised the Solicitor to tweak Section 504, entitled “Signs Permitted in all Districts” of Part 1 of Chapter XXV, entitled Zoning, amending the regulations pertaining to temporary political signs. Solicitor Georgeadis presented the proposed ordinance. Council tabled the matter until a full quorum of Council is present.

Executive Session – Mr. Georgeadis requested an executive session to discuss code enforcement and potential litigation.

RECREATION COMMISSION: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Recreation Commission Report. The following items were discussed:

Policy Change for Summer Employment – Recreation Chairperson Nathalie R. Kulesa stated that the Commission at its January 2, 2007 meeting approved to change the interview process policy for hiring summer employees. The Committee to interview new hires and rehires shall consist of the Borough Manager, the Recreation Coordinator, a member of the Personnel Committee, a Council Member, or Vice Chairperson, and the manager of the pool or the concession stand. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the policy change for the interview process.

Designated Area for Senior Citizen Chairs – Mrs. Kulesa reminded Council that in August 2005, Council moved to allow Senior Citizens the option of leaving their chairs at the pool. Hooks were to be installed for this process and the Senior Citizens would have to sign a waiver that the Borough would not be held responsible for any stolen property. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council moved to find a place for the Senior Citizens to leave their chairs during the summer.

PLANNING COMMISSION: On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Planning Commission Report. Council briefly discussed the RiverPlace concept.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Police Chief's Report. The following items were discussed:

Lease-Purchase of a Police Vehicle – Chief Fabriziani requested permission to lease-purchase two 2007 Dodge Charger Police Interceptor packages at a cost of \$16,245 year one, \$15,895 year two and three, after which the vehicles can be purchased for \$1.00. The interest rate is 6.8% and a delivery time of 60-120 days. Chief Fabriziani did not recommend the extended warranty plan, which he explained. On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council agreed to lease-purchase two vehicles through the L3P program from Warnock at a first-year cost of \$16,245.

Detective Unit – Starting January 2, Chief Fabriziani assigned Officer DeLozier to the Detective Unit for two to three months. At some point, all senior officers will rotate in the unit before the Mayor makes a decision. Officer DeLozier has cleared 5-6 non-priority cold cases and is working on other cases.

MAYOR'S REPORT/GARDEN CLUB: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Mayor's Report. The following item was discussed:

Centennial Parade – Mayor Keller stated he recently met with Turning Point Media at Borough Hall and researched the archives. About 30-35 historic photographs were chosen to create a television commercial, which will highlight 100 years of growth in the Borough and a list of events for this year. The commercial time/efforts are courtesy of Kuhn Funeral Home.

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Foreman's Report. The following items were discussed:

Tymco Sweeper – Foreman Jim Beane presented two options to purchase a 2007 Tymco Model 600 sweeper for \$152,850.00, with a five-year lease. The first proposal offers a trade-in value of \$14,000. The second proposal is without a trade-in. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the purchase the Tymco Sweeper for \$138,850, with a five-year payment plan.

Motor/Pump – Mr. Beane requested permission to spend up to \$1200 for the purchase of replacement motor/pump for the salt pre-treating system. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the purchase to spend up to \$1200 for the replacement of a motor/pump for the salt pre-treating system.

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MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Main Street Executive Director's Report. The following items were discussed:

2nd Annual 'Westy Awards' – Main Street Director Sam Loth stated that the 2nd Annual Westy Awards were held Tuesday, January 16 (today) at Fleetwood Bank. Twelve individuals and businesses were honored for their contributions and efforts to making the West Reading community a great place to do business.

Mardi Gras Dinner Dance Bash – Mr. Loth announced a Mardi Gras Dinner Dance will be held on February 16, 2007 from 7-11 p.m. at Chef Alan's American Bistro for \$25.00 per person. It is open to the public.

Seminar – Mr. Loth announced that on February 15 in Easton, PA, Council has an opportunity to learn all about Main Street and Elm Street programs being conducted across the state. Please contact Mr. Loth if interested.

ICGR: An informal meeting of ICGR will take place on Thursday evening, January 25 at 7 p.m. at Chef Alan's American Bistro. Council members are invited.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer's Report that highlighted events at the Penn View and the new graffiti found in the Borough.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Fire Chief's Report.

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – for 12 months ending December 31, 2006: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO – FULLY PAID INVOICES 12/20/06 TO 01/09/07; PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO – PAID/UNPAID INVOICES 1/10/07 – 1/31/07 AND PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO. – UNPAID/PARTIAL INVOICES 1/16/07 – 1/16/07: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved to pay the bills.

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ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS LIST AND A STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST FORM. (1) Please keep the Officials List in a prominent spot for your use and (2) please complete, then return, the Statement of Financial Interest Form to Borough Hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting at 7:55 p.m. for an executive session. The meeting reconvened and adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

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BOROUGH OF WEST READING – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2007

West Reading Borough Council held a special Council meeting at Borough Hall on the above date at 6:05 p.m. President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council members Kevin M. Conrad, Michael P. Ferenchick, Amy-Good-Ashman, and Nathalie R. Kulesa; Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani, and Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis.

VISITORS: Harry Brewer

Brewer's Bar & Grill – 101 South Third Avenue – Brewer's Bar & Grill would like to run an outside café on March 16, 17, and 18, 2007 in conjunction with the Borough's Centennial Parade on March 17. Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis explained the PLCB rules for allowing a licensed premise to temporarily extend the area of a licensed premise. The Borough can amend its sidewalk café ordinance to allow such an event. The current ordinance allows for sidewalk cafes from April through September. Mr. Brewer stated that, if allowed, he would like to fence-in his property to sell alcohol and food and have live music on the above-listed dates during its regular business hours in celebration of the Borough's 100th Anniversary and St. Patrick's Day. On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved to advertise a Centennial Amendment to the sidewalk café ordinance. Said amendment to include allowing outdoor cafes on March 16, 17, and 18, 2007, hours of operation to be the same, and to allow live or mechanical music until 10:00 p.m. Applications for a permit pursuant to this ordinance must be filed no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2007.

Personnel Meeting - Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting at 6:19 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Letter of Resignation – On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council accepted the letter of resignation with regret from Jason S. Ganster, effective February 2, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Gerald Trate – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council hired Gerald Trate as interim Codes Compliance Officer at \$45,000 a year, with benefits.

Advertisement – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed 3-2, (opposing Mmes. Murray and Kulesa) Council moved to re-advertise the already advertised position for Assistant Code Compliance Officer to include the Geographical Information Systems skill set in the advertisement (this would be a plus), and that we re-authorize the extra \$10,000 for that position if they are familiar with GIS version up to 9.2.

Adjournment - On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie A. Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2006

West Reading Borough Council held a special Council meeting at Borough Hall on the above date at 6:04 p.m. President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council Members Kevin M. Conrad, Michael H. Doyle, Michael P. Ferenchick, Amy-Good-Ashman, Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis, Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, and Borough Foreman James A. Beane.

VISITORS: Philip Wert – 214 Olive Street
Sharon Morgan – Treasurer

CREMATORIUM - Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis explained the controversy with this crematorium in that the attorney for the crematorium is taking the position that the last hearing on this matter was July 26 and that the Borough had 45 days from that date to issue its written decision. Mr. Georgeadis reported that the last hearing date was September 18. Mr. Georgeadis explained the next two steps. (1) Appeal the deemed approval and (2) Appeal Stanton's appeal. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the motion to authorize the Solicitor to execute the above two items. Motion carried 5-1, with Ms. Good-Ashman abstaining.

PERSONNEL AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT - Council President Stephanie J. Murray appointed Council Member Amy Good-Ashman to the Personnel Committee and General Government.

BUDGET SESSION

Codes Department – Council discussed additional personnel for the Codes Department and sign permit fees. Council discussed setting occupancy fees at \$100 and sign fees at \$100, plus a \$50 yearly fee per sign.

Fire Department – Council discussed the 2% fire department loan and other items, such as turnout gear.

Recreation Department – The budget shows that salaries will increase, but the overall amount budgeted for salaries were decreased. Garden Party revenue and expenses were deleted. Recreation Coordinator Daphne E. Klahr mentioned that 17% of pool memberships are free. Daily pool passes account for \$28,000 of revenue. The Recreation Commission recommends charging a playground fee of \$50 for the first child.

Public Works Department – Council discussed a new truck, increase in health insurance costs, increase in worker's compensation costs, personnel, equipment repairs, tree trimming, and training. The training costs revolve around the sewer machine that was

purchased many years ago. When filled with water, it weighs approximately 10,210 pounds, which places it in a Class A category and falls under tractor-trailer license. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Michael Morrill, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to have the Borough Manager approach Wyomissing Borough Manager to discuss the cost of training some or all of the Borough Crew to obtain a Class A license.

Definition and Value of a Capital Item – Mr. Tindall asked for Council's definition of a capital item and a definition of its dollar value. A long discussion followed. Council President Stephanie J. Murray formed a Finance Committee consisting of Chair Michael Morrill, Kevin M. Conrad, George I. Tindall, and Sharon Morgan.

Highway Capital – Council discussed the purchase of a new truck and sweeper. The Borough was offered \$14,000 for the current sweeper. Mr. Tindall will call some municipalities to see if they might be interested in purchasing the sweeper. Council discussed the traffic light at Seventh and Reading Avenues.

Sewer Capital – Mr. Conrad stated \$150,000 is not enough to cover what needs to be done to the sewer system. Mr. Conrad informed all that the Borough has 29,000' of sewer lines. If all the lines could be relined, the cost would be \$1.75 million, with dig ups the cost is greater. Until the priority repairs are completed, a five-year plan cannot be done.

Road Repairs/Replacement/Reconstruction – Mr. Beane suggested that no street repairs be done until the underlying infrastructure is complete. However, he did suggest that alleys could be reconstructed, since there is no infrastructure involved.

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center – Mr. Tindall and Chief Fabriziani met with Richard Mable of the Hospital about the traffic light at the former entrance to the emergency room. Mr. Mable was not aware the light did not have transponders on it and that it was not LED. Mr. Mable stated that he would take care of it. Also discussed, was the amount of time the Police Department spends at the Hospital and we asked if the Hospital would contribute an extra \$75,000 for a police officer, after explaining the percentage of time that the officers spend there. Mr. Mable confirmed that the Hospital would pay the \$75,000 extra. This yearly contribution will be stated as part of the Hospital Agreement that the Borough has with them and will be in addition to the agreed upon yearly contribution.

Adjournment - On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalie A. Loeper, Recording Secretary
Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

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