

## **BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**APRIL 17, 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, Amy Good-Ashman, Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill; Mayor Shane J. Keller, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis, Police Chief Edward C. Fabrizioani, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, Code Compliance Officer Gerald A. Trate, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

**VISITORS:** Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin St  
Becca Keller – 395 Oak Terrace  
Ken Pick – Berks County Redevelopment Authority  
Gene Gilbert – 333 Sunset Rd  
Mary Roth – 305 Sycamore Rd  
Kimberly Jones – 332 South Third Ave  
Daniel K. Snyder – President of School Board - 1323 Dauphin Ave., Wyo.  
James T. Rogers – 414 Reading Ave  
Darren Youker – Reading Eagle Co.  
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Ave  
Sheila Scott – 322 Chestnut St  
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut St  
Sam Loth – Executive Director Main Street  
Regina Doyle – 513 Sunset Rd  
Pastor Caesar Caceres – Lighthouse Christian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:** Pastor Caesar Caceres gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Regina Doyle – 513 Sunset Road – Mrs. Doyle requested an update regarding the West Reading Elementary School. Mr. Morrill replied that the Mayor and he recently met with school officials and will continue meeting with them seeking a solution.

Mrs. Doyle asked what legalities must be followed in order to have a fundraiser for Kim Manning. This item is discussed under Recreation.

James Rogers – 414 Reading Avenue – Mr. Rogers attended the meeting for the Cherry Street parking lot, recognized the many negative comments from the public against a parking lot, and compared it to a Wal-Mart coming into the neighborhood. Mr. Rogers questioned the Borough's current debt and how this project could increase it. He was advised that County funds would be used.

Mary Roth – 305 Sycamore Road – Ms. Roth requested an explanation as to why she was not hired as a pool manager this season. Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting at 7:11 p.m. to discuss this personnel issue and reconvened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, Council approved the minutes of the Special Council/Budget Meeting of November 30, 2006 and the regular Council minutes of March 20, 2007.

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

Resolution No. 2007 - 5 - \$25,000 UGI Utilities, Inc. Settlement – Mr. Tindall presented Resolution No. 2007-5, which releases UGI Utilities, Inc. of all liability. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed 4-2, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-5. Voting "no" were Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Doyle.

Pool House Bathroom Partitions – Mr. Tindall presented two written quotes for the installation of new partitions in the restrooms and shower rooms. A third quote is scheduled to arrive Wednesday morning. Mr. Tindall asked for Council permission to award the bid to the lowest bidder once he receives the three written bids. It was noted that the two bids received are over \$10,000 and therefore the project should have been bid. Following discussion, the solicitor determined that this constitutes an emergency, since the partitions need to be installed by the time the pool opens. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council allowed the Borough Manager to award the bid to the lowest bidder, once it has been determined who it is. Account # 90-452-370.

Congratulations to Code Compliance Officer Gerald Trate – Congratulations to Gerry Trate for passing the Building Code Official test (BCO). This means he can review and sign residential construction plans.

Centennial Parade Thank You – Mr. Tindall thanked the Borough Staff that volunteered their time for the Centennial Parade. A special thank you to Jim Beane and Mike Jacko for recognizing this need and changing their plans to do what needed to be done. Mr. Morrill also thanked the Mayor and Chief Fabriziani.

Traffic Island at Fifth Avenue and Spruce Street – Mr. Tindall contacted Ken Fulmer of Great Valley Consultants, who states the island has to remain, due to Spruce Street changing from two-way to one-way.

4/17/07

ADA Ramps – Mr. Tindall stated that the 2007 funds for this CDBG grant are not available as of this date. As soon as funds are available, it will be advertised. A map, placing approximately 30 ramps in the western side of the Borough, is ready.

Computer for Manager – 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 PC for \$1,476.

Amity Township Bucket Truck Agreement – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council agreed to sign the agreement between Amity Township and the Borough for bucket truck use.

Cherry Street and Public Parking Lot – Council discussed Cherry Street parking and decided that the Main Street Sub-Committee (Mr. Loth and Traffic Committee) will meet with Mr. Pick and the Redevelopment Authority to do a parking analysis.

Conditional Use Hearing – The Conditional Use Hearing for The Reading Hospital and Medical Center cooling towers is continued to Thursday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Andrew Stapleton – Summer Seasonal Help – Mr. Tindall asked Council's permission to hire Andrew Stapleton for \$8.50/hour for summer seasonal help (last year \$7.50/hr.). On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed 5-1, with Mr. Doyle abstaining, Council approved the rehire of Andrew Stapleton at \$8.50/hr. Two other individuals interested in a summer position will be interviewed when Mr. Tindall returns from vacation.

Replace Roof, Soffit, and Gutters of the BiCi House – Mr. Tindall asked Council permission to have Great Valley Consultants prepare plan specs and bid documents for a cost not to exceed \$3,150. Account No. 30-450-000. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the preparation of specs and bid documents.

Rosalie Loeper – Mrs. Loeper requested to use four sick days instead of four vacation days during the recent illness in her family. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the use of four sick days in lieu of vacation days.

4/17/07

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

Seventh and Reading Avenues Traffic Signal – Two bids were received for the replacement of the traffic signal at Seventh and Reading Avenues. The low bidder was Telco, Inc. with a bid of \$64,889. On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the contract be awarded to Telco, Inc. for \$64,889.

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

Ordinance No. 951 – Amends Chapter 1 by adding a new Part 15 entitled "Police Jurisdiction and Mutual Aid": Resolution No. 2007-6 – Relates to Ordinance No. 951: Police Mutual Aid Agreement – Relates to the Ordinance and Resolution: Mr. Georgeadis explained Ordinance No. 951, which gives Borough Council the authority to enter into the Police Mutual Aid Agreement. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 951. No motion is required for signing the Police Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Georgeadis requested Chief Fabriziani to prepare a list of officers as the next step in the process. No action taken on Resolution No. 2007-6.

Ordinance No. 952 – Adds a new Part 10 Pertaining to Temporary Political Signs. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed 5-1, with Mr. Conrad voting "no", Council adopted Ordinance No. 952, which adds a new Part 10 pertaining to Temporary Political Signs.

Ordinance No. 953 – Establishes a handicapped parking space on South Sixth Avenue. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 953.

Executive Session – Mr. Georgeadis requested an executive session to discuss litigation concerning the Inner Circle.

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

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

4/17/07

West Reading Elementary School – The principal of the West Reading Elementary School requested the Borough to extend the temporary parking zone in front of the school. Temporary parking means 7-9 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. school days only. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council agreed to a 90-day trial basis to allow this extended temporary parking zone. Mr. Conrad gave the dimensions. The motion also requested the solicitor prepare and advertise an ordinance. An additional sign must be placed at 182' from South Fourth Avenue on Chestnut Street.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Infrastructure Committee Report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Ms. Good-Ashman distributed the minutes for the March 20, 2007 Personnel Committee meeting and noted that a Personnel Committee meeting was held April 17 at 5:00 p.m. prior to Council meeting. The following recommendation was made:

Tracey Levering – Ms. Good-Ashman motioned to hire Tracey Levering for the Assistance Code Compliance Officer position beginning at the start of the next pay period (April 23) at \$34,000 for the standard 90-day probation period. Motion seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle. Motion carried 4-2, with Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Conrad voting “no”. Ms. Good-Ashman stated the Personnel Committee received five applications, which were reviewed by the Borough Manager and the Committee discussed them. No further recommendations were made.

On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Personnel Committee Report.

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

Fund Raising - When asked about the legalities of fundraising activities for Kim Manning, the Solicitor replied that if the Borough is going to hold funds that are raised for Ms. Manning, that a separate bank account be established.

July 4, 2007 – On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved that the Recreation Commission participate in a joint effort with the Centennial Committee to hold a children's parade, mini carnival, and other community oriented events on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in conjunction with the Borough's fireworks and music celebration.

4/17/07

Criminal Background/Child Clearances – The Commission would like to encourage parents to become more actively involved in the summer playground activities. Solicitor Georgeadis explained that any volunteer or employee who is regularly engaged in working with children need to have a criminal record search. Additionally all parents/volunteers would have to sign a hold harmless agreement. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council adopted a new policy that all parents and volunteers working with children on a regular basis, including Recreation Commission members, obtain criminal background/child clearances, or if they already have one provide a copy to the Borough. The policy includes the signing of a hold harmless agreement and is part of the motion.

Bike Rodeo – Mrs. Kulesa motioned for the Borough to host a bike rodeo in the West Reading Park to promote fitness and bike safety as well as allow children to register their bikes with the West Reading Police Department. Member Michael W. Morrill seconded the motion, which passed.

PROPOSED RECREATION STAFF POSITIONS 2007

POSITION	NAME	FT/PT	RETURNING EMPLOYEE	SALARY
Concession	Hiwot Bekele	PT	no	7.15
Concession	Bruck Bekele	FT/PT	no	7.15
Lifeguard	Samuel Meister	PT	no	7.15
Asst. Pool Manager	George Vogel	FT	no	10
Lifeguard	Sean Nutting	PT	yes	7.4
Asst. Pool Manager	Kim Jones	FT	yes	10*
Lifeguard	Kyle Bredbenner	FT	yes	7.4
Lifeguard	Ivan Vivar	FT?PT	no	7.15
Lifeguard	Brian Thomas	FT?PT	no	7.15

\*adjusted salary rate from 9.00 to 10.00

On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed 5-1, with Mr. Doyle voting “no”, Council hired only the first six names on the list.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – Mr. Conrad moved and Mr. Doyle seconded the motion to accept the Safety Committee minutes. The same individuals, citing page 2 of the document, then retracted their motion and presented a new motion. Mr. Conrad moved and Mr. Morrill seconded the motion to approve the Safety Committee Minutes of April 4, minus the incident report. A corrected copy will be part of the Safety Committee Report.

4/17/07

FINANCE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager to start the process to change from 13 accounts to four accounts.

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:

Laser Printer – The 12-year old laser printer is broken; Chief Fabriziani received two quotations for a new laser printer: (1) HP laser jet printer installed with 3-year support \$1,066 and (2) HP Color laser jet printer with 3-year support \$1,744. Chief Fabriziani asked that Council consider the HP Color printer. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the purchase of an HP printer for \$1,744.

Berks County Emergency Response Team – Chief Fabriziani asked Council approval to enter into an agreement known as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all the police departments that make up the SWAT team of the Berks County Emergency Response Team. The language is similar to the NCCERT agreement. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved Council President Stephanie J. Murray and Mayor Shane J. Keller to sign this agreement, pending approval on the legal language.

BCERT – Chief Fabriziani invited Council to attend an informational meeting on the formation of the Berks County Emergency Response Team on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township of Spring Fire Company.

Chief Fabriziani briefly discussed:

- Officer Ronald Ladd
- Overtime
- Thanked everyone who helped with the parade

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

- Thanked everyone who helped with the parade
- Announced 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities to be determined
- Announced the Centennial Dance on Saturday, October 6, 2007
- Discussed meeting with the Wyomissing Area School Board
- Easter weekend, Mr. Keller and Mr. Conrad spent about 4 hours removing graffiti.

4/17/07

- Asked for volunteers on Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day) to come to the pavilion at 7 a.m. to clean up the remaining graffiti

West Reading Education Facility – School Board president Daniel Snyder stated the Board is committed to replacing or fixing the West Reading facility and are not opposed to staying in West Reading. Mr. Snyder dispelled the rumor that the Wyomissing Area School District is going to abandon West Reading as part of the district. Wyomissing Area School District is not going to abandon West Reading Borough!

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Beane was unable to attend tonight's meeting. On reviewing Mr. Beane's report, Council decided to table the acceptance of it until it is revised.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Main Street Executive Director's Report. The following items were discussed:

2007 Farmers' Market – Becca Keller, Market Manager of the Farmers Market, stated the market would resume on Sunday, June 3 with four new farmers. Mrs. Keller referred the audience to a free web site: [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org). This is a great site to visit.

Wall Mural – Main Street Executive Director discussed the wall mural that will welcome people coming into West Reading. The mural will be located at the corner of Fourth and Penn Avenues on the side of the West Reading Diner building. Since the mural will cost between \$12-15,000, sponsors will be sought for the project.

Leadership Forum – Mr. Loth discussed a Leadership forum to be held next Thursday evening in Easton at 6:00 p.m. based on the Elm Street and Main Street programs. They will discuss the significant changes that are going on at the state level with these programs.

ELM STREET REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Elm Street Report.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer's Report. Mrs. Murray officially appointed Gerald Trate to the Traffic Committee and the Infrastructure Committee. Solicitor Georgeadis requested that Mr. Trate stay for the executive session to discuss the Inner Circle.

4/17/07



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Amy Good-Ashman, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Fire Chief's Report. The following items were discussed:

Penn Street Bridge – Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder and Council discussed the situation under the Penn Street Bridge and possible resolutions. Chief Burkholder suggested that perhaps the Borough Manager and he could speak with PennDOT District Manager regarding this issue.

Federal Grant (FEMA) – Chief Burkholder requested Council to hire Bill Vanetten who could help write the grant request for FEMA funds to replace all air packs, which would cost \$190,000. Previously, Mr. Vanetten voluntarily helped write a successful \$25,000 grant for the Fire Department. Mr. Vanetten will write this grant for a cost of \$100/hour, with a maximum fee of \$1,000, no matter how many hours it may take to write the grant. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to hire Bill Vanetten to write the grant for the Fire Department for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

Fire Hydrant Flushing – Hydrant flushing will take place the week of April 30, between the hours of 8-10 p.m.

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 3/31/07 – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO – PAID FULLY PAID INVOICES 03//21/07 TO 04/10/07; CHECK REGISTER-1 BANK ONLY 4/13/07; INVOICE REGISTER 4/12/07 TO 4/16/07; AND PAID INVOICE REPORT 4/17/07 – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the bills to be paid.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Stephanie Murray recessed the meeting at 9:13 p.m. for an executive session and reconvened the meeting at 10:18 p.m. at which time a motion by Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper  
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall  
Borough Manager/Secretary

4/17/07

Sometime in 1940 the Borough of West Reading decided to have a contest to design a Borough seal. This contest was offered to West Reading school students. 8 designs were submitted and the one chosen by Borough Council was submitted by Miss Barbara Muhs of 422 Oak Terrace who now resides in New York. She received \$5 for first prize.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize of \$3 was awarded to Burton A Flemming

3<sup>rd</sup> prize of \$2 went to Richard Krick.

According to a news article in the Reading Eagle dated June 15, 1941, Council ordered 4 flags with the seal. One of them was placed in Council meeting room, 1 for School District use, 1 for West Reading Board of Trade and the fourth for the West Reading Police Cadets. Please note the contents of the seal.

1. KEYSTONE – Symbol of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. EAGEL – Symbol of the United States of America.
3. HEMLOCK BOUGHS, crossed – Pennsylvania state tree.
4. FLAG, right – American flag.
5. FLAG, left – Pennsylvania state flag.
6. DIVISIONS OF KEYSTONE –
  - (a) LAUREL – Pennsylvania state flower.
  - (b) OPEN BOOK – Symbolizes educational opportunities in West Reading.
  - (c) TENNIS RAQUET & BALL – Indicates recreational facilities.
  - (d) HOUSE – Indicating residential nature of the borough.
  - (e) WHEEL – Symbolizing industrial progress and opportunity.
  - (f) SCROLL – Latin motto meaning “As the citizen, so the community.”

We are not sure which seal this is, but Mr. Rea Gerhart will add more to the story.

**Everyone here thanks you for bring the seal “home”. In the interest of history, I felt it was important to have the seal professionally framed and mounted on acid free matting. With Council’s permission, I would like to hang it in the lobby on the stone wall between the sconces, along with the 2 centennial proclamations.**