

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 19, 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, Shane J. Keller, Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill; Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Dan Becker, Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster, Borough Foreman Jim Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Deacon Tony Roman - Lighthouse Christian Church
Darrin Youker – Reading Eagle
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Ave
Becca Keller – 395 Oak Terrace
Amy Good-Ashman – 210 Chestnut St
Karen Livingood – 211 Sycamore Rd
Chris Reinert – 158 Penn Ave
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut St
Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin St
Kevin Barnhardt – Sinking Spring
Sam Loth – West Reading Main Street
Donald Haines – 156B West Fulton St
Phil Wert – 214 Olive St
Gilbert Feeg – 710 Wayne Ave
Regina Doyle – 513 Sunset Rd

PRESENTATION – Former Mayor Kevin S. Barnhardt presented Mary K. Little, a Borough resident, with a civilian service award and other citations for helping Officer Thomas A. Hawn on July 25 when a van struck him at the Penn Avenue cloverleaf. Ms. Little used Officer Hawn's Nextel to call 9-1-1.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Deacon Tony Roman gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Phil Wert – 214 Olive St – Mr. Wert requested that the contractor be contacted to move some of the obstructions on the on ramp during the Penn Avenue paving project. Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani stated that he is in contact with PennDOT about this situation.

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle and passed, Council approved the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 15, 2006.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Shane J. Keller, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report. The following items were discussed:

Penn Street/Penn Avenue Corridor - Joint Municipal Authority - County Commission Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. was scheduled to speak regarding a resolution for the Joint Municipal Authority (JMA) that would promote and manage events and activity along the Corridor. This body would engage and coordinate the activities of Reading, West Reading, Wyomissing, and the County of Berks. Mr. Gajewski will be re-invited to attend a future Council meeting.

Gilbert Feeg - Western Berks Refuse Authority (WBRA) Representative - Report on Sale of Landfill – Mr. Feeg stated that the closing of this deal between the WBRA and Western Berks Landfill Acquisition, LLC did not occur in August 2006 as planned. At this point, an issue has not been resolved regarding the disposition of the (WBRA) cash funds after the closing. The buyer would like to use any cash that is not required for bonding to fund the development of expansion at the property. The Authority has been firm that all cash assets are to be put toward bonding and any other cash assets left are to be placed in an escrow account and not touched. Other conditions are still being negotiated. Mr. Feeg will contact the Borough Manager with any new information.

Western Berks Water Authority - Western Berks Water Authority would like to extend the expiration date of the current Service Agreement from November 15, 2013 to November 15, 2038. Solicitor Dan Becker will have Attorney Georgeadis review the proposed agreement, which should not be an issue.

2007 Minimum Municipal Obligation Budgets for Police Pension Fund and Non-uniform Pension Plan - Act 205 requires that the Chief Administrative Officer of the pension plans submit to Council the financial requirement of the pension plans for the 2007 plan year by September 30, 2006. The Borough's share for the 2007 Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for the Police Pension Fund is \$98,889 and for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan it is \$30,687.81. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved for Borough Manager George I. Tindall (Chief Administrative Officer) to sign both the 2007 Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for the Police Pension Fund for \$98,889 and the Non-Uniform Pension Plan for \$30,687.81.

Resumes/Letters of Intent for Mayor position in order received – Mr. Tindall reminded Council members to bring the Resumes/Letters of Intent on September 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. for interviews of the following Mayoral candidates.

- a. Kurt Bertges 10:00 a.m.
- b. Shane J. Keller 10:20 a.m.
- c. Michael Morrill 10:40 a.m.

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T-Alley Reconstruction – Mr. Tindall requested authorization for Great Valley Consultants (GVC) to draw plans, specifications, and bid documents for the reconstruction of the T-alley behind Third Avenue and Spruce Street for \$3,500. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council authorized to have Great Valley Consultants draw plans, specifications, and bid documents for \$3,500 for preparation of bid documents as outlined above.

Recreation Equipment – Mr. Tindall stated that Recreation Coordinator Daphne E. Klahr seeks authorization to purchase a Wave Eater Storage Reel and a Wave Eater Cover for \$1,299.99, which includes shipping. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council authorized to purchase the above listed items for \$1,299.99.

Center for Community Leadership Programs – Mr. Tindall discussed the following programs, which are available to Council members. If interested, please complete the form, which was included in your package and submit to the Borough Manager.

1. Zoning Basics Course
2. Local Officials Economic Development Series Dinners
3. Municipal Law Forum

Fire Hydrant Flushing - The Fire Department has scheduled fire hydrant flushing for the week of October 16 through October 20 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. An ad will be placed in the newspaper notifying residents and businesses.

Paving of Alley between Walnut Street and Reading Avenue – Mr. Tindall informed Council that the cost for the Borough to have the alley paved between the Stanton Funeral Home and Walnut Street is \$3,825. Stanton Funeral Home will pay for the paving between its business and Reading Avenue. Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa questioned how this site received approval for paving prior to other sites, which are worse. Council Member Michael W. Morrill questioned why this was not approved by Council before it was done rather than after it was done and noted that he wanted to have a clear understanding what the process is going to be in the future. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller, approved the paving of the alley between Stanton Funeral Home and Walnut Street for \$3,825.

Harleysville Insurance – Mr. Tindall stated that the Borough has received two checks from Harleysville Insurance Company totaling \$45,938 for flood related damage to the maintenance shop. The Borough should get another check for approximately \$11,000 for buildings 3 and 4. Additional money is also expected from FEMA.

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Brush Chipper – Mr. Tindall noted that the brush chipper, which was located in building 2, was damaged due to the flood and needs to be replaced. Mr. Tindall presented a state contract price of \$25,135. The insurance company gave the Borough \$10,000 towards the replacement of this chipper, which was not OSHA approved. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved the purchase of the Vermeer Brush Chipper for \$25,135.

Swimming Pool Vacuum – Mr. Tindall stated the insurance company is allowing \$3,500 for the damaged swimming pool vacuum, which costs \$5,000 to replace. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council approved the purchase of the swimming pool vacuum for \$5,000.

Tree Removal – Mr. Tindall reported that Picture Perfect Landscaping received the bid to remove the 16 odd trees around the Borough. They also received the bid for Sunset and Sycamore Roads. Picture Perfect Landscaping is tentatively scheduled to begin on Saturday, September 23 in the 500 block of Sycamore Road. Morgan Brothers received the bid for Oak Terrace, who will begin the work after October 15, but not later than November 1.

Refurbish Big Pool – Mr. Tindall is requesting prices for refurbishing the big pool.

Renovation to Restrooms in the Bathhouse – Mr. Tindall received proposals for bathroom partitions, which are in bad shape. One proposal is for a maintenance free partition for \$6,450 and the second is for one that is subject to rusting and scratching for \$3,300. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council authorized the Borough Manager to seek additional telephone bids for maintenance free bathroom partitions. Mr. Tindall stated that he was authorized at the previous Council meeting to take the low bid.

Interest Swap – Mr. Tindall received a phone call from Michael Vind from S&Lutions that the Borough should receive an interest check for around \$14,600 by October 2, which is slightly higher than the previously received check

ENGINEER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council approved the Engineer's Report. The following items were discussed:

Belovich Group Town Homes - Release No. 4 - Project Manager for Great Valley Consultants, Michael H. Muffley, recommends the payment of Release No. 4 from the escrow account for \$91,010.96 to Belovich Group. Council Member Michael W. Morrill stated that there is still concern about dust in the area. Mr. Jenkins of Great Valley Consultants replied that drilling operations ceased about

1 ½ weeks ago. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council approved a payment of \$91,010.96 to Belovich Group for Release No. 4.

Council Member Michael H. Doyle inquired about Mrs. Burns' claim for damage to her home. Mr. Jenkins will contact Mrs. Burns regarding the status of her claim.

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

Ordinance No. 939 - Grease Traps/Interceptors - This ordinance establishes a new section pertaining to the installation, maintenance and inspection of grease traps/interceptors by commercial food service facilities to prevent the introduction of fats, oil and grease into the sewer system, and providing penalties for same. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 939.

Ordinance No. 940 - Handicapped Parking Space - This ordinance establishes a handicapped parking space in the 400 block of Chestnut Street on the north side east 36' of South Fifth Avenue. Earl H. Drumheller, 462 Chestnut Street, had requested a handicapped parking space. Currently, there is a handicapped parking space on the south side of the 400 block of Chestnut Street. In order to accommodate Mr. Drumheller, the space had to be located across the street. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa and passed, Council approved Ordinance No. 940.

RECREATION COMMISSION: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill and passed, Council accepted the Recreation Commission Reports of August 16, 2006 & September 5, 2006. The following items were discussed:

2007 Swimming Pool Hours – Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa stated that due to a petition received from pool members and careful consideration by Recreation Committee members, she motioned that the following hours be established for the 2007 season: 12-8 p.m. from the opening of the pool until August 5; beginning August 6 from 12-7 p.m. (End time will be at the discretion of the pool manager). Council Member Kevin M. Conrad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2007 Calendar – Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa motioned to accept the 2007 Recreation Calendar of activities. One change is to have only two flea market days: one before the Spring Clean-up and one before Fall Clean-up. Both would be Borough-wide. Council Member Michael H. Doyle seconded the motion. Motion carried. The following is the 2007 Recreation Calendar:

Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 31, 2007
Fishing Rodeo	Saturday, April 28, 2007
Father-Daughter Dance	Friday, May 4, 2007
Moonlight Swim	Friday, June 29, 2007
4 th of July Fireworks	Wednesday, July 4, 2007
Moonlight Swim	Friday, July 13, 2007
Moonlight Swim	Friday, July 27, 2007
National Night Out	Tuesday, August 7, 2007
Campout/Movie Night	Friday, August 24, 2007
Tons of Trucks	Saturday, September 15, 2007
Halloween Hayride	Friday & Saturday, October 19 & 20, 2007
Mother-Son Dance	Friday, November 9, 2007
Rocketts/Shopping Trip NYC	Date to be determined
Christmas Tree Lighting	Friday, December 7, 2007

Holy Name High School and Wyomissing Area School District Bonfires: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller and passed, Council approved the holding of two bonfires. Holy Name High School bonfire is scheduled for October 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and Wyomissing Area High School bonfire is scheduled for October 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Fire and Police Departments were notified.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE: - On motion duly made by Council Member Shane J. Keller, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Traffic Committee Report. The following items were discussed:

Traffic Study – Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani stated that the stop sign traffic study recently completed recommends that Third Avenue & Franklin Street be changed to a 3-way stop and that Fourth Avenue & Franklin Street be changed to a 4-way stop. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the advertisement of these changes by ordinance.

Handicapped Parking Space - Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani recommended that the handicapped parking space in the 100 block of Olive Street be moved from the even side of the street to the odd side of the street. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the advertisement of these changes. Chief Fabriziani reminded Council members that the actual posting was done a few months ago on a 90-day temporary change rule.

R. M. Palmer Company – South Second Avenue – Mr. Ron Lewars of R. M. Palmer Company requested four two-hour parking spaces weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., not including holidays. Chief Fabriziani noted that very few of the apartment units are rented at Second and Penn Avenues. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J.

Keller and passed, Council approved the advertisement of four two-hour parking spaces weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., not including holidays in front of 77 South Second Avenue.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Infrastructure Committee Report. Mr. Conrad reported that the Committee is establishing a five-year plan beginning in 2008.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Shane J. Keller, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council accepted the Police Chief's Report. The following items were discussed:

Halloween Trick or Treat Night - Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani requested that Trick or Treat Night be set for Tuesday, October 31, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Curfew begins at 9:30 p.m.

COCA – Council on Chemical Abuse is now the agency that handles funded money for the enforcement of tobacco laws in Berks County. Mr. Hal Baker of COCA notified the Police Department that they have federal funds available to the Borough to cover the cost of officers when out enforcing the laws regarding sales of tobacco products to minors in the Borough. Chief Fabriziani asked Council to review a proposed contract between COCA and the Borough. Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis has approved the wording in the contract. On motion duly made by Council Member Shane J. Keller, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the signing of the contract.

Sharing of Police Services – Chief Fabriziani discussed the sharing of police services. On September 13, he met with the Chiefs of Police from Wyomissing and Sinking Spring Boroughs and Spring Township to discuss the sharing of services. Chief Fabriziani stated that there is a misconception among the public that the Departments do not communicate or work well with each other. He stated that this is an erroneous misconception. Chief Fabriziani noted that there is in place a 26-year old agreement between the Borough of Wyomissing and West Reading Borough. There are also agreements between Shillington Borough and Cumru Township and our Borough. The Chief requested Council approval for the Borough Solicitor to meet with the solicitors from Wyomissing Borough, Spring Township, and Sinking Spring Borough to draw up a mutual aid type agreement using the Emergency Management Agreement and the current agreement we have with Wyomissing Borough as an example. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the Borough solicitor meeting with the other municipal solicitors to work on an agreement.

Executive Session – Chief Fabriziani asked for an executive session to discuss personnel.

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MAYOR'S REPORT/GARDEN CLUB: Council President Stephanie J. Murray reported there is no new information at this time.

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

Truck #22 – Leaf Truck – Borough Foreman Jim Beane stated that truck #22 is back in the garage, due to a linkage problem that has rusted.

County Bucket Truck – The Borough secured the use of the County bucket truck the last week in September. The crew will concentrate on removing branches off resident's roofs, and branches on Kent Way and Spruce Street and possibly Playground Drive.

Leak in Firehouse Roof – Mr. Beane reported that condensation from the air conditioning system caused the leak and not the roof.

Purchase Requests – Mr. Beane requested Council permission to purchase the following items:

13 replacement windows for the bathhouse at the swimming pool from Rozzi Window and Manufacturing Inc for \$3900.00.

16 non-ground type Anodes for the big pool filter system for \$1104.00 and 4 lid gaskets for \$116.00 for a total of \$1220.00 from Miami Tank.

Replace clutch on the 1998 John Deere 1070 Tractor (Parts & Labor) is \$2700.00 by ABC Groff Inc.

On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the above listed purchases.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Main Street Executive Director's Report. The following item was discussed:

Taste of West Reading – Main Street Executive Director Sam Loth invited Council Members and the public to a Taste of West Reading, which is a fundraising sit-down dinner party. The event is on November 4 and the cost is \$35 per person. The funds raised will be used in 2007 for extended special events.

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CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller, and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer's Report. The following items were discussed:

Skunk Control - Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster stated the skunk issue on Sycamore Road has been taken care of.

Brewer's Bar & Grill – Mr. Ganster stated that the former Kaley's Korner has opened as Brewer's Bar & Grill.

Penn View Auction – Mr. Ganster noted that the public auction of items at the Penn View is today and tomorrow (September 19 and 20).

Zoning Hearing Board – Mr. Ganster stated that the Zoning Hearing Board agreed with the Code Compliance Officer's decision to deny the crematorium. They have 30 days from the written decision to appeal, which would then go to the Berks County Court.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller, and passed, Council accepted the Fire Chief's Report. The following items were discussed:

Hose Testing - Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder requested Council to pay the bill for hose testing, which amounts to \$1674.20. On motion duly made by Council Member Shane J. Keller, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the payment of \$1674.20 for hose testing.

Member Certification – Chief Burkholder stated that 50% of the members are certified to Firefighter 1 level, which is very difficult to achieve.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS – General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Capital Reserve, Highway Aid, Recreation Fund, and Refuse/Recycling Fund – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Treasurer's Statement of Operations.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Recreation Fund, Refuse/Recycling Fund - 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 - Council President Stephanie J. Murray recessed the meeting at 8:20 p.m. for an executive session to discuss police personnel and crew personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

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Crew Contract Negotiations – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the tentative agreement that has been negotiated with the Teamsters for continuing the contract negotiations.

Adjournment – On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Shane J. Keller, and passed, Council President Stephanie J. Murray adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

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