

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

March 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 with the following persons present: Council President Ryan Lineaweaver; Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Pro-Tem Christopher Lincoln; Council Members Jennifer Bressler, Patrick Kaag, Denise Drobnick, and Zachary Shaver (via telephone); Mayor Samantha Kaag; Solicitor Daniel Becker; Officer-in-Charge Ryan Phillips; Recreation Director Christine Boud (via Zoom); Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Code Department Manager Cathy Hoffman; Engineer Tom Unger; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Public Works Team Leader Kerry Grassley; Treasurer Jeanette Rentschler; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Parking Enforcement Officer Jason Witman (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

VISITORS:

James Rogers, Resident	Karen Livingood, Resident
Michael Witmyer, Resident	Suzanne Thompson, Resident
Maureen Hasty, Resident	Tina Shenk, Resident and Business Owner
Kacie Rodriguez, Resident	Rafael Torres, Resident
Mark Woodward, Business Owner	Wes Cipolla, Reporter

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
Mr. Lineaweaver noted an executive session that was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.
3. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**
The following executive session personnel matter action items were requested to be added to the agenda by Mr. Lineaweaver:
 - a. Motion to make a conditional offer of employment to two individuals for full-time Parking Enforcement Officer positions. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**
 - b. Motion to make Kerry Grassley's position permanent in the role of Public Works Director. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**
 - c. Motion to discuss the addition of a temporary part-time Public Works Member. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**
 - d. Motion to advertise the position of full-time Chief of Police through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Lester Rodriguez introduced himself as a certified Constable for West Reading Borough and stated that he has resided in the Borough for fifteen years. He is an independent contractor that wishes to serve the Borough as best as possible.

Mr. Woodward requested approval of his August 13, 2022 French Fry Festival from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and indicated that he would prefer to host this expanding event on Penn Avenue as opposed to South Sixth Avenue. Mr. Woodward was requested to submit a special event application for consideration. Mr. Murray noted that service expenses would be higher for an event hosted on Penn Avenue, to which Mr. Woodward asked for fees to be waived.

Mr. Rogers requested additional no parking signage within the 600 block of Court Street based on the recent prohibition to parking. Mr. Murray indicated that there are minimal opportunities to install signage within this block that would not be upon personal property or affixed to public utility poles, which is frowned upon by the Public Utility Commission.

Ms. Shenk asked if we could rally residents to pick up trash via a message in the newsletter or within the upcoming utility billing such as we're proud of our community, let's keep it clean. Mayor Kaag shared that the Environmental Advisory Council is implementing monthly weekend cleanups beginning this weekend. Various areas of the Borough will be addressed each month.

5. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

6. **ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Ordinance 1149 Tax Collector Certification Fee** – This amendment was advertised last month, and would increase the real estate tax certification fee from \$15 to \$25.

Motion to adopt an amendment to the Tax Collector Certification Fee increasing the per parcel fee to \$25. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Ordinance – Vehicles and Traffic** — Authorization was requested to advertise an amendment to various vehicles and traffic sections.

Motion to authorize the advertisement of an amendment to the stop intersections, parking prohibited certain hours, special purpose parking zones, and parking, stopping and standing prohibited at all times. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Ordinance – Cable Franchise Agreement** – Authorization was requested to advertise the execution of a cable franchise agreement. It was noted that this agreement would span ten-years and that the Borough is free to maintain multiple franchise agreements should the opportunity arise.

Motion to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement with Comcast. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- d. **Resolution 2022-4 Fire Police Approvals** – Approval of this Resolution would authorize the Borough Manager to hire Fire Police for Borough sanctioned events.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-4 authorizing the Borough Manager to hire Fire Police for approved Borough sponsored events and to complete workers' compensation insurance

documents related thereto. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- e. **Resolution 2022-5 Fee Schedule Amendment** – Approval of this amendment would include grease trap inspection fees, sidewalk café annual fees, real estate tax certification fee, playground and pool fees, and special event service fees. These fees are reviewed to ensure they cover expenses incurred by the Borough for these services. It was noted that a discount will be offered this year for early registration of a resident family pool membership, and the half and full-day resident playground programs which average \$5 and \$8.75 per day respectively. New this year at the pool is a twilight day pass after 4:00 p.m. for residents and non-residents, and a non-resident spectator fee has been added. Non-resident pool parties will be assessed an additional \$100 fee.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-5 Fee Schedule Amendment as noted above. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

7. **CONSULTANT'S REPORT:**

- a. **Solicitor's Report** – Mr. Becker stated that he had nothing new to report that is not otherwise covered on the agenda.
- b. **Engineer's Report** – Mr. Unger noted the closing out of 2021 projects such as the sewer project and televising of storm sewer and sanitary sewer lines. Preparations are being made for the 2022 road projects, water line, and ADA ramp improvements. Mr. Lincoln inquired as to storm sewer findings, Mr. Unger indicated that this has not yet been reviewed, however the sanitary sewer line televising revealed a number of items to address. Mr. Grassley indicated that two of the sewer findings have been repaired.

Motion to accept the Engineer's report. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Unger departed the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

8. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Lineaweaver stated that he has nothing new to report at this time.

9. **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Armed Forces Day Parade** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to waive fees associated with the approved May 21, 2022 Armed Forces Day Parade as requested by their committee.

Motion to approve the waiver of fees associated with the 2022-Armed Forces Day Parade. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Ed Kuhn Basketball League 50th Anniversary Celebration** – Mr. Murray requested authorization to waive fees associated with this event being held in the park.

Motion to waive fees associated with Ed Kuhn's Basketball League 50th Anniversary Celebration in the parkland. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Replacement Telephone System** – Mr. Murray requested authorization to enter into a three-year contract with GoTo Technologies for a new telephone system that would save roughly

\$11,000 per year. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that Comcast charges a monthly fee per phone that has more than compensated for the cost of the phone. GoTo Technologies is providing a number of phones at no cost with nominal fees for nine phones.

Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to enter a three-year contract with GoTo Technologies for a new telephone system. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- d. **Franklin Manor Condemnation** – Mr. Murray recapped a recent safety inspection with the Fire Marshal and Building Code Official noting that the owner of 400 Franklin Street has made significant strides to correct safety and code violations, and has satisfied most outstanding fees and applied for a business license for 2022. Both the Building Code Official and Fire Marshal would agree to lifting the condemnation if Council was comfortable in allowing the building to be partially opened for business. The Fire Marshal and his report of approximately thirty remaining violations were inaccessible at the time of this discussion.

Mr. Wert indicated that Franklin Manor has been disingenuous in dealing with Council in the past, and added that Council regretted having to force people out of their homes in the middle of winter during a pandemic. The Council, Mayor and Solicitor expressed concerns in the owner following through with completing the remaining repairs should the condemnation be lifted and the difficulty and lives that would be affected if condemnation would need to be pursued again in the future.

Motion to table discussions on lifting the condemnation from 400 Franklin Street. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- e. **Schuylkill River Greenways Letter of Support** – Mr. Murray requested permission to provide letters of support to Muhlenberg Township to apply for grant funding to build a section of the Schuylkill River Trail between Route 12 and Laurel Run Park.

Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to execute letters of support for Muhlenberg Township in their application for grant funding to build a section of the Schuylkill River Trail. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- f. **Chief of Police Search** – Mr. Lineaweaver shared a decision made by the Borough of Wyomissing to not pursue a merger of equals for the consolidation of Police services. Therefore, Council wishes to move forward in searching for a full-time Chief of Police and to allow the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association to advertise this position.

Motion to authorize the advertisement for a full-time Chief of Police through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- g. **Parking Enforcement Officer Search** - Mr. Lineaweaver requested action to be taken to hire two full-time Parking Enforcement Officers.

Motion to provide a conditional offer of employment to two individuals for full-time Parking Enforcement Officer positions. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

10. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Kaag read her report noting the following:

- **Fire Department** – Mayor Kaag noted her attendance to the annual banquet where Mark Burkholder was named firefighter of the year 2020; Jamauri Key was awarded firefighter of the year 2021 and for the most training time; Tim Goodhart and Mike Leisey were awarded as Fire Police of the year for 2020 and 2021 respectively.
- **IM ABLE** – Mayor Kaag noted her attendance to the 2022 IM ABLE Bash that supports persons with disabilities and recommended reviewing areas in the Borough where improved adaptability could be achieved. She also noted that IM ABLE seeks and distributes grant funds to people within any community better facilitate access to programs and equipment tailored to their needs.
- **Snow Emergency** – Mayor Kaag noted that the recent snow emergency was handled swiftly by the Public Works Department to allow roads to remain safe for travel.
- **Litter Cleanup Program** – Mayor Kaag reported a new monthly litter collection program is being established by the Environmental Advisory Council, the street sweeping program will begin on April 1st, the Earth Day event is schedule on April 24th, and with the assistance from various Borough departments litter should be removed from Borough streets and sidewalks in the near future. Mayor Kaag noted her efforts last week to remove litter from Third Avenue to the cloverleaf. She encouraged everyone to set an example by taking a walk with a trash bag to collect litter throughout the Borough.
- **Security System Improvement Grant Application** – Mayor Kaag reported that she successfully submitted the Local Share Account (LSA) grant application today that requests funding of security cameras on Penn Avenue and the pavilion area.

Motion to accept the Mayor's report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

11. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

a. **Police Department** – Officer-in-Charge Ryan Phillips noted two action items:

- Request approval of course reimbursement for continuing education of one officer.

Motion to approve college course reimbursement of continuing education for one officer.

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- Sergeant Phillips requested authorization to advertise the designation of two newly requested handicapped parking spaces. One space would be located on the south side of the 400 block of Chestnut Street mid-block, and the second would be located on the east side of the northernmost parking stall on North Third Avenue.

Mr. Wert questioned deviating from the policy of designating handicapped parking spaces at the ends of the block. Mr. Lincoln believes that the policy designated end of block spaces to be in close proximity to the handicapped ramps. However, in certain instances access to a handicapped ramp is not necessary. In this case there are two existing spaces within this block,

one on each side and the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee felt that it was justified to designate a space mid-block. Mr. Wert requested review of the rationale as to the multiple reasons that were discussed at length roughly thirteen-years ago that justified the end of block designations.

Motion to authorize an advertisement of handicapped parking space designations near 446 Chestnut Street and 301 Summit Street. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Police Department report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Grassley offered to answer any questions about his report and noted two action items:

- **Replacement Dump Truck** – Currently there are no available 2022 vehicles to purchase, and used vehicles are almost as expensive as new models. Waiting list orders can be placed in approximately one month for 2023 vehicles. Mr. Grassley noted that the amount budgeted to purchase a replacement vehicle is not sufficient to cover the inflated prices. Mr. Grassley requested permission to obtain a quote for a budgeted replacement dump truck.

Motion to authorize the Public Works Department to obtain a quote for a replacement budgeted dump truck. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Lincoln inquired as to the placement of traffic cones at the Fifth and Penn Avenues intersection. Mr. Grassley reported that a manhole lid shattered and until the correct size replacement lid could be located cones were set in place.

- **Temporary Road Crew Member** – Mr. Grassley requested permission to hire a temporary part-time road crew member that could assist until a permanent full-time person can be hired.

Motion to authorize the advertisement of a temporary part-time road crew member for eight weeks beginning on April 1, 2022. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Public Works Director Position** – Mr. Lineaweaver reported that Mr. Grassley has been acting in a trial role of Public Works Director and indicated that it has been decided to appoint him to this position permanently.

Motion to appoint Kerry Grassley to the position of Public Works Director. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on hiring a full-time road crew member. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Lineaweaver noted that when Mr. Murray moved to the Borough Manager position and Mr. Grassley assumed the role of Public Works Director a replacement road crew member had

not been hired. Mr. Grassley requested to seek someone with concrete work experience to assist in performing curb repairs.

Public Comment - Mr. Lineaweaver offered the public to comment on hiring a full-time road crew member prior to taking any action. Ms. Shenk thought it was a good idea to hire someone with concrete experience.

Motion to advertise for a full-time Public Works employee with experience performing concrete work. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Public Works Department report. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Fire Department** – Chief Moyer offered to answer any questions regarding his report and shared information about a Chicken BBQ event on April 10th. Tickets are \$11 each.

Mayor Kaag congratulated Chief Moyer on obtaining a grant from the Office of State Fire Commissioner.

Motion to accept the Fire Department report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- d. **Code Department** – Mrs. Hoffman offered to answer questions regarding her report. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the Code Department report. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- e. **West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation** – Mr. Ratcliffe offered to answer questions regarding his report. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- f. **Recreation Department** – Ms. Boud noted the following two action items:

- **Summer 2022 Seasonal Employment Rates** – Mr. Lineaweaver noted that our seasonal employment rates are significantly lower than other municipal pools and recommended review of these rates for better assurance of staffing to keep the pool open for residents this year. Mr. Grassley and Mr. Murray assisted in the proposed list of increased rates. Mr. Grassley explained how to balance the budget while bringing employment rates up close to neighboring municipalities. The number of staff, hours of service, and concession stand offerings and prices will be modified slightly. It was recommended to have the managers work forty-hours for consistent oversight. The proposed higher rates of pay would increase wages roughly \$4,200 for the season. To offset this budget deficit, the pool would need to close for inclement weather four days out of the season based on daily wage costs totaling \$1,040.

Motion to approve increases to the following 2022 Seasonal Recreation Staff rates of pay:

- **Pool Staff:** Manager from \$11.25 to \$15; Assistant Manager from \$10.25 to \$13.50; Head Lifeguard from \$9.75 to \$12.75; Returning Lifeguards from \$8.75 to \$11.75; New Lifeguards from \$8.25 to \$9.50.
- **Front Desk Staff:** New or returning staff from \$7.25 to \$9.00.
- **Concession Stand Staff:** Manager from \$12.00 to \$12.50; Assistant Manager from \$9.75 to \$10.50; New or returning staff from \$8.75 to \$9.00.
- **Playground Staff:** Manager from \$10.50 to \$12.50; Assistant Manager from \$9.50 to \$10.50; New or returning staff from \$7.50 to \$9.00.

Moved by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Boud requested consideration to approve the 2022 Spring and Fall Pickleball League dates of May and September. The list of tournament dates will need to be requested separately based on the intent to include the offering of beer trucks.

Motion to approve the 2022 Spring and Fall Pickleball dates of May 2 – 27 and September 5 – 30. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to approve the Recreation Director report. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

12. COMMITTEE / COMMISSION REPORTS:

- a. **Recreation Commission** – Ms. Drobnick noted that Commission members are moving ahead optimistically with live events and reported that seventy children have registered for the April 9th Easter Egg hunt. The next event will be a Family Fun Night held on May 13th at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. This event will replace the Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Dances. The theme is a 1950's Sock Hop, tickets will go on sale March 21st and the cost is \$10 per person.

Ms. Drobnick reminded everyone of the Reading Fightin Phils ticket fundraiser. Ticket books are available at Borough Hall at a cost of \$39, the Recreation Department earns \$14 for each book sold. A link to purchase tickets is available on the West Reading Recreation Facebook page.

Ms. Drobnick requested acceptance of Nikki Frymoyer's letter of resignation from the Recreation Commission.

Motion to accept a letter of resignation from Nikki Frymoyer from the Recreation Commission. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Drobnick requested consideration to appoint Rafael Torres to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Torres was in attendance and noted that he has two children and wants to contribute towards his community.

Motion to appoint Rafael Torres to the Recreation Commission. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Recreation Commission report. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Planning Commission** – Mr. Wert recapped a lengthy discussion surrounding the potential redevelopment of the West Reading Shopping Center. The developers are seeking Tax

Increment Financing (TIF) to fund a parking garage. All taxing bodies, such as the County, School District and Borough need to approve this request. Members of the Wyomissing Area School District were in attendance of the meeting to decipher the Borough's interest in approving this project. The proposed redevelopment would include retail on the first floor with roughly 192 one- or two-bedroom apartments and a four or five story parking garage. A reassessment of this property would yield additional real estate tax revenue, earned income taxes, and business privilege taxes. A portion of the parking garage would be allocated towards public parking spaces. The Planning Commission has recommended that Council appoint two members to an Ad Hoc TIF Committee to discuss the percentages that would need to be agreed upon by the taxing bodies.

Motion to appoint Mr. Wert and Mrs. Bressler to an Ad Hoc TIF Committee. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Planning Commission report. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Wert shared that the Nitro Bar has reopened after being closed through the pandemic. Takki Ramen at 36 N. Sixth Avenue has opened, is very busy, and they utilized the space well. Ezekiel 47 Café has opened at 10 S. Fifth Avenue offering Turkish coffee, loose leaf tea and panini sandwiches. Gem on Penn has moved to 635 Penn Avenue with a grand opening planned on March 19th. Trish's Specialty Cheesecakes is slated to open in early April.

Motion to accept the Economic Development Committee report. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- d. **Environmental Advisory Council** – Mr. Kaag referred to the minutes and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Kaag requested approval of a yard waste drop off program at the Borough Garage on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to Noon April through November.

Motion to approve a yard waste drop off program for the months of April through November from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month at the Borough Garage. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Kaag shared plans to host an Earth Day cleanup event on April 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of May 1st and encourage volunteers to help clean up the cloverleaf, Penn Avenue and neighborhoods. Also, the Barnhardt Bucket Brigade will be out this weekend encouraging residents to join in cleaning up their neighborhoods. The monthly events will be announced on the Environmental Advisory Council Facebook page.

Motion to accept the Environmental Advisory Council report. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- e. **Traffic and Infrastructure Committee** – Mr. Lincoln noted a visit from the Wyomissing Borough Manager to discuss a joint safety grant opportunity to gauge our interest in applying for a joint safety project. Mr. Lincoln felt confident that Council would be interested in pursuing grant funding, therefore, Mrs. Bare will provide more information when it becomes available. The second item discussed with Mrs. Bare was the Bike Share Program funded

through a PennDOT grant to install three stations, one of which was requested to be placed in the Borough for connectivity purposes. Based on committee discussions it was recommended to locate the station in the parkland near Sycamore and Museum Roads. The grant funds of \$10,000 per year per station for a two-year period will cover the cost to maintain the equipment. A pay as you go program would be established to determine if it would be warranted to continue the program beyond two years. There is no commitment to continue the program beyond two-years.

Motion to approve the installation of a Bike Share Station near the intersection of Sycamore and Museum Roads. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion to accept the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- f. **Shade Tree Commission** – The March Shade Tree Commission meeting was cancelled.
- g. **Safety Committee** – Mr. Murray referred to the minutes and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the Safety Committee report. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

13. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. **Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Financial Statements Ending 12/31/21** – Mrs. Rentschler indicated these are standard annual statements. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that it appears we are making progress on the Police Pension Plan.

Motion to accept the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Financial Statements Ending 12/31/21. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Financial Statement Ending 2/28/2022** – There were no questions or comments.

Motion to approve the financial statement ending 2/28/2022. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Payment Approval Report 2/16/22 to 3/10/22 & 3/11/22 to 3/15/22** – There were no questions or comments.

Motion to approve the Payment Approval Reports of 2/16/22 to 3/10/22 & 3/11/22 to 3/15/22. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

14. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Shenk requested clarification as to the reference to a letter from Wyomissing Borough earlier tonight. Mr. Lineaweaver recapped that a letter was forwarded to Wyomissing Borough to open a dialogue regarding a potential merger of Police Departments. It was thought that in the absence of a Chief of Police now would be the time to have this discussion. Wyomissing Borough's Police and Fire Committees met and recommended to their Borough Council not to enter into these discussions.

Ms. Shenk asked if the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation report could elaborate as to upcoming events during their segment of the meeting. Mr. Ratcliffe noted that in

the essence of time he did not verbally go over his report, which is primarily directed towards Borough Council.

Ms. Shenk shared several complaints she received regarding the Flowbird paid parking app being slow to accept payments and the need for lighting in the vicinity of the kiosk. Mr. Murray asked to be notified when there is an issue to report the issue to Flowbird, and he noted that it would be difficult to install additional lighting for the kiosk upon private property.

Ms. Shenk noted that a number of businesses on Penn Avenue are planning a cleanup event on April 22nd before the Craft Pretzel and Beer Fest and asked if that would be an issue with the Earth Day event planned on April 24th. Mayor Kaag indicated that the two large cleanup events are intentionally planned the day after a large event on Penn Avenue to clean up leftover debris.

Ms. Shenk requested that handicapped space designations remain at the ends of blocks to avoid the appearance of allocating spaces to specific people.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the decision to hire two Parking Enforcement Officers. Mr. Lineweaver reported that one of the existing full-time Parking Enforcement Officer's reduced his hours to part-time which has proved to not be an ideal situation. Therefore, it was decided to eliminate the part-time position and to hire two candidates that interviewed well. Ideally these positions should pay for themselves. The three full-time Parking Enforcement Officer schedules have not yet been determined but there will be more night and weekend coverages.

Mr. Rogers reported that he has a copy of the thirty outstanding violations in various units at Franklin Manor, which included GFI receptacles that are not functioning properly. Mr. Rogers spoke of a human waste grinder in the basement that transfers waste to the public sewer system that was not sealed properly and allowing sewer gases to emanate. Mr. Murray reported that this has been corrected. Mr. Rogers is pleased with Council's decision to refrain from lifting the condemnation at this time.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the number of properties transferring for \$1 recently and how that affects the 1% transfer tax that is owed to the Borough. Mr. Becker indicated that a statement of value is attached by way of the deed.

Ms. Thompson was pleased with the unity of Council's thoughts on refraining from lifting the condemnation from Franklin Manor Apartments. She lives in close proximity to this property and has witnessed the number of property managers that have come and gone and that the owners have earned their reputation.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary