

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

April 27, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 27, 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; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas; Treasurer Jeanette Rentschler; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council President Jack Gombach was unable to attend.

VISITORS: (In attendance via Zoom Meeting)

Karen Livingood, Resident	Dori Bornstein, Resident
Zachary Shaver, Resident	James Rogers, Resident
Denise Drobnick, Resident	Suzanne Thompson, Resident
Michael Vind, Financial Solutions, LLC	Peter Edelman, Stevens & Lee

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council Vice President Philip Wert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers referred to the recent parking complaints at the corner of Second Avenue and Franklin Street and wanted to offer a resolution. While in the area today he noticed that parking is prohibited on the south side of Franklin Street from Yarnell Street to Second Avenue. This may have been established when Second Avenue was a two-way road to allow a sufficient turning radius for Palmer trucks. Also, Mr. Rogers recommended implementing a twenty-minute parking space on Franklin Street in front of the restaurant for takeout orders. Mr. Wert noted recent review of the existing ordinances by Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Lineaweaver where it appears that a twenty-minute parking space is designated in the ordinance and it may be as simple as erecting a sign. Mr. Lincoln indicated that the language regarding measurements within the ordinance for the twenty-minute parking space needs to be reviewed prior to installing signs. The Traffic and Infrastructure Committee will also review the area on Franklin Street between Yarnell Street to Second Avenue to determine if additional parking spaces could be created in this vicinity.

3. **ORDINANCE 1141 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFINANCING:**

Mr. Wert asked when a decision would be needed as to amortizing the savings or taking the savings upfront. Mr. Vind indicated that this decision would be needed prior to Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Wert recommended that Council consider these options to render a decision during the regular May Council meeting.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1141 General Obligation Bond Refinancing. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Vind and Mr. Edelman departed the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

4. **TURNKEY TAXES:**

Mr. Imbesi recapped the first cost proposal offered by Turnkey Taxes of \$1,500 per month for license and services and twenty percent on identified revenue. A counter proposal of \$1,000 per month for license and services and twenty-five percent on identified revenue has been offered. Mr. Imbesi recommended option one as the less expensive option.

Motion to enter into a contract with Turnkey Taxes at a rate of \$1,500 per month for license and services and twenty percent on identified tax revenue. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 6-0.**

5. **PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT:**

Mr. Imbesi requested approval of a small payment approval report that was forwarded to Council's attention today in order to approve payment of the fire truck.

Motion to approve Payment Approval Report 4/21/22 to 4/27/21. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **INVESTIGATION ATTORNEY:**

Mr. Imbesi requested permission to hire Attorney Mary Ellen Allen of Lamb McErlane PC to investigate the situation that happened at Second Avenue and Franklin Street.

Motion to hire Attorney Mary Ellen Allen of Lamb McErlane PC at a rate of \$250 per hour to perform an investigation. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 6-0.**

7. **BOROUGH MANAGER RESIGNATION:**

Mr. Imbesi announced an alternate employment opportunity that he intends to pursue and regretfully asks Borough Council to accept his letter of resignation effective May 21, 2021.

Ms. Kaag regretfully accepted the Borough Manager's letter of resignation. Mr. Lincoln seconded the motion thanking Mr. Imbesi for all of his hard work for the Borough stating that he has done a fantastic job and is sorry to see him go. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Wert stated that he has worked with a number of Borough Managers over the years and in his opinion, Mr. Imbesi has been the most professional and most highly qualified Borough Manager that he has ever had the pleasure of working with. Mr. Imbesi will be sorely missed and the Borough of West Reading is poorer for it.

8. **BOROUGH MANAGER SEARCH:**

Mr. Imbesi requested permission to hire Paul Janssen of the Center for Excellence in Local Government to search for a Borough Manager. Mr. Wert noted a consulting agreement that was received with a scope of work and cost for services totaling \$6,000.

Motion to enter into a consulting contract with the Center for Excellence in Local Government for a total of \$6,000 to search for a new Borough Manager. **Moved** by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers was surprised by the urgency to enter into an agreement with Turnkey Taxes. Mr. Wert felt that the Borough will be pleasantly surprised with the outcome. The contract can be negotiated in the future based on performance.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary