

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 with the following persons present: Council President Ryan Lineaweaver; Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Jennifer Bressler, Patrick Kaag, Denise Drobnick, and Zachary Shaver (via Zoom); Mayor Samantha Kaag; Solicitor Daniel Becker; Officer-in-Charge Ryan Phillips; Recreation Director Christine Boud; Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Code Department Manager Cathy Hoffman (via Zoom); Engineer Tom Unger; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council Pro-Tem Christopher Lincoln was unable to attend.

**VISITORS:**

James Rogers, Resident	Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom)
Oswald Herbert, Resident	Charles Aden, Resident
Maureen Hasty, Resident	Donald & Marla Schweitzer, Property & Business Owner
Paige West, Resident	Joseph Brennan, Resident
Deb White, Resident	Wes Cipolla, Reporter
Mary Beth Schoellkopf, Resident	Joanne Camlin, Resident
Mark Koch, Visitor	Enrique Castro, Jr., Visitor
Damaris Ruiz, Visitor	Benny Ruiz, Visitor
Vito Granieri, Visitor	

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Lineaweaver noted executive sessions that were held on May 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and on May 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

3. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on hiring two full-time summer Public Works staff members. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

4. **ZONING AMENDMENT HEARING:**

A motion was made to recess the business meeting and open the public hearing for the zoning amendment. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Becker announced that we are here this evening to consider an amendment to the West Reading Zoning Ordinance that includes a General Business Overlay District map change, a supplement to the definitions, and revisions to promote mixed-use redevelopment. This amendment was previously discussed and voted upon at a prior meeting, subsequently we are amending that ordinance to include comments from the Berks County Planning Commission.

Mr. Becker provided an overview of the procedural exhibits associated with tonight's hearing:

1. A copy of the Public Hearing Notice that was advertised and posted at Borough Hall.
2. Proof of Publication illustrating the notice was advertised on April 19, 2022 and April 27, 2022.
3. An Affidavit of Posting Borough Hall on May 4, 2022.

4. An Affidavit of Posting the properties affected by the map change on May 4, 2022, as well as photographs of the notices posted on these properties.
5. An Affidavit of Mailing notices to adjoining property owners.
6. An Affidavit of Mailing notices to affected property owners.
7. A copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Map Changes.
8. A copy of the West Reading Planning Commission comments.
9. A copy of the Berks County Planning Commission comments.

There were no questions regarding the exhibits. Attorney Koch entered his appearance on behalf of his client Donald and Marla Schweitzer of 433 Penn Avenue whose family have been mainstays on Penn Avenue for fifty years. The property has been listed for sale and previously thought they had a deal, until the prospective buyer conversed the zoning situation with the Zoning Officer. Eventually the buyer determined that their vision that included gasoline pumps and a convenience store would not be an allowed use. Mr. Koch respectfully requested consideration be given to add the parcel known as 433 Penn Avenue into the proposed General Business Overlay District parcel additions. The current zoning regulations limit the practicality of uses for this property. The interest that has been shown for this property has been exclusively a convenience store with gasoline pumps.

Mr. Rogers indicated that he has lived near this property for a number of years and has not had any issues with the current use and he wants Mr. Schweitzer to be able to sell his property.

Mr. Becker shared the following options to move forward:

- Should Borough Council choose to add 433 Penn Avenue to the General Business Overlay District this would create a substantial change to the proposed amendment that would require the zoning hearing process to begin again with comments from the Berks County Planning Commission as well as the West Reading Planning Commission; or
- Borough Council could move forward with the proposed amendment this evening and consider adding 433 Penn Avenue to a future zoning ordinance amendment; or
- Borough Council could indicate that they do not wish to add 433 Penn Avenue to this overlay district at this time.

There were no questions or comments as to the options that were outlined by Mr. Becker.

Motion to adjourn the Zoning Hearing. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to reconvene the regular Borough Council meeting at 7:13 p.m. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Lineaweaver requested consideration to adopt an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would promote mixed use development, provide a definition of convenience store and designate allowed use districts, and add a General Business Overlay to the parcels located immediately adjacent to the traffic circle to promote redevelopment. Mr. Wert indicated that we should move forward with this amendment and that the Planning Commission could consider the proposed addition of 433 Penn Avenue to the General Business Overlay District in a future amendment. Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer and Mr. Koch were welcome to discuss zoning aspects of the 433 Penn Avenue property during a West Reading Planning Commission meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Motion to adopt amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that includes a General Business Overlay District map change, a supplement to the definitions, and revisions to promote mixed-use redevelopment. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Koch departed the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**5. PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Castro thanked Borough Council for the opportunity to speak and introduced himself as a volunteer President of Reading Pride Celebration, a husband, father and small business owner. Mr. Castro encouraged Borough Council to enact a non-discrimination ordinance to protect the residents of West Reading, noting his assistance to the City of Reading in 2009 to adopt a similar ordinance that has heard thousands of cases and assisted thousands of city residents. Sample ordinance documentation was provided as well as a list of West Reading businesses that have pledged against all forms of discrimination and are displaying the rainbow decal at their business. A letter from the City of Reading Mayor was also provided encouraging West Reading to become the second municipality in Berks County to offer these protections. Mr. Castro noted his review of West Reading ordinances and found no stance on discrimination. The state of Pennsylvania through the Human Relations Act of 1955 empowers municipalities to put such an ordinance in place, and to establish a Human Relations Committee to hear these complaints and enforce the ordinance. There is no cost associated with these actions, a volunteer board would be appointed by Borough Council and meet on a monthly or quarterly basis, based on demand, to hear complaints and report back to Borough Council their findings to allow Council to determine a course of action.

Mr. Castro indicated that the Borough of Phoenixville has a similar structure to West Reading and in 2017 enacted a discrimination ordinance. It was indicated that a growth in business and population was due in part to people feeling protected from discrimination. Phoenixville Hospital was recently named LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer, joining the likes of Allentown and Philadelphia. Should Tower Health earn that recognition in the future this could generate an increased patronage to local businesses, generating increased tax revenues for the Borough.

Mr. Castro presented a Progress Pride flag to Mayor Kaag and requested the Borough raise this flag on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to show support of the community and ordinance. Mayor Kaag expressed her strong belief in the cause and hopes that Council will consider enacting an ordinance and would gladly raise the flag at Borough Hall on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Lineaweaver thanked Mr. Castro for his presentation and noted the intent to discuss this further later in the meeting under the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce update.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers requested a confirmation that Council moved forward with the zoning amendment without including 433 Penn Avenue. Mr. Becker indicated that the requested inclusion of this parcel in the General Business Overlay District could not have been approved or adopted this evening based on the substantial change to the proposed amendment. Mr. Schweitzer is welcome to attend a Planning Commission meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Rogers shared the total of \$8,691.65 in in-kind expenses associated with the Craft Pretzel and Beer Fest. Mr. Ratcliffe noted that these in-kind donations help support the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation. Last year the organization brought \$260,000 in grant funding to improve the tennis courts to pickleball courts. Mr. Rogers estimated a total annual

expense of in-kind services for this year's events in the range of \$30,000 and indicated that he plans to obtain this information through right-to-know requests to share with the public. Mr. Ratcliffe offered to answer Mr. Rogers questions at any time to reduce the number of right-to-know requests that ultimately cost the Borough time and money.

7. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the April 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the April 26, 2022 second meeting and cable franchise hearing minutes. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

8. **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 recommended the approval of a Letter of Credit reduction for the Narrow Fabric Subdivision in the amount of \$49,047.23. The remaining amount would be \$24,294.64.

Motion to approve the Letter of Credit reduction in the amount of \$49,047.23 for the Narrow Fabric Subdivision. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Unger requested consideration to revise the sidewalk extension recommendation along Elm Street.

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on the sidewalk extension along Elm Street. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Unger recapped a decision made more than a year ago to require the developer to widen the three-foot-wide public sidewalk along Elm Street to four feet wide to meet regulations. The decision had been to add to the planting strip side of the sidewalk based on the length of the driveway potentially allowing longer vehicles to encroach the sidewalk area. Following a recent onsite visit, the recommendation is being modified to add to the side toward the house to reduce a tripping hazard at driveway aprons.

Motion to approve the one-foot sidewalk extension to the side toward the house for the public sidewalks along the 500 block of Elm Street. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Unger shared results of the bid tabulation for the 2022 road projects. The following are the four bids that were received:

- Ronnie C. Folk Paving, Inc. \$177,165.80
- H&K Group, Inc. \$174,440.90
- Construction Masters Services, LLC \$182,563.39
- New Enterprise Lime & Stone \$195,488.70

Motion to accept the bids for the 2022 road projects. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Unger recommended awarding a contract to the lowest bidder for the Linden Lane, Sunset Road, and portion of Sycamore Road paving projects to H&K Group, Inc. in the amount of \$174,440.90. Mr. Murray noted that this amount is under what had been budgeted.

Motion to award the 2022 road contract to H&K Group, Inc. totaling \$174,440.90. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Lineaweaver noted that he abstained from this vote based on a conflict of interest with his employer.

Motion to accept the Engineer's report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**9. COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. **Noise Nuisance** – Mr. Lineaweaver noted that five calls from Council members were placed last week to the City of Reading for noise disturbances along River Road and all five calls have gone unanswered. Mayor Kaag indicated that per last month's discussion she will be coordinating a meeting between the City of Reading and West Reading Police Departments to discuss possible solutions to these long-term noise nuisances. Mr. Kaag visited the area in question during one of the noise disturbances last week and was surprised at the number of people in attendance and the number of illegal activities that were taking place. Mr. Wert recommended that all residents continue to report disturbances to the City of Reading and West Reading Police Departments in an attempt to work together on a resolution. It was noted that our hands are tied based on the location of the disturbance being outside of West Reading's jurisdiction, yet Borough residents continue to be victimized. Further potential action was tabled until next month's meeting.

- b. **Chief of Police Position** – Mr. Lineaweaver was proud to announce that Borough Council will be making a conditional offer of advancement to Sergeant Wayne Holben to the Chief of Police position.

Motion to make a conditional offer of advancement to Sergeant Wayne Holben for the Chief of Police position. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mayor Kaag noted the difficulty in deciding which in-house candidate to choose for this position, and recognized the amazing job Sergeant Phillips has done as Officer-in-Charge.

Motion to accept the Council President's report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

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

- a. **Franklin Manor Condemnation Update** – Mr. Murray provided an update to the Franklin Manor condemnation noting that they have satisfied all outstanding fees including Business Privilege Taxes dating back to 2016 when they purchased the property. An inspection of the carbon monoxide detection system has been scheduled with a certified third-party agency and the Fire Marshal. Pending favorable results of the alarm certification, consideration may be given to lift the condemnation during the special June 9, 2022 Council meeting.
- b. **Delaney Circle Pedestrian Safety Update** – Mr. Murray provided an update as to the efforts made to improve pedestrian safety of Delaney Circle since the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee did not meet this month. Staff members met with an LTAP representative and the Borough Engineer to identify short-term pedestrian safety improvements that could be

implemented. The Traffic and Infrastructure Committee will review these findings prior to making a recommendation to Council.

- c. **Ed Kuhn Basketball 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Mr. Murray noted prior approval of this event and requested approval to allow a beer garden during this event.

Motion to approve a beer garden for the Ed Kuhn 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 10 through June 12, 2022. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- d. **French Fry Fest** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to approve the proposed Saturday, August 13, 2022 French Fry Fest event and the road closure request of either the 600 block of Penn Avenue, or South Sixth Avenue and the 600 block of Cherry Street to accommodate the request for additional event space. Mr. Wert conveyed that previous Council members believed the only Penn Avenue road closure application requests to PennDOT should be for non-profit events, such as the events held by the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation. The French Fry Fest request is for a private, for-profit endeavor and therefore, he was uncomfortable requesting the state to consider this road closure.

Motion to approve the French Fry Fest event on August 13, 2022 and the road closures of South Sixth Avenue and the 600 block of Cherry Street. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- e. **Sale of Bucket Truck** – Mr. Murray requested permission to list the 1997 bucket truck for sale as is, now that the new bucket truck has arrived.

Motion to approve the sale of the 1997 bucket truck as is through Public Surplus. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- f. **Fire Police Assistance Request** – Mr. Murray noted Bern Township's request for Fire Police assistance on June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to approve Fire Police assistance to Bern Township on June 3 through June 5, 2022 for the World War II Weekend event. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- g. **Shade Tree Commission Appointment** - Mr. Murray requested permission to appoint Carol Leiendecker to fill the Shade Tree Commission vacancy.

Motion to approve the appointment of Carol Leiendecker to the Shade Tree Commission. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- h. **Public Works Crew Leader Position** – Mr. Murray requested permission to appoint a Public Works Crew Member to the Crew Leader position on a six-month trial period.

Motion to promote a Public Works Member to Crew Leader position for a six-month trial period. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- 11. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Kaag referred to her report noting the following:

- **Fashionista 5K** – Mayor Kaag noted her attendance to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual 5K event with an expanded route through the Borough this year. A post event meeting will take place once Sergeant Marks returns to duty since he had a large hand in organizing the event.
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies** – Mayor Kaag was excited and honored to welcome two new businesses to the Borough this past month. Mayor Kaag wished Ezekiel 47 Café and Takkii Ramen much success.
- **Armed Forces Day Parade** – Sergeant Phillips has been working diligently preparing for the 74<sup>th</sup> annual parade that begins at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday. Mayor Kaag requested a show of support by attending the parade.
- **PSAB Conference** – Mayor Kaag shared plans of herself and other Council members to attend this conference early next week to continue their education and for Mr. Kaag to accept his Certified Borough Official certification.
- **Promise Walk** – Mayor Kaag encouraged attendance to a Promise Walk in the playground area on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Progress Pride Flag** – Mayor Kaag encouraged attendance to raising the Progress Pride flag at Borough Hall on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to accept the Mayor's report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Unger departed the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

## 12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. **Police Department** – Sergeant Phillips shared news of another delay in receiving the replacement vehicles, the anticipated date of arrival has now been moved to August. The two new Parking Enforcement Officers are currently in training and are doing well. They will be following their full-time schedules ahead of schedule beginning on Monday next week. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the Police Department report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- b. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Grassley offered to answer any questions about his report and thanked the volunteers that assisted in mulching the forty-seven trees that were donated and planted in the park area by the West Reading and Wyomissing Rotary Club.

Mr. Grassley requested permission to hire two part-time summer Public Works staff members at a rate of \$13.00 per hour from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Motion to approve the hiring of Austin Grassley and Alex Kauffman for the part-time summer Public Works Department positions at a rate of \$13.00 per hour from Memorial Day to Labor Day. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Grassley reported a delay in the supply of a replacement truck that had been budgeted for this year and made a recommendation to purchase a mini excavator in lieu of a truck. The excavator would minimize the number of crew members needed to perform concrete work and safely allow the work to be performed from the sidewalk area, out of the flow of traffic. The cost

to purchase a mini excavator through a state approved program is \$60,000. Funding options were discussed and would be decided upon at a later date.

Motion to proceed with the purchase of a mini excavator. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Grassley requested permission to proceed with the purchase of shoring equipment in the amount of \$8,650. The Treasurer found additional revenue in the amount of \$23,819 from the PILOT based on an elevated Consumer Price Index.

Motion to proceed with the purchase of shoring equipment in the amount of \$8,650. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Grassley is working with a local contractor to purchase used steel forms for concrete work. The lot of fifty forms would cost \$4,995.

Motion to purchase steel forms for concrete sidewalk and curbing repairs in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to accept the Public Works Department report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- c. **Fire Department** – Chief Moyer referred to his report and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions or comments.

Motion to accept the Fire Department report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- d. **Code Department** – Mrs. Hoffman offered to answer questions regarding her report. Mr. Kaag indicated that reading the Code Report proves interesting as it reads like a crime novel. Mr. Lineaweaver expressed concern that we have been paying the Code Enforcement Officer \$75 per hour who only learned the perimeters of the Borough on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to accept the Code Department report. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- e. **West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation** – Mr. Ratcliffe noted that in previous years the Borough had provided monetary support for a grant writer. The previous Council President recommended the Borough forego this contribution to fund replacement police vehicles. Mr. Ratcliffe shared that he has been doing the grant writing this year and reported that he is currently working on grant funding to improve the street lights to LED fixtures for electricity savings. The cost to replace light heads is roughly \$125,000, he has been able to secure \$60,000 thus far and is applying to the County for an additional \$60,000. This new system would provide emergency lighting and warnings or announcements as well as the ability to play music during the holidays.

Mr. Ratcliffe requested approval of a sidewalk sale on Sunday, August 7, 2022. It was noted that a rain date had not been requested.

Motion to approve a sidewalk sale event on Sunday, August 7, 2022. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to accept the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

13. **COMMITTEE / COMMISSION REPORTS:**

- a. **Recreation Commission** – Ms. Boud thanked everyone who volunteered their time to clean the pool facilities, and the Public Works Department for getting the pool ready to open next week. Ms. Boud reviewed the following action items:

- **Seasonal Summer 2022 Recreation Staff** – Ms. Boud recommended hiring the following:

- Lifeguard Alexandra Schell at \$9.50 per hour
- Lifeguard Kathryn Viveros at \$9.50 per hour
- Lifeguard Grace Smith at \$10.25 per hour
- Lifeguard Elizabeth Esterbrook at \$10.25 per hour
- Front Desk Clerk Najayliz Reyes at \$9.00 per hour
- Concession Stand Assistant Manager Inkia Kallay at \$10.50 per hour
- Playground Manager Juliana Morris at \$12.50 per hour (replaces the previously approved Natalie Hertzog hire who found another position elsewhere)
- Playground Leader Erin McCarthy at \$9.00 per hour
- Playground Leader Licenel Marrero at \$9.00 per hour
- Playground Leader Alyssa Siltzer at \$9.00 per hour

Motion to approve the list of 2022 Recreation Summer Seasonal staff as presented. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- **Elizabeth Heckler Memorial** – Ms. Boud shared the Commission's request to approve Mrs. Heckler's memorial bench and tree placement at the West Reading Pool.

Motion to approve the Elizabeth Heckler memorial bench and tree placement at West Reading Pool. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- **Community Yard Sale Events** – Ms. Boud requested approval of the community yard sale dates on June 18<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that these are the dates of the Art on the Avenue and Fall Fest events.

Motion to approve the Community Yard Sale dates of Saturday, June 18, 2022 and Saturday, September 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to Noon rain or shine. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Wert asked that this information be posted on the website and social media to get the word out about this community event to attract customers.

Ms. Drobnick thanked everyone that volunteered their time to clean the pool. A three-day job took one evening thanks to the number of volunteers.

Mr. Lineaweaver shared his appreciation of Ms. Drobnick and Ms. Boud's efforts to keep the West Reading Pool open this summer, noting that a number of local pools are closing their doors this season for various reasons.

Motion to approve the Recreation Commission report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Wert. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- b. **Planning Commission** – Mr. Wert noted that most of this meeting was devoted to two topics. The first of which being a review with the applicant of a conditional use request for 401 Buttonwood Street. A number of questions were asked of the applicant and it appears that the use would be quite similar to past practices. Council will have the opportunity to ask questions during the hearing scheduled on June 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a brief discussion surrounding the skate park request, noting that the underwriter has raised concerns that would need to be addressed. The draft rental occupancy ordinance amendment is under review again after being tabled for roughly two years.

Motion to accept the Planning Commission report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- c. **Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Wert reported that we are still in a situation where rents and housing values are increasing. A Refillable Goods store should be opening soon to offer an eco-friendlier option to refill your own container to purchase personal care and cleaning products. The County has appointed members to a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Committee with regards to the West Reading Shopping Center redevelopment.

Motion to accept the Economic Development Committee report. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- d. **Environmental Advisory Council** – Mr. Kaag welcomed Paige West as the newest member of the EAC. Relocation of the community garden to the vicinity near the firehouse was discussed. The next BBB Clean Up is scheduled on the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Earth Day clean up that was held on April 24<sup>th</sup> collected roughly 500 pounds of trash by thirty volunteers. A tent was erected at the Craft Pretzel and Beer Festival to share the types of volunteer options that are available in West Reading and an explanation as to how to get more involved in the community. On April 30<sup>th</sup> members of the West Reading and Wyomissing Rotary Club and additional volunteers planted trees along the south bank of the creek to help prevent erosion. A \$10,000 Healing the Planet grant was applied for to remove trees that have fallen into the creek and add large rock to minimize further erosion along the creek bank. MS4 stormwater topics were discussed to educate the public via social media.

Mr. Grassley recapped a recent interaction he had with the trash hauler regarding the removal of recyclable materials on trash collection days.

Motion to accept the Environmental Advisory Council report. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- e. **Traffic and Infrastructure Committee** – The May Traffic and Infrastructure Committee meeting had been cancelled.
- f. **Shade Tree Commission** – The May Shade Tree Commission meeting had been cancelled.
- g. **Safety Committee** – The April Safety Committee meeting had been cancelled.
- h. **Equity Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce** – Mrs. Bressler thanked Ms. Drobnick and Mr. Castro for meeting for the first time on May 10, 2022 for a productive discussion on the taskforce purpose and noted that this will be fine-tuned during the next few months. The desire moving forward is for the Borough to cultivate inclusive practices to create a safe, positive, and welcoming

environment to bring visitors into the Borough to support our businesses and residents and to strengthen our democracy.

Mr. Lineaweaver shared his efforts to research other municipal non-discrimination ordinances and the desire to create similar regulations within the Borough.

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on raising the Progress Pride flag. **Moved** by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Lineaweaver requested consideration to raise the Progress Pride flag at Borough Hall on June 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to approve raising the Progress Pride flag on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Borough Hall. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to accept the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce report. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**14. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Financial Statement Ending 4/30/2022** – There were no questions or comments.
- c. **Payment Approval Report 4/20/22 to 5/12/22 & 5/13/22 to 5/18/22** – There were no questions or comments.

Motion to approve the financial statement ending 4/30/2022, and Payment Approval Reports of 4/20/22 to 5/12/22 & 5/13/22 to 5/18/22. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Through right-to-know requests Mr. Rogers discovered that during an April 18, 2022 code department inspection various units throughout Franklin Manor were found to have deficiencies such as operable garbage disposals, functioning GFCI receptacles, properly vented clothes dryers, availability of hot water, fire extinguishers, operable bathroom exhaust fans, and ninety windows without screens in addition to the garage exhaust system. He hopes that Borough Council will require the full list of violations be addressed prior to lifting the condemnation.

- 16. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary