

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 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, Michael H. Doyle, Amy Good-Ashman, Kevin J. Hefty (arrived 7:17 p.m., Nathalie R. Kulesa, 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 Enforcement Officer Gerald A. Trate, Borough Foreman Jim A. Beane, Recreation Coordinator Daphne E. Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Sheila Scott – 322 Chestnut St
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut St
Deacon Bill Kase – Sacred Heart Church
Attorney Merv Heller – 2755 Century Blvd.
Darryl Shoff – 2755 Century Blvd.
Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin St
Donald Haines – 156B West Fulton St
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Ave
John Thorson – 2300 N. 5th St Highway
Ken Pick – Berks County Redevelopment
Frank Struble – 226 Chestnut St
Phil Wert – 214 Olive St
Devang Parikh – 405 N. Park Rd
Darryl Jenkins - Great Valley Consultants

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 18, 2007.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Candlewood Suites – Mr. Tindall referred this matter to Borough Engineer Darryl Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins highlighted the following three outstanding items that remain to be completed:

- Preparation and execution of a developer's agreement for the project.

- Signing of the Final Plan by Borough Council and the Planning Commission, and subsequent recording of the Planning Commission.
- Payment of any outstanding fees/invoices owed to the Borough for the Plan review process. (Currently, there are no outstanding fees/invoices).

Solicitor Georgeadis explained that Council could approve the plan subject to the receipt of the necessary bonding from the developer. The plans would be physically delivered to Mr. Georgeadis, who would hold them until a representative on behalf of the developer delivers the letter of credit or a bond to him. At that time, he would turn the plan over to that person who would then be responsible to record them at the Court House. After the plan is recorded, the Borough would receive it. The following is the outstanding issue of the plan:

- There are a number of ongoing maintenance issues of the retaining walls. These are not listed on the plan. However, they are listed on a letter addressed to the Borough, dated September 17, 2007 from Great Valley Consultants. The letter outlines Schuylkill Valley Incorporated (SVEI) Geotechnical Evaluation (Reference No. 1444GI) recommendations.

Following discussion, on motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed 5-1, with Mrs. Kulesa voting “no”. Council approved the Final Plan, subject to the posting of the necessary security and the addition of a note on the final plan that the maintenance of the wall will be in accordance with the above-mentioned report/letter.

Parkview Road Bridge – Mr. Conrad emphatically stated that he does not want to take ownership of the Parkview Road Bridge. Accepting ownership of the bridge means long-term operation and maintenance of it. By accepting grant money, it implies ownership. It was decided that Mr. Conrad and Mr. Tindall would meet with Arrow Consulting regarding this matter.

Letters of Resignation from Amy B. Good-Ashman – Ms. Good-Ashman submitted four letters of resignation on September 24, 2007: Borough Council, Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Neighborhood Advisory Committee. She has since rescinded her letter for Council, but still wants to resign from the other three committees. On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council voted 3-2-1. Voting “yes” were Mr. Morrill, Mr. Doyle, and Mrs. Murray. Voting “no” were Mrs. Kulesa and Mr. Conrad. Abstaining was Mr. Hefty. Council decided not to advertise these vacancies at this time.

Resolution No. 2007-13 – A resolution to furnish/upgrade streetlights at the corner of South Second Avenue and Chestnut Street, 118 South Second Avenue, at the corner of South Second Avenue and Franklin Street, 150 Franklin Street, 133 South Second Avenue, and 104 South Second Avenue. On motion duly made Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-13.

Resolution No. 2007-13A – A resolution to furnish/upgrade a streetlight at 440 Court Street. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-13A.

Resolution No. 2007-14 – This resolution states that the Borough desires to accept the grant for Outdoor Exercise Equipment. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-14.

Resolution No. 2007-15 – This resolution states the Borough desires to participate in the Penn Avenue Tax Increment District (Project), allocates 100% of the borough's share of the Tax Increment to the Authority for the TIF District, and other conditions. Mr. Pick discussed the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Georgeadis stated the Borough is under no legal obligation to accept the resolution. This matter was referred to executive session, after which no action was taken.

Resolution No. 2007-16 – A resolution authorizing the unwind of an interest rate management agreement previously executed and to execute and deliver any necessary documents and authorizing the taking of other necessary action in connection with the foregoing. On motion duly made by Mr. Hefty, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-16.

Tree Removal on Sunset Road – Council discussed the removal of five Sycamore trees that are a potential hazard and located on Sunset Road. The trunks are greater than 50% rotten. Ms. Kulesa requested letters be sent to the residents in this area. The following quotations were received:

Mark's Tree Service - \$8,249
Picture Perfect Landscaping - \$6,800.

Mrs. Kulesa would like to see these trees replaced in 2008.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mrs. Kulesa, and passed, Council awarded the bid to Picture Perfect Landscaping for \$6,800.

Bob Zelano – 125 South Second Avenue – Mr. Zelano was a conscientious resident and replaced dangerous sidewalk for a cost of \$2,700. All sidewalks are being replaced at this time under the Elm Street grant. This matter tabled until Mr. Tindall, Mr. Trate, and Mr. Rohrbach meet to discuss it further.

Troy Grassley – Mr. Tindall read a letter from Carol Nielsen. Ms. Nielsen voiced her appreciation for Troy Grassley, who found her purse, gave the purse and contents to the police, who were able to prosecute the robber. A copy of the letter will be placed in his personnel file.

Discuss Ordinance No. 952 – This ordinance was enacted April 17, 2007 and might need to be tweaked based on the number of incidents this election season. Following a lengthy

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discussion, Darryl Jenkins, Great Valley Consultants, was asked to research other municipal ordinances regarding temporary political signs, with the possibility of incorporating it into our Zoning Ordinance.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Manager's Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins discussed the following items from his report:

- Sewer System – Sewer Lining Project, Sewer Repair Project, and Olive Street Pumping Station Project.
- Streets – Franklin Street, Second Avenue, Seventh and Reading Avenues Traffic Signal, 2007 Street Projects, and 2007 ADA Ramps.
- During the sewer lining project, some properties received water in their basements. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Conrad will speak with the resident who inquired about this after the meeting.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the Engineer's Report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Ordinance No. 961 – Handicap Parking Spaces on Sycamore Road Adjacent to the Pool –
On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 961.

Proposed Ordinance – Council reviewed a draft ordinance titled Local Services Tax Ordinance, which replaces the Emergency Municipal Services Tax Ordinance in its entirety. On motion duly made Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the advertisement of this proposed ordinance for adoption in November.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Solicitor's Report.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

Richard Hiller – 435 Sycamore Road – The Traffic Committee recommends a handicapped parking space be placed across from the pavilion. On motion duly made by

Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved this handicapped parking space, which will be advertised.

Shirley Millard – 730 Reading Avenue – The Traffic Committee recommends a handicapped parking space for Ms. Millard. The space is located at the west end of the south side of the street in the 700 block Reading Avenue. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved this handicapped parking space, which will be advertised.

2008 Project Suggestions:

- Replace all stop signs with high reflectivity signs
- Replace some of the other Borough signs, such as No Parking signs
- 25 MPH high reflectivity signs on Borough streets
- Traffic light at Eighth and Reading Avenues
- Flashing 15 MPH signs around Sacred Heart School on South Seventh Avenue
- Speed limit frame telling people how fast they are driving
- Reduce speed limit around the playground – Engineer/Pedestrian Study
- Right Turn Only at Third & Penn Avenues – Engineer Study, signage, etc.
- Right turn on Red on Penn Avenue
- Four-way stop signs at Pine Street and Third Avenue
- Make 000 block of South Second Avenue two-way; to allow right turns only from eastbound Penn Avenue onto South Second Avenue – Price to include the removal of the center isle on Penn Avenue.
- Right turn only from Museum Road onto Parkside Drive North-southbound

The last item was added to the Committee recommendations. The Committee should prepare dollar costs for budget purpose to implement these items.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Infrastructure Report.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Shade Tree Commission Report.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Planning Commission Report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani discussed the following items:

- His November Police Chief's Report will include the statistics for October
- He explained the chemical reaction incident at The Reading Hospital
- Oktoberfest on the Avenue went well. Discussed recommendations for next year with Rebecca Keller
- Fireworks – Need to discuss logistical items with the City prior to future events
- Resignation letter from Tammy Mengel effective October 4. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted Ms. Mengel's resignation, with regret.
- Chief Fabriziani recommended the hiring of Tara Lynn Neff at \$10.67 per hour, pending successful completion of a background investigation. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council hired Tara Lynn Neff, pending successful background investigation.
- PennDOT Funds for Smooth Operator-Chief Fabriziani stated \$8,000 is available for his department to use for traffic enforcement and can be used for overtime pay. The program involves four waves-three of which are done on specific weeks and the fourth is a four-month wave, which can be done at our discretion. The Chief asked for Council permission for the Mayor and him to sign the request form. On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved this request.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Police Chief's Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT/CENTENNIAL REPORT:

Mayor Keller stated that the Centennial Dance was a great success. Everyone he spoke with had a very good time. Mr. Rohrbach will report on the silent auction in his report. The Mayor thanked those who helped to make it a success.

Trick or Treat Night is October 31 from 5-9 p.m. If you want to participate, turn your porch lights on.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Mayor's Report.

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane requested approval to purchase a MSA Orion Multigas Detector from Moul Enterprises Fire & Safety Equipment, Inc. for \$2,054. Line Item # 08-400-740. On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Kulesa, and passed, Council moved to make this purchase.

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Mr. Beane requested approval to purchase a NorthStar Skid Sprayer for weed and grass control from Northern Tool and Equipment Company for \$3,990. Line Item # 01-430-740. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council moved to make this purchase.

Mr. Beane requested approval to purchase 100 water meters at \$98/each for a total cost of \$9,800. Line Item # 06-400-370. On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council moved to make this purchase.

Mr. Beane informed Council that Dean Murray has completed the Class A driver test and passed. Mr. Beane will take his test this week.

Mr. Beane informed Council that the Giant Vac Leaf Loader is due to ship out on October 18, 2007. The crew is maintaining the Borough streets with the sweeper.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Foreman's Report.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Fire Chief's Report.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Main Street Executive Director Sam Loth was not present, due to attending a Corridor Meeting.

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rohrbach stated NAC is busy producing some lengthy documents because of a Program Assessment conducted in July. These are the documents being prepared:

- Financial Policy and Procedures
- Volunteer Manual
- Façade Improvement Grant Program Policy and Procedures
- Tool Lending Library Policy and Procedures
- NAC Governance Manual
- Preparation of Quarterly Investment and Production Numbers Report

Mr. Rohrbach reported the auction raised \$463. The mural went for \$200. Minus the cost of framing, it netted \$122.

Approximately 275 properties are located in the Elm Street District. Mr. Rohrbach would like to receive at least 30 of them back.

On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted Mr. Rohrbach's Report.

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING AUGUST 31, 2007:

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted this report.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT – AUGUST 22 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2007:

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted this report.

Budget Workshop Scheduled on October 18, 2007 is cancelled. The next scheduled workshop is October 25, 2007.

Personnel Committee Vacancy – Mrs. Murray stated that since there is an opening on the Personnel Committee and no one volunteered for the position, she appointed herself, since she is ex-officio.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council President Stephanie J. Murray called an executive session at 8:37 p.m., which began after a five-minute break. The meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m. On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, and passed, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

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