

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 26, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 with the following persons present: Council President Ryan Lineaweaver; Council Pro-Tem Patrick Kaag; Council Members Zachary Shaver, Denise Drobnick, Bethany Bower, and Zanna Leiendecker; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council Vice President Philip Wert was unable to attend.

**VISITORS:** James Rogers, Resident Karen Livingood, Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A moment of silence was requested as we passed the one-year anniversary of the R.M. Palmer tragedy.
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Lineaweaver noted an executive session that was held at 6:50 p.m. this evening to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation.
4. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the agreement of Borough Council to create timed parking upon the Penn Avenue parcel that the borough intends to purchase. Mr. Lineaweaver indicated that it would be similar to the Shopping Center Parking Lot program. Mr. Rogers reminded Borough Council of the 21 parking spaces within the municipal lot located on Franklin Street and an opportunity to create paid parking. Mr. Lineaweaver recommended that Mr. Rogers bring this topic to the Traffic & Infrastructure Committee meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the amount of bond issuance that is requested to purchase the Penn Avenue property. Mr. Lineaweaver noted a slight increase totaling \$1,345,000 that was recommended for couponing to lower the cost of debt service and cost of issuance. Mr. Rogers inquired as to the added cost to purchase a \$650,000 property. Mr. Lineaweaver spoke of short-term reinvestment plans as long as the threshold of 50% of the funds is expended within the first year. The remaining funds would be invested at the market rate, which is currently 5.5%, earning roughly \$32,000. Beyond that there are unknowns as far as remediation efforts that may be required to demolish the building, and properly abandon the gas tanks/pumps. The remaining funds would be used to redevelop the site. Should the full amount not be needed there is the ability to pay back the bond early. It was noted that a meeting was held with the Redevelopment Authority to discuss potential site development costs to assist in the determination of funding needs.

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

Mr. Lineaweaver requested consideration of providing a conditional offer of employment to an individual to fill a seasonal Public Works position.

Motion to provide an offer of employment to fill a seasonal Public Works position. **Moved** by Mr. Shaver and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

7. **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Mr. Lineaweaver spoke of interviews that took place prior to tonight's meeting to fill the position of parking enforcement officer and a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to table this topic until the next meeting.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Shaver and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary