

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

February 23, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 with the following persons present: Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Pro-Tem Christopher Lincoln; Council Members Patrick Kaag, Samantha Kaag, and Jennifer Bressler; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; Public Works Director Dean Murray (arrived at 7:31 p.m.); Recreation Director & Assistant Treasurer Helen Moyer; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council President Jack Gombach and Council Member Ryan Lineaweaver were unable to attend.

VISITORS: (In attendance via Zoom Meeting)

Karen Livingood, Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council Vice President Philip Wert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. via Zoom, which was followed by Roll Call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

3. **RECREATION SERVICES:**

Mrs. Moyer proposed the following revisions to the services offered for the 2021 season in order to maintain social distancing and follow guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

a. **Playground Program**

- The children's temperatures would be taken at the time of drop-off while the parent is still present.
- Hand sanitizer stations would be available.
- Limit the number of participants in the program to forty-five. This would reduce the number of leaders from twelve to five.
- Masks worn at all times by Playground Leaders except when eating or in the pool.
- Rain days cancelled or moved to the firehouse for a movie day.
- Cancellation of field trips.

b. **Pool Season**

- Visitor's temperatures taken at the gate.
- Hand sanitizer stations would be available.
- Masks required unless in the pool or at their towel/blanket.
- Limit the number of people in the pool area at one time. Comfortable spacing restrictions would allow seventy-five towel/blanket areas. Or offer time slots for visitation.
- Deep cleaning of the pool twice per day.
- Limit the number of Concession Stand workers.
- Cancel movie night swims due to limited spacing.
- Limit pool programs such as Zumba to a first come first serve basis and plan events during times when the pool is not open to the public.

c. **Easter Egg Hunt**

- Hand sanitizer stations would be available.

- Masks worn at all times.
- Preregistration would be required with age group time slots.
- Each child would be assigned to a certain colored egg. The egg hunt areas would be divided on both sides of the pavilion with one child on each side during the time slot given for each age group.
- An Easter Bunny Stage could be arranged to allow children to take pictures while sitting on a bench in front of the Easter Bunny.

Council members agreed that it would be easier to plan to move forward with these services since things are trending in the right direction with the pandemic and should conditions worsen events could be cancelled.

The Governor's proposed minimum wage increase would not impact seasonal employment rates.

Time slots for pool visitation would be difficult to monitor and it was considered that pool capacity postings could be provided on Facebook. Residents would be given priority to visiting the pool. It was noted that overcrowding is usually only a concern during the month of June. It was unknown as to whether the pandemic would provide more than the usual amount of visitation or limit the number of visitors to the pool.

It was decided to cancel the Independence Day events such as pool activities and fireworks to avoid large gatherings.

Mr. Wert offered additional meetings if necessary, to expedite the hiring process.

Motion to move forward with the Easter Egg Hunt and opening the Pool and Playground Programs with the restrictions noted per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mrs. Livingood thanked Borough Council for supporting Mrs. Moyer and the Recreation Commission. She hopes the weather cooperates this summer to get children away from their screens. Mrs. Livingood felt that it was a wise decision to cancel the fireworks event. Also, limiting the number of participants for the Playground Program was a good proposal.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. **Moved** by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary