

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 20, 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, Michael H. Doyle (arrived later), Michael P. Ferenchick, Amy Good-Ashman, and Michael W. Morrill; 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 Gerald A. Trate, Borough Foreman Jim A. Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Tina Huntsinger – 233 Chestnut St
Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin St
Karen & Jim Livingood – 211 Sycamore Rd
Ken Pick – Berks County Redevelopment Authority
Michael Miller – 604 Penn Avenue
Bill Vitale – Design Works Architects
Becca Keller – 395 Oak Terrace
Sheila Scott – 332 Chestnut St
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut St
Lynne Burns – 231 Olive St
Kevin Hefty – 401 Reading Ave
Msgr. Joseph DeSantis – Sacred Heart Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Msgr. DeSantis gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCIL MINUTES: Council reviewed the minutes of the October 26, 2006 Special Council Meeting/Budget Meeting and had three corrections which were duly noted. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council approved these minutes. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the Regular Council minutes of January 16, 2007 and the Special Council minutes of January 25, 2007.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Manager's Report. The following items were discussed:

United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services – Agreement to service Canada geese, mallards and feral waterfowl – On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P.

Ferenchick, and passed, Council approved the agreement with the US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services. The contract is from 3/15/07 through 1/31/08.

Design Team Mural Project – The West Reading Main Street Foundation Design Team has been developing a project to install a welcoming mural on the east side of the West Reading Diner. The mural will screen the cinderblock wall that faces onto the parking lot for the Aladdin Restaurant at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Penn Avenue. Nancey Seghetti (Resident Mosaic Artist) and Michael Miller (Resident Mural Artist) have been working on the design and the cost/schedule for the project. There is no involvement or cost to the Borough for this project. Michael Miller, art teacher at Wyomissing Area School District, explained the project and Council was in agreement with it.

Sale of Dog Kennel – Several years ago, the Borough purchased a dog cage/kennel for the K9. Mr. Tindall is not sure if it was ever used, but according to Chief Fabriziani, it is not needed. It consists of lightweight metal posts and cyclone fence, and it is just taking up space at the Maintenance yard. Officer Thomas A. Hawn offered \$50.00 for it. On motion duly made by Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council agreed to sell the dog kennel to Officer Thomas A. Hawn for \$50.00.

Traffic Signal at Seventh and Reading Avenues – The funds for this project is provided for under Capital. Great Valley Consultant Engineer Darryl Jenkins stated his company prepared a proposal of \$3,500 to prepare bid documents and for the work they will complete through receiving the bids. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved to move forward on this project.

Telephone System – This item is tabled until the March 20, 2007 meeting.

Resolution No. 2007-3 – Supports the Widening of Route 222 – Mr. Tindall received a request for Borough Council to pass a resolution seeking support of the widening of Route 222. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-3, by a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Morrill voting “no” to support the widening of Route 222.

Reading Hospital Conditional Use – The Reading Hospital & Medical Center obtained a Conditional Use Permit to install seven cooling towers. They are requesting another Conditional Use Hearing to install the remaining three towers. A stenographer is required at the meeting, which must be advertised. The Conditional Use Hearing is set for 3/27/07 at 6:00 p.m. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council authorized the advertisement of a public hearing to consider the conditional use application of the Reading Hospital. This item should be referred to Planning Commission at its March 7, 2007 meeting. Mr.

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Ferenchick suggested the Borough have its AD HOC meeting with the Hospital prior to the March 27 hearing date.

Zoning Officer and Building Inspectors – Appoint Borough Manager as Zoning Officer and Tracey Levering as Assistant Zoning Officer. Appoint Borough Manager and Great Valley Consultants as Building Inspectors for residential and commercial buildings. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the appointments as stated above.

Redevelopment of Cherry Street Parking Lot – Concept Plan – Mr. Tindall stressed that this plan is only a concept. It has been several years since the plan was first presented to Council. Some members of Council have changed since this project was approved in the redevelopment plan. This drawing is shown to reaffirm this project and continue to move forward or stop this project. If affirmed, Mr. Tindall will schedule a special meeting for all parties in the summer. Costs to the Borough for construction are zero. Maintenance costs would involve the mowing of islands, snow plowing, and parking lot lighting. Mr. Tindall stated, since accepting the position of Borough Manager, the number one complaint he has heard is that there is a lack of parking. Mr. Pick explained the concept plan and answered questions. Some of the Council members stated that all the property owners should be advised of the concept plan to find out their reaction to the plan. Council members recommended to have a public hearing (meeting) wherein all Cherry Street property owners are invited by invitation to the meeting and in addition will invite all Borough property owners via a notice in the newspaper.

Penn View Motel Site – Council discussed with Mr. Pick of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority the building of a three-story office building versus the building of a two-story motel. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council directed Mr. Tindall to send a letter to the developer strongly suggesting they construct a three-story office building.

Franklin Street and Second Avenue – (Elm Street District) Engineering Cost Estimates - Great Valley Consultants have provided an estimate for drawings and bidding documents to improve the stormwater problem on Franklin Street and replacement of curbs, sidewalks, cartway, and trees on Second Avenue between Franklin and Chestnut Streets. Berks County Redevelopment Authority would pay for the Engineering fees of approximately \$23,000 and the \$250,000.00 Elm Street Residential Reinvestment Grant would pay for the improvements. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved to move forward with this project.

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DCNR Grant – Paving West Reading Walking Trail – Mr. Tindall advised that there are plans by RiverPlace Development Corporation to pave the Wyomissing Creek Trail from the RACC bridge to Parkview Road. Mr. Tindall requested funds to pave the trail across Borough property (8'-10' wide) over to the Museum. This would require matching funds in the 2008 budget. No costs have been determined. Mr. Tindall explained that paperwork is to be submitted to DCNR in March, but acceptance is not noted until September or October. At that time, the Borough can decide whether or not it wants to place matching funds in the 2008 budget. The Hospital has verbally agreed to partner and assist with the cost. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, 5-1, with Mrs. Murray voting no, Council authorized Mr. Tindall to prepare grant.

Resolution No. 2007-4 – Authorizes the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community & Economic Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for years 3, 4, and 5 for Elm Street Manager. This resolution allows the Borough to file for funds from DCED for Fifty Thousand Dollars per year for three years totaling \$150,000.00 for the PA New Communities Program Elm Street Component for years, three, four, and five. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-4.

UGI – Mr. Tindall met with Mark Morrow, UGI Counsel, and their final offer is \$25,000. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, 4-2, Council approved to settle for \$25,000.00. Voting “no” were Messrs. Doyle and Morrill.

Penn Avenue – Mr. Tindall received word from PennDOT permitting West Reading to change the speed limit to 25 mph from the Penn Street Bridge to Third Avenue. There will be four signs in this area stating the speed limit going eastbound and westbound. Chief Fabriziani inquired if an engineering study was done and if so he will need a copy of the study from PennDOT. Mr. Tindall will check with PennDOT.

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

Belovich Group Town Homes - Release No. 9 - Project Manager for Great Valley Consultants, Michael H. Muffley, recommends the payment of Release No. 9 from the escrow account for \$10,559.73 to Belovich Group. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved for payment \$10,559.73 to Belovich Group for Release No. 9.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council accepted the Solicitor's Report. The following items were discussed:

Ordinance No. 949 – This ordinance establishes regulations permitting restaurants and taverns to operate sidewalk and outdoor cafes during the Centennial Weekend. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 949, which establishes regulations permitting restaurants and taverns to operate sidewalk and outdoor cafes during the Centennial Weekend.

Ordinance – Amending the Regulations Pertaining to Temporary Political Signs – Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved 4-2 to advertise this ordinance for adoption in March. Voting “no” were Messrs. Conrad and Ferenchick.

Cooperation Agreement – Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis distributed a Cooperation Agreement, which involves the Borough, the County, the School District, and the Redevelopment Authority with regard to the new office/hotel at the Penn View site. Mr. Georgeadis stated the agreement allows for paying off the bond issue. He also stated the County has not yet signed off on this agreement.

Westside Regional Emergency Management Agreement – Mr. Georgeadis introduced this topic. Two changes needed to be made to this agreement. Currently two representatives are required to attend each meeting. (1) The new agreement would state that only one is required to attend. Another person would be designated as alternate. (2) The expenditure portion would be raised to \$10,000, because anything over that amount needs to be bid. This change will allow purchases to conform to the legal standing guidelines. These changes must be made by ordinance. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the advertisement of this ordinance.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Traffic Committee Report. The following item was discussed:

Handicapped Parking Space – Mrs. Gibson of the 100 block of South Sixth Avenue has requested a handicapped parking space near her home. Traffic Committee approved this recommendation at its January 17, 2007 meeting. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council approved to advertise this

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request to place a handicapped parking space at the southwest corner of South Sixth Avenue and Franklin Street.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Shade Tree Commission Report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mr. Ferenchick distributed Personnel minutes of November 21, 2006 and January 25, 2007 and asked for an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Safety Committee Report.

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

\$10,000 DCED Grant – Approximately 6-8 months ago, Chief Fabrizio applied for a grant to purchase evidence-tracking software to allow the Department to track all evidence in and out of the evidence room as required by law and for criminal prosecution purposes. This software uses the bar coding method which will work in conjunction with the current Cody Systems police reporting software. The Chief explained how the system works. With the help of Representative Caltagirone's office, the grant was awarded to West Reading Police Department, and the check has been received. On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the purchase of the Cody Tracking System for \$9,046.48. This price includes installation and training.

Second Computer Terminal – Chief Fabrizio received a quote for a new desktop computer terminal for the second position in the Criminal Investigators Office, since there are now two Criminal Investigators working in the office. Weidenhammer Systems, the Borough's current hardware vendor, provided a quote using the state pricing guidelines for \$1,506 installed. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the expenditure of \$1,506 to purchase a desktop computer terminal.

Add-on Equipment for the Two New Police Vehicles – Chief Fabrizio reminded Council that an order has been placed for two new 2007 Dodge Charger police patrol vehicles. The Radio Siren state pricing for two new patrol cars is \$6,866.24. The cost of Emergency Lighting and related equipment for two new patrol cars is \$9,796.00 (this is an informal bid and not state pricing). The other informal bid is for \$10,796.70. The amount budgeted (\$32,000) for add-on

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equipment is short \$1,331.40. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved to spend \$33,331.40 to get the cars outfitted.

Berks Emergency Response Team – Chief Fabriziani informed Council that several municipal police departments in Berks County are in the process of starting up the Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT) to respond to major incidents when a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team is needed in the representative municipalities. This process will take approximately 12-18 months. Officer Matthew Beighley is currently a member of the Northeast Chester County Emergency Response Team (NCCERT) and will be integrated into the BCERT team as they start to train. There are 20 officers from 12 Berks County Police Departments that are being represented on the BCERT team. Further updates to come.

Parking Enforcement Officer Harry Reeser – Chief Fabriziani informed Council that Mr. Reeser has a hand injury and has been off from work about a week. He will return to work after receiving approval by his doctor. Covering some of his shift is part-time officer David Brown.

Officer Chad Marks – Chief Fabriziani congratulated Officer Marks and his wife on the birth of their second child.

MAYOR'S REPORT/CENTENNIAL: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Mayor's Report. The following items were discussed:

Snow Emergency - Mayor Shane J. Keller stated he declared a snow emergency on February 13 and stated that 25 tickets were issued and approximately 10 vehicles were towed. Additional vehicles were towed during the snow removal process.

Centennial Parade – Mayor Keller noted that everyone is working very hard to assemble the best parade possible on donated funds. Councilpersons Conrad and Kulesa had privately discussed the need of additional funds possibly donated by the Borough to support the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Conrad suggested line item #01-400-611-00 as a source for this donation. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferrenchick, and passed, Council agreed to donate \$5,000.00 towards the parade and other activities.

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

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Electric Service at the Swimming Pool - Foreman Jim Beane explained the need for replacing the existing service at the pool and moving all the panels to the guard's room. Having the panels upstairs will allow the circuit breakers to be accessible without having to go into the basement during times of flooding and emergency situations. Replacement of the service is necessary to avoid problems during the pool season. Mr. Beane presented three proposals for the contractor's cost. The lowest informal bid is to Dave Roche Electric \$9,748.00 for the electrical work and \$450.00 for a 400 amp three-phase meter base from MetEd/GPU. These items would come from line item #90-452-370. On motion duly made by Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferrenchick, and passed, Council approved the expense of \$9,748.00 and \$450.00.

Gasboy Upgrade - Mr. Beane asked permission to upgrade the current software for the gas pumps from a DOS system to a windows system at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. It is line item # 01-409-373. The new software will allow him to track fuel usage by departments or even vehicles. The cost of the actual software is \$1,389. The difference of \$1,100.00 will cover installation, support, and training, which is on a time and material basis. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, to upgrade the software for the gas pumps at a cost not to exceed \$2,500 from Hafer Petroleum Products LTD.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No Report.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer's Report.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted these reports.

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET - Period Ending January 31, 2007
On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO - Fully Paid Invoices 01//17/07 to 02/12/07 - On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved to pay the bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting at 8:40 p.m. to hold an executive session to discuss personnel. The meeting reconvened at 9:31 p.m.

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NEW POLICY: Mr. Ferenchick moved, and Amy Good-Ashman seconded the motion for the Borough to adopt a policy to pay year-round part-time seasonal employees time and a half when they work on weekends and holidays. An addendum to the motion includes non-uniform non-contract employees. Motion carried.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Mr. Ferenchick moved and Mr. Morrill seconded the motion to hire Gerald A. Trate as full-time Code Compliance Officer salary of \$45,000/year, and benefits already accrued as interim Codes Compliance Officer. Motion carried. Health benefits are not part of this package.

ASSISTANT CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Mr. Ferenchick moved and Mr. Morrill seconded the motion to hire Adam Bender, contingent upon his acceptance of our offer of Assistant Codes Compliance Officer at \$38,000/year plus benefits. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Mr. Ferenchick announced the Committee would meet on March 8, 2007 to interview other councilpersons regarding a personnel issue. This will create a quorum. No action will be taken. It is required that this meeting be announced ahead of time.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

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