

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 23, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 with the following persons present: Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Pro-Tem Christopher Lincoln; Council Members Patrick Kaag, Samantha Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver and Jennifer Bressler; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; Recreation Director & Assistant Treasurer Helen Moyer; Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Burkholder; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council President Jack Gombach was unable to attend.

**VISITORS:** (In attendance via Zoom Meeting)

Karen Livingood, Resident

Carl Garman, Resident

Zachary Shaver, Resident

Anthony Sirna, Campbell Supply Company

Michael Vind, Financial Solutions, LLC

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council Vice President Philip Wert called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. via Zoom, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Mr. Wert requested a moment of silence to honor longstanding Police Officer David Brown whom passed away this morning.

2. **BOND REFINANCE:**

Mr. Vind reported that Financial Solutions, LLC has worked with the Borough since 2005 and is continually monitoring the Borough's portfolio. The largest outstanding debt for the Borough is the 2016 General Obligation Bonds and 2005 General Obligation Note. These items are eligible for refinancing at a considerably lower interest rate based on current market conditions and the Borough's A+ credit rating. The Borough could realize a total estimated savings of \$340,000. Two options were provided with an upfront savings scenario and a level savings scenario. This refinancing proposal would not extend the length of financing terms.

Mr. Lineaweaver requested Mr. Vind's professional opinion as to the upfront versus level savings scenarios. Mr. Vind stated that the saving values are similar and that it would depend on the Borough's current circumstances as to whether the savings upfront would be a more desirable option. Mr. Imbesi shared the Borough Treasurer's preference to opt for the savings over a longer period of time to use the annual approximate savings of \$28,000 during future budget sessions. This annual savings through the year 2032 would reduce tax millage rate increases by a ¼ mil. Council was not ready to offer a decision as to upfront or level savings at this time. Therefore, Mr. Vind offered to prepare an ordinance for Council's consideration next month if Council is comfortable in moving forward with refinancing.

Motion to move forward with refinancing the current outstanding debt service. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Vind departed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Wert noted an executive session that was held at 6:00 p.m. this evening to discuss personnel matters.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

5. **REPLACEMENT RESCUE/ENGINE:**

Mr. Moyer referred to the information provided to Council last weekend to finance a replacement fire rescue/engine and offered to answer any questions. Approximately \$250,000 has been reserved within past budget practices in preparation of this purchase. There are various funding options available to reduce the purchase price such as upfront funding.

Mr. Sirna reviewed the various price saving payment options:

- A total of \$28,299 would be deducted from the purchase price if 100% of the contract amount is provided at the time of contract signing.
- A total of \$14,150 would be deducted from the purchase price if 50% of the contract amount is provided at the time of contract signing with the remaining 50% due at the time of delivery.

The lease financing option would be based on the purchase price minus the chosen price saving selection. To avoid a price increase of \$27,500 that is scheduled to go into effect on April 15, 2021, it was recommended to enter into a lease contract by April 14, 2021. Lease payments would commence subsequent to delivery and acceptance of the apparatus in the year 2022.

It was noted that the previous apparatus purchase had been financed through a ten-year lease agreement, which included a \$250,000 loan from the State Fire Commissioners office. Mr. Wert also noted a substantial contribution from the Reading Hospital to purchase the ladder truck and thought that we could approach the hospital again to potentially reduce the amount to be financed.

A decision as to leasing terms would be required within thirty-days of entering into a contract. It was decided to authorize the signing of a contract tonight and to determine lease terms during the regular April meeting once the Treasurer has provided recommendations to Council.

Motion to enter into a contract for the purchase of a rescue/engine from Campbell Supply Company. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **RECREATION SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT:**

Mrs. Moyer provided a list of recommended hires/rehires for the 2021 pool and playground programs. A number of lifeguard hires are pending certification and due to the limited number of responses Mrs. Moyer intends to readvertise this seasonal job opportunity. An additional list of hires should be available during the regular April Council meeting.

Motion to approve the hiring of:

- Pool Manager: Chase Yoder at \$11.25/hour
- Head Lifeguard: Megan Shaylor at \$9.75/hour
- Lifeguard: Emily Bucolo at \$8.75/hour, Giovanni Estronza at \$8.75/hour, Caitlyn Hass at \$8.75/hour, Grace Smith at \$8.75/hour, Isaiah Washington-Ganns at \$8.25/hour, Cynthia Sandoval at \$8.25/hour
- Front Desk Staff: Brianna Amtfield at \$8.50/hour, Skye Stocum at \$7.25/hour, Ally Rettew at \$7.25/hour

- Concession Stand Manager: Christine Boud at \$11.00/hour
- Concession Stand Assistant Manager: Alex Scheidt at \$9.75/hour
- Concession Stand Staff: Isaiah Washington-Ganns at \$7.25/hour, Emolie Bohn at \$7.25/hour
- Playground Manager: Nathalie Hertzog at \$10.50/hour
- Playground Leader: Hannah Burkholder at \$7.75/hour, Moriah Sauls at \$7.75/hour, Cynthia Sandoval at \$7.50/hour

**Moved** by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

7. **COURT REOPENING:**

Following a meeting with representatives that are planning to renovate the tennis court area into pickleball courts Mrs. Moyer recommended refraining from reopening the courts until the renovations have been completed.

Sample wording was provided to Council for signage to be placed within the court and playground areas that encourages social distancing and to warn users that the facilities are not sanitized on a regular basis.

For safety purposes Council agreed to delay the reopening of the court areas until mid-May when construction of the pickleball courts should be completed.

8. **RESOLUTION 2021-5 EXTENSION TO FILE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX RETURNS:**

Mr. Imbesi noted an extension that was provided last year to file these taxes without penalty that coincided with state and federal extensions. The deadline to file taxes this year has been extended to May 17, 2021 by state and federal governments. Mr. Wert noted the requirement to file a copy of federal tax returns along with the business privilege tax filing and recommended following the state and federal extensions.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-5 Extension to File Business Privilege Tax Returns to West Reading Borough. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 6-0.**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. **Moved** by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary