BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 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; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Solicitor Joan London; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas (via Zoom); Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

VISITORS:

Karen Livingood, Resident   James Rogers, Resident

Blake Tobias, Resident (via Zoom)   Ty Gardner, Resident (via Zoom)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 today at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters relating to the Chief of Police position and the hiring of a Parking Enforcement Officer.

3. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**
   There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   Mr. Rogers recommended Borough Council to consider delaying a revision to bulk trash collection until the end of the year when the contract expires to allow a full year of data to better understand these expenses. Mr. Lincoln noted the need to rebid the trash and recycling contract later this year, and as with everything else the cost will more than likely be higher. We are currently awaiting feedback from the trash hauler, currently there is no new proposed action.

5. **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:**
   a. **Parking Enforcement Officer Position** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to provide an offer of employment to a candidate for the Parking Enforcement Officer position. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that interviews were conducted last week, and a candidate was selected. This authorization to hire would provide two full-time Parking Enforcement Officers.

      Motion to provide an offer of conditional full-time employment to an individual to fill the Parking Enforcement Officer position. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

   b. **Chief of Police Resignation** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to accept the Chief of Police resignation and reappointment to Sergeant. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that Mr. Holben would continue with the West Reading Police Department in the capacity of Sergeant and that we are very fortunate to have him to continue to be a part of the police department. Mayor Kaag stated that he was good in the role of Chief of Police and is very appreciative that he will stay a part of the community.

Motion to accept the Chief of Police resignation and reappointment as Sergeant. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Shaver. **Motion carried 7-0.**

c. **Chief of Police Position** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to enter into a contract with the Chiefs of Police Association to search for a Chief of Police candidate. The $5,500 contract would provide for the advertising, collection of resumes, perform an initial phone interview with ranking list, one day to perform interviews of up to six candidates.

Mayor Kaag reported that the Township of Spring recently advertised to fill a police officer position and did not receive any interested applicants.

It was confirmed for Ms. London that the Pennsylvania Chiefs Association contract is the same as what had been previously reviewed by the solicitor's office.

Motion to enter into a contract with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association to search for a Chief of Police candidate. **Moved** by Mr. Shaver and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary