

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**CORRECTED MINUTES FOR**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2006 – 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, Michael P. Ferenchick, Shane J. Keller, Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill; Mayor Kevin S. Barnhardt, 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 James A. Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

**VISITORS:** Frank Struble - 226 Chestnut St  
David & Lori Weidenhammer - 237 Chestnut St  
Sheila Scott - 322 Chestnut St  
Elizabeth Heckler - 460 Chestnut St  
Oswald Herbert - 314 Reading Ave  
Sonja & James Rogers - 414 Reading Ave  
Ruth Cardell - 728 Reading Ave  
Dale Heckman - ARRO  
Kelly Lonaberger - 133 Franklin St  
Audrey & Charles Schaeffer - 419 Franklin St  
Keith & Eileen Fox - 421 Franklin St  
Chris Reinert - 158 Penn Ave  
Mike Ewall - Action PA  
Jim Arms - Dallas Data Systems, Inc.  
Philip Wert - 214 Olive St  
Tony Tomczak - 323 Summit St  
Karen & Jim Livingood - 211 Sycamore Rd  
Jay Kupiszewski - 228 South Third Ave  
Stan Goerner - 114 Tulpehocken Ave  
Douglas W. Wesner - Southern Berks News

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:** Mayor Kevin S. Barnhardt gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Charles Schaeffer - 419 Franklin St - Mr. Schaeffer spoke about the property at 430 Franklin Street. He stated that on Friday, February 10, 2006 the Olivet Boys and Girls Club held a dance. From 70' away, he could hear foul language and loud music. The individuals were throwing trash on public property and being disrespectful of other people's property.

Mr. Schaeffer discussed the parking situation in the 400 block of Franklin Street and suggested that white lines be painted and illegally parked cars be given tickets. Mr. Schaeffer had reported ten illegally parked vehicles to the police department and stated no one came to write tickets.

Mayor Kevin S. Barnhardt addressed Mr. Schaeffer's first concern about the dance situation. The Mayor received a letter from Mr. Schaeffer's neighbor, Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and he visited the writer (Keith Fox). Mayor Barnhardt stated the Police Department received three police calls that evening.

The Mayor contacted County Commissioner Tom Gajewski who was one of the original founders of the Wyomissing Area Community Prevention Partnership (WACPP). Mr. Gajewski advised they have given the full responsibility of operating the Boys and Girls Club to Olivet. They still maintain and apply for grants and if there are any more ongoing problems, he would also talk to the WACPP Board about withholding funding. Officials of the Club will meet with the Mayor and the Chief on Thursday. Olivet officials were concerned about how the supervisors did or did not conduct themselves. The Mayor will request that the Club notify the Police Department if any future dances are held. At least one of the juveniles involved is a West Reading resident.

Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani addressed Mr. Schaeffer's second concern. The Chief stated that stall lines are not painted every year and he will have them painted this year.

Keith Fox - 421 Franklin St - Mr. Fox asked if the property is zoned for holding dance parties. President Stephanie J. Murray replied that the second floor of this building had been used for banquets, weddings, and other social gatherings and the building is considered a continued use. Other properties located in that block could not be used for these purposes. Mr. Fox stated that none of the neighbors were apprised that a club was going in 430 Franklin Street

Eileen Fox - 421 Franklin Street - Ms. Fox explained that she was annoyed and appalled about the disturbance at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club on Franklin Street on February 10. She could hear the music from the dance standing in the center of her home. When the dance ended and the children were let out, she heard offensive language and she could not see any supervision.

James Rogers, 414 Reading Ave - Mr. Rogers stated that years ago when there was an anticipated zoning change in any area of the community courtesy letters were sent to neighbors who live in the area. He did not receive a courtesy letter regarding 416 Reading Avenue and wondered why not. He found out about it when he saw the Inner Circle property posted. Mr. Tindall explained that a change in the zoning map affects the whole Borough, and it would not be prudent to send a letter to all the residents about a line change on the map. This was not a Zoning Hearing Board issue. It was explained to Mr. Rogers that when the

Zoning Hearing Board meets, neighbors within 200' of the designated property receive notice of the hearing and its purpose.

Mr. Rogers questioned the parking lot at Obold and Chestnut Streets. He reminded everyone that this lot, under a Zoning Hearing Board decision, was required for parking places for residents of 400 Franklin Street when it was converted to an apartment building several years ago. The Solicitor explained that about two years ago, the school district noticed that the tenants of 400 Franklin Street were not utilizing this parking lot and the teachers were parking on Borough streets. The Wyomissing Area School District has the right to seize property by eminent domain. This power overrides the Zoning Hearing Board's decision to require tenants parking on the lot. Therefore, the owners of the property were allowed to sell it to the school district.

Jay Kupiszewski - 228 South Third Avenue - Mr. Kupiszewski inquired about the alarm that recently sounded in the Borough. He wanted to know what residents should do. Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder advised that this occurrence was a mal-function on the part of the County. Should this alarm sound in the future, residents are to turn on a local radio station or local TV station channel.

Oswald Herbert - 314 Reading Avenue - Mr. Herbert discussed the Inner Circle property at 416 Reading Avenue. He wanted to know if they obtained a Zoning Use Permit. Council President Murray advised that the owner requested a Zoning Use Permit and on it stated the existing use would continue. The owner is in violation and the situation is proceeding through the court system. Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster explained that if the Borough changes the zoning of this area, then the owners would have to request a Zoning Hearing for a special exception. Mr. Herbert pointed out that parking is a major issue in this area most especially since the tenants of the building are not allowed to use the parking lot, which is for ManorCare.

COUNCIL MINUTES - On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council approved the minutes of the regular January 17, 2006 Council meeting and acknowledged the executive session meeting to discuss possible litigation that Council held on January 31, 2006.

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. Mr. Heckman reported that the Borough received the Water Operating Permit.

Payment Application No. 1 - Payment Application No. 1 for period ending January 31, 2006. ARRO recommends payment to Blanski, Inc. for \$27,303, which represents the gross amount due less a retainage of 5%. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member

Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council approved payment to Blanski, Inc. for \$27,303.

Payment Application No. 2 - Payment Application No. 2 for period ending February 10, 2006. ARRO recommends payment to American Sewer Service, Inc. for \$1,062.11, which represents the retainage currently being held on this project. This amount is eligible for a 50% reimbursement from the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council approved payment to American Sewer Service, Inc. for \$1,062.11.

#### BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT -

Software Proposal Package - For several years the Borough has been in need of a new computer system. Mr. Tindall researched three companies and presented a proposal from Jim Arms of Dallas Data Systems, Inc. This program has an excellent codes program and gets the Borough out of the DOS system as far as water and sewer is concerned. Mr. Tindall received some demo disks from two companies, which were also reviewed by Mr. Ganster. Costs were also compared. This system is recommended based on an RFP, which was prepared by Weidenhammer Systems Corporation in 2004. Council Member Michael W. Morrill expressed concern as to how much research was done prior to the presentation. He would like the Borough to check with PSAB and other Boroughs.

Mr. Arms noted there is an annual service agreement through Dallas Data Systems, Inc., which is based on a per module cost, for a total cost of \$5,500 and is renewable yearly. Renewals could be slightly higher. Mr. Arms will also provide assistance at his facility for Borough employees to enter historical account information into the system. The maintenance contract begins 30 days after training is complete; however, Mr. Arms is waiving any maintenance fees for 2006. Fees would begin January 2007. This fee includes any updates to the software. There is a three-year warranty on the hardware. Mr. Arms can produce a reference list of about 20 users located within a half-hour drive of the Borough. Some of the boroughs, cities, or townships where his system is used are Pottstown, Limerick, Antietam, Amity, and Birdsboro. Dallas Data only sells local government software through Caselle. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved 6-1, with Council Member Michael W. Morrill voting no, to spend \$58,000.00 for a computer system. A \$5,500 annual agreement contract would begin January 1, 2007, providing Dallas supplies all the necessary training.

Mike Ewall - Action PA - Council Member Michael W. Morrill introduced Mr. Ewall, who presented a draft copy of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, which

establishes air quality monitoring and emission standards and provides for civil penalties for air pollution. The proposed ordinance allows the Borough to enact stricter standards than what currently exist through Federal and Commonwealth governments. It states that an increase of air contaminants within the Borough would have an adverse effect on the ambient air quality. Equipment is required to monitor air quality and the costs would be borne by the company doing the polluting. Monthly reports would have to be provided to the Borough. Mercury is not visible to the naked eye. The Borough engineer and Solicitor will review this draft ordinance.

PennDOT Salt Contract - Mr. Tindall reported that in prior years the Borough has been estimating that it needs 250 tons of salt. PennDOT regulations require that you pay for 60% of the amount that you request whether you use them or not. Mr. Tindall would like to reduce the amount from 250 to 200 tons.

Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator - Mr. Tindall advised that the Borough needs to appoint a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council appointed Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani.

Appointment of David Rodriguez - Mr. Tindall reported that David Rodriguez was selected from a group of 24 people to be hired by the Borough in the maintenance department. Mr. Rodriguez has passed all tests required for hiring. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council hired David Rodriguez as a laborer in the Public Works Department.

Penn Avenue paving and painting by PennDOT - PennDOT officials notified Mr. Tindall that Penn Avenue will be paved between Eighth Avenue and the Railroad Bridge sometime between June and October 2006.

ICGR Dinner - Mr. Tindall advised that Borough Council Members are invited to an ICGR Dinner on February 28 at 6:00 P.M. at the Inn at Reading.

Electronics Recycling Program - Mr. Tindall advised that an electronics recycling program is scheduled May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Vanity Fair Parking Lot. This will be in conjunction with Wyomissing and Spring Township.

Resolution No. 2006-2 - This resolution authorizes Kevin M. Conrad to sign checks for Sovereign Bank and Resolution No. 2006-3 authorizes Kevin M. Conrad to sign checks for First National Bank in Fleetwood.

Engineer - After reviewing engineering proposals, on motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council appointed Great Valley Consultants as Borough Engineers.

Mr. Tindall expressed appreciation for help received from Dale Heckman, David Schlott, and Alex Morrison of ARRO for their dedication, especially since his arrival in September.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council accepted the Solicitor's Report.

Ordinance No. 930 - Amends Motor Vehicles and Traffic by adding a handicapped parking space on Franklin Street on the north side near South Fifth Avenue. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 930.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council accepted the Infrastructure Committee Report.

Sewers - Council Member Kevin M. Conrad advised that American Sewer Specialties provided 7 1/2 hours of DVDs, which the Infrastructure Committee will review. The Committee is working on a 5 to 7-year plan for sewer, water, and roads, which they hope to have ready in August prior to budget preparation. Some sewer issues must be taken care of immediately, which the Borough crew is able to take care of.

Lateral Camera - The Committee in 2007 would like to purchase a lateral and main camera, which costs around \$12,000. Mayor Barnhardt suggested that the Borough speak with Wyomissing Borough officials about a joint purchase. Mr. Loth of Main Street will see if a camera can be purchased through a grant.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council accepted the Traffic Committee Report.

BARTA Bus Stops - Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani discussed the discontinuance of two bus stops. One is on South Third Avenue between Penn Avenue and Cherry Street and the other on Pine Street between South Fourth Avenue and Ann Street. These bus stops are no longer required by BARTA and the Chief requested that Council rescind them. The Chief also requested the approval of two new bus stops. One is near the Doctors Office Building on Spruce Street approximately across from the one to be located at the first space west of Kent Way near a fire hydrant. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick and passed, Council approved the advertising of an ordinance to rescind two bus stops and to create two bus stops.

PLANNING COMMISSION: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council accepted the Planning Commission Report.

RECREATION COMMISSION: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick and passed, Council accepted the Recreation Commission Report.

Clarification of definition of Borough sponsor for the West Reading Swimming Pool as it pertains to membership - Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa noted that the definition of Borough sponsor needs to be changed to a Borough resident pool member. The Borough-sponsor resident pool member needs to be present at the time of registration with the non-resident applicant(s) for pool membership be upheld, unless waived by permission of Borough Manager. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council approved the clarification of Borough sponsor as outlined above.

Ballfield Rentals - Mrs. Kulesa stated that Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr had asked the Recreation Commission to recommend changing the ballfield rental fee of \$25.00 to \$10.00 for not-for-profit teams. Wyomissing Area teams: no charge; Not-for-profit: \$10.00 game/practice; For profit: \$25.00 game/practice. This request could be changed by resolution. The fields are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Council discussed this issue and decided to send the discussion back to the Recreation Commission.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council accepted the Personnel Committee Report. Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council accepted the Police Chief's Report.

Police Vehicle - Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani advised the new police vehicle is ready for pickup.

Executive Session - Chief Fabriziani requested an executive session to discuss a police personnel matter, which could require Council action.

MAYOR'S REPORT: 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.

Officer Marco DeCamillo - Mayor Kevin S. Barnhardt stated that Officer DeCamillo has been called to active military service to Iraq in May 2006. The

Department will be without his service for 14 months. Mayor Barnhardt asked that Council activate the Police Civil Service Commission to produce an active list of candidates. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council activated the Police Civil Service Commission.

Summit for Codes Enforcement and Crime - Mayor Barnhardt stated the city of Reading, the County of Berks, Muhlenberg Township, and Cumru Township are working together to discuss codes enforcement and crime. The Borough of West Reading is invited to attend a summit meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Grant Application - Mayor Barnhardt advised that the Police Department has applied for a grant to the State for in-car cameras, additional tasers, and evidence inventory system.

Garden Club - The next meeting is Thursday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting follows at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor discussed the parade and the committee agreed to use Tele-Publications, which is a West Reading firm for the program book to offset some of the cost of the parade. The Borough receives 30% of money generated.

FOREMAN'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council accepted the Foreman's Report.

David Rodriguez - Foreman Jim Beane noted that Mr. Rodriguez's orientation is going very well.

Gasoline Purchase - Mr. Beane asked for approval to approve the expenditure of money based upon gasoline that is needed at a certain time under the Borough Manager's discretion in order to purchase gasoline at the lowest cost per gallon. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved the purchase of gasoline as outlined above.

Snow Removal - Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa complemented the Borough crew in its snow emergency removal. Other Council Members agreed and also acknowledged the Police Department and their contribution.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council accepted the Main Street Executive Director's Report.



Main Street Program eUpdate - Main Street Executive Director Sam Loth presented the Main Street Program eUpdate and stated that if anyone is interested in receiving eUpdate, they should contact his office.

Business Association Winter Mixer - Mr. Loth announced that the Business Association Winter Mixer is Tuesday, March 7, between 6 and 8 p.m. at the Westside Weekly at 120 South Third Avenue.

Elm Street Demonstration Project Housing Program - At its Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting on February 15, 2006, the Committee approved the following resolutions and asked for Council approval of same. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council approved the following resolutions.

- a. Resolution No. 2006-1 - NIDA obtain funds from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the Gateway Signage Component of the program.
- b. Resolution No. 2006-2 - NIDA obtain support services from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program from the Internship Component of the program.
- c. Resolution No. 2006-3 - NIDA obtain funds from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the Education Assistance Component of the program.
- d. Resolution No. 2006-4 - NIDA obtain acquisition support from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program from the Maintenance Equipment Component of the program.
- e. Resolution No. 2006-5 - NIDA obtain funds from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the Sidewalk Accessories Component of the program.
- f. Resolution No. 2006-6 - NIDA obtain funds from the DCED Elm Street Demonstration Project (ESDP) Program in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the Tool Shed Component of the program.
- g. Resolution No. 2006-7 - NIDA obtain funds from the PA DCED in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 from the PA Residential Reinvestment Grant Program on behalf of the West Reading Elm Street Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Please note: These are Main Street Resolution Numbers, not Borough Resolution Numbers.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer's Report.

223 Chestnut Street Property - Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster stated the Zoning Hearing Board approved the building of three houses at this location,

which is the site of the former Neg Tech building. Plans are to be presented for land development approval to the Planning Commission at its March 1 meeting.

Borough-wide Exterior Inspections - Mr. Ganster has begun exterior inspections throughout the Borough.

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

Appointment of Fire Department Officials - On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council appointed the following individuals.

Fire Chief and Hazardous Materials Incident Commander - Mark D. Burkholder  
First Assistant Fire Chief - Richard Quattrock  
Second Assistant Fire Chief - Christian R. Murray  
Lieutenant and Fire Marshall - Jason S. Ganster  
Lieutenant - Dean E. Murray  
Lieutenant - James A. Beane

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council accepted the Treasurer's Statement of Operations.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council accepted the Accounts Payable Reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting for an executive session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss two personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 9:44 p.m.

BOROUGH MANAGER CONTRACT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council entered into a contract agreement with Borough Manager George I. Tindall.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper  
Recording Secretary  
Approved by George I. Tindall  
Borough Manager/Secretary

