

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 21, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 with following persons present: Council President Stephanie Murray; Council Vice-President Kevin Conrad; Council Member Michael Doyle; Council Member Michael Ferenchick; Council Member Amy Good-Ashman; Council Member Nathalie Kulesa; Council Member Michael Morrill; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Recording Secretary Cathy Hoffman.

Visitors: Becca Keller – 395 Oak Terrace
Judy Schweitzer – 400 Oak Terrace
Ron Schweitzer – 400 Oak Terrace
Chip Bilger – West Berks Water Authority
Ken Pick – Berks County Redevelopment Authority
Bill Damore – 325 Kline Street
Ed Geubtnow – M&L Associated Inc. Janison
D. Youker – Reading Eagle
Don Haines – 156B West Fulton Street
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Avenue
Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin Street
Polly Rassow – 600 Penn Avenue
Phil Wert – 214 Olive Street
Karen Livingood – 211 Sycamore Rd.
Chris Reinert – 158 Penn Avenue

Council President Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Keller then gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Public Comments:

Polly Rassow of 600 Penn Avenue told Council about her traffic concerns. After a brief discussion regarding her specific concerns, Chief Fabriziani asked her to attend the Traffic Commission Meeting on Wednesday, December 20th to discuss these issues.

Bill Damore of 325 Kline Street presented the Borough with several historical books and pictures of the Borough and asked that these items be displayed at Borough Hall. Mayor Keller accepted the material and Council President Murray thanked Mr. Damore on behalf of the Borough.

Judy Schweitzer of 400 Oak Terrace asked if the trees were going to be trimmed on Oak Terrace and Mr. Tindall indicated that they would be trimmed very soon.

Council Minutes:

Mr. Morrill indicated that he had some concerns about the September 23rd meeting and after a brief discussion, a motion was made to accept those minutes.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the Council minutes of September 19th, September 23rd, and October 17, 2006.

Solicitor's Report:

Ordinance No. 942 – Sidewalk Cafés – Mr. Georgeadis briefly introduced the ordinance. **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 942.**

Ordinance No. 943 – Open Burning and Recreational Fires – Mr. Tindall explained that this ordinance must be adopted in order to receive grant funding for the purchase of a leaf vacuum. **On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 943.**

Western Berks Water Authority Execution Agreement – Mr. Georgeadis explained that the Water Authority is requesting the extension of the life of the Authority to 2038 to allow the Authority to more readily obtain long term financing. **On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved to enter into the agreement to extend the Authority to 2038.**

Penn Street/Penn Avenue Corridor – Joint Municipal Authority - Mr. Georgeadis stated that County Commissioner Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. was not in attendance, therefore no presentation would be forthcoming. Mr. Conrad noted that he had been in contact with Jerry Johnson and discussion indicated that they are not looking to set up a joint municipal authority, that the first step would be to establish an advisory committee by obtaining representatives from each municipality. It was decided that Mr. Keller, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Morrill would attend meetings on behalf of the Borough.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mrs. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the Solicitor's report.

Borough Manager's Report:

Teamsters 429 Contract approval - **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved acceptance of the proposed contract between Teamsters Local 429 and the Borough of West Reading. (Council President Stephanie Murray abstained.)**

Local Government Administration Series – Mr. Tindall stated that he will be attending this seminar along with Mr. Beane and possibly Mr. Murray and noted that if anyone is interested in attending to let him know and he would take care of the paperwork.

Resolution No. 2006-14 – Tax Increment Financing Act – Mr. Ken Pick (Berks County Redevelopment Authority) explained the TIF as it pertains to the former Penn View property. Mr. Pick introduced Tom Landrigan who provided further information regarding the TIF. **On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-14.**

Resolution No. 2006-15 – Eliminates Police Officers' Contributions to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2007 – Mr. Georgeadis stated that Mr. Anderson of the Police Pension Plan offered to prepare an actuarial study for 2008 at no cost to the Borough. **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the adoption of Resolution**

No. 2006-15 and to accept Mr. Anderson's offer to prepare an actuarial study for the year 2008.

Open Space Grant – Mr. Tindall stated that this amendment will transfer grant funds from the Borough to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority for the purchase of property along the river. It will also remove all Borough responsibility for this land. **On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved Amendment #1 of RGA-2536-06.**

Right-of-Way (ROW) Agreement for Port of Reading Heritage Trail Signage – Mr. Tindall explained that River Place is obtaining a grant to upgrade the existing sign for the trail system. The Borough must sign a release giving permission for the sign. The project will be completed at no cost to the Borough. **On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mrs. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the Right-of-Way Agreement for the placement of a Reading Heritage Trail Sign.**

Planning Commission – Letter of Resignation – **On motion duly made by Ms. Good-Ashman, seconded by Mr. Ferenchick, and passed, Council accepted the resignation of Lynda Kuhn, with regret, from the West Reading Planning Commission.**

On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mrs. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to advertise the open seat on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Tindall informed Council regarding these issues:

- Shillington Borough will be running a sanitary sewer line across Borough land at the park because adjacent streets are already full of utilities. He said that further information will be forthcoming regarding easements etc.
- A letter was recently received from the Western Berks Water Authority informing the Borough that water rates will be increasing ten percent.
- Paperwork has been completed regarding the Community Development Block Grant for the installation of more ADA ramps in the south eastern portion of the Borough. **On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager signing the paperwork to submit for the \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant for the ADA sidewalk ramps.**
- The auditor's report for the Borough Tax Collector, as prepared by Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, is available for perusal.

On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report.

Engineer's Report:

Darryl Jenkins referred to the Engineer's Report dated November 16, 2006 and stated he had two action items for Council.

Belovich Group Town Homes – Escrow Release No.6 - **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the release of \$56,463.49 to the Belovich Group.**

Roof Replacement at the Pool House – **On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved payment of \$28,455.00 to Rainbow Roofing.**

As a final note, Mr. Jenkins stated that the paving project at Beaver and Elk alleys has begun with completion being expected on November 23rd.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Ferenchick, and passed, Council approved the Engineer's Report.

Committee/Commission Reports:

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad told Council minutes had not yet been prepared for the last Traffic Committee meeting, however a motion is required to deal with the 2 parking spaces that need to be removed as part of the installation of stop signs at South 4th Avenue and Franklin Street. **On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the removal of 2 parking spaces at South 4th Ave and Franklin Street.** (The stop sign installation was previously approved by Council.)

Personnel Committee – Mr. Ferenchick noted that Committee minutes were distributed just prior to the meeting, that the Committee had just met prior to the Council meeting and that they would meet again prior to next week's Budget meeting to finalize their recommendations regarding raises.

Council decided that they would approve the Personnel Committee, Traffic Committee, Infrastructure Committee and Recreation Commission minutes at the November 30th Budget meeting.

Recreation Commission - Mrs. Kulesa told Council that she had several items that required their approval:

1. Increase the 2007 playground fees to \$50 per child and \$25 per each additional child in the same family. **On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman, and passed, Council approved the increase for the 2007 playground fees.**

2. Raise pool fees as follows:

<u>Borough Residents</u>		<u>Non-Borough Residents</u>
Ages 2-9	\$ 46	\$ 67
Ages 10 – 60	\$ 79	\$112
Ages 61 & up	Free	\$ 67
Day Passes	\$ 6	\$ 10

3. The Concession stand will continue to be run in-house for the 2007 season.

4. To purchase a 20 x 20 free-standing tent for the sole use of the Borough, cost not to exceed \$1000, and to be purchased in 2007.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the three preceding recommendations.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Fabriziani told Council that preliminary paperwork has been completed for 2 grants and funds are expected to be received in the next three to four weeks. \$8000 has been earmarked for computer software and equipment for electronic tracking of evidence. The remainder of funds will be used for in-car video systems.

Chief Fabriziani also reported that Officer Nguyen suffered some injuries during a training accident and would be out for 7 days.

Chief Fabriziani requested that Council decide how to proceed with the purchase of a base station that is allocated in the 2006 Capital Budget. He presented two scenarios, however it was requested that the Chief present the numbers in writing at the Budget meeting of November 30th.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the Police Chief's Report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Keller brought Council up-to-date regarding the planning and preparations for the Centennial celebration and noted that they have been very busy with meetings and phone calls for the festivities. He invited all Council Members to participate in the parade.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Ferenchick, and passed, Council approved the Mayor's Report.

Borough Foreman's Report:

Mr. Beane gave a brief report to Council regarding his recent trip to the hydrant factory in Minnesota and answered some questions regarding the ongoing leaf pick-up. He also brought forward a request regarding sick time.

On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved Mr. Beane's request to use 5 sick days during his wife's maternity leave.

Mr. Ferenchick referred to a water main break in the Borough Foreman's report and Mr. Beane explained each of the 3 breaks in this particular water line and the probable causes for each of them.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the Borough Foreman's Report.

Main Street Executive Director's Report:

Although Mr. Loth was not in attendance to present a report, Mr. Morrill asked Council for authorization to review the financial records of both Main Street and Elm Street. Mr. Conrad and Ms. Good-Ashman stated that they would also like to review the Main Street/Elm Street records as well.

On motion duly made by Mrs. Kulesa, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved Mr. Morrill, Mr. Conrad and Ms. Good-Ashman to take a look at the Main Street/Elm Street books and bring a recommendation back to Council for Budget time.

Code Compliance Officer's Report:

Although Mr. Ganster was not in attendance due to his vacation, Council reviewed his written report and briefly discussed the information presented.

On motion duly made by Mr. Ferenchick, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the Code Compliance Officer's Report.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Burkholder's written report was presented and the item on Aircraft Crash Rescue training was discussed with particular focus on the hospital and the Fire Department's training on the helipad.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the Fire Chief's Report.

Treasurer's Statement of Operations:

The documentation presented contained some hand written items that Mr. Tindall stated were necessary because the new software program has not been completely implemented. It was Council's decision to not approve the Statements of Operation until a more complete report can be presented.

Accounts Payable:

Council reviewed the documentation provided but had several questions regarding the information. It was therefore decided to delay approval until more information can be provided.

Adjournment:

Council then recessed to an executive session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss litigation. The meeting reconvened and adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary