

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Reorganization Meeting**  
**January 4, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting at Borough Hall on Monday, January 4, 2016 with the following persons present: Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr.; Council Members Carl Garman, Kristin L. Kramer, Nathalie R. Kulesa, Christopher Lincoln, Suzanne Thompson, Philip C. Wert; Borough Manager Richard J. Sichler; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Administrative Assistant Cathy L. Hoffman. Council member Grace Craze was unable to attend.

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Helen Moyer	Recreation Director
	Mark Burkholder	Fire Chief
	Jason A. Ulrich	Zoning Hearing Board

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Valentin Rodriguez Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**Nominations for Council President** – Suzanne Thompson nominated Carl Garman as Council President. There were no other nominations. **Moved** by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to appoint Mr. Garman as Council President. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Nominations for Council Vice President** – Suzanne Thompson nominated Nathalie Kulesa as Council Vice-President. There were no other nominations. **Moved** by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Garman to appoint Mrs. Kulesa as Council Vice-President. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Garman then chaired the remainder of the meeting.**

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **2016 Appointments** – A list of those to be appointed was presented to Council. Mr. Wert noted that the Vacancy Board does not have anyone designated for appointment and said that it is important that this position be filled. Resident and Zoning Hearing Board member Jason Ulrich said that his wife would do it, given that she has indicated a desire to be more involved in the community. Mrs. Kulesa also noted that Mrs. Heckler's position as a Council member on the Recreation Commission has not been filled.

**Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to approve the following appointments:

Position	Name	Term
Business Privilege Tax Collector and LST Collector	Steven Love	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Borough Manager/Secretary	Rich Sichler	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
Borough Treasurer	Jeanette Rentschler	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
Code Enforcement Officer	Matt Magovern	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Assistant Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Civitarese	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Building Inspector	Matt Magovern	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Plumbing Inspector	SDE Inc	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Sewage Enforcement Officer	SDE Inc	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Zoning Officer	SDE Inc	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Engineer	Thomas Unger SDE	1/1/16 – 12/31/17

It was noted that Mr. Sichler's is both Manager and Secretary. **Motion carried.**

**Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the following appointments:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>
Fire Department	Chief Mark Burkholder	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Deputy Chief Chad Moyer	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Assistant Chief Jeffrey Reinert	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Captain Jason Witman	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Lieutenant Nick Lesagonicz	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Lieutenant Nick Stoner	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Fire Police	Captain Tom Kupiszewski Jr.	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Lieutenant Peter Goda	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Planning Commission	Philip Wert	1/1/16 – 12/31/19
	Christopher Lincoln	1/1/16 – 12/31/19
	Oswald Herbert	1/1/16 – 12/31/19
Recreation Commission	Nathalie Kulesa	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
	Pam Daniels	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
	Karen Livingood	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
	Jen Witman	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
	Kristin Hawley	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
	Melissa Hassler	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
Shade Tree Commission	Rebecca Keller	1/1/16 – 12/31/19
	Ron Schweitzer, Sr.	1/1/16 – 12/31/19
Environmental Advisory Council	Amber Rambo	1/1/16 – 12/31/18
Economic Development	Mayor Rodriguez	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Phil Wert	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Dean Rohrbach	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Aaron Gantz	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Robin Horman	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Brett Bagenstose	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Christin Kelley	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Emergency Management Coordinator	Tom Bausher	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Deputy Emergency Management	Mike Fesh	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Emergency Management Board Members	Grace Craze	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
	Rich Sichler	1/1/16 – 12/31/16

**Motion carried.**

**Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Thompson to approve the following appointments:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>
Housing Review Board	Michael Geddio	1/1/16– 12/31/18
Western Berks Refuse Authority	Rich Sichler	1/1/16 – 12/31/20
Zoning Hearing Board	Jason Ulrich	1/1/16 – 12/31/20
Vacancy Board	Katherine Young-Ulrich*	1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Police Civil Service Commission	Ronald Bechtel*	1/1/16 – 12/31/21

It was noted that Mr. Bechtel was reappointed at the December Council meeting to facilitate the scheduling of the Civil Service Commission's reorganization meeting. Also that the Vacancy Board appointment is tentative until Ms. Young-Ulrich verifies her willingness to serve. **Motion carried.**

- b. **Real Estate Tax Collector** – Mr. Sichler noted that Jason Ulrich (who was in attendance) had been elected to the position of Tax Collector and was sworn in earlier in the evening.
  - c. **Fee Schedule** – Changes have been proposed to the fee schedule (by the Code Enforcement Department) that may require the enactment of an ordinance rather than a resolution therefore the fee schedule from 2015 will remain in effect until a new resolution or ordinance is enacted.
  - d. **Wyomissing Area School District** – Mayor Rodriguez updated Council with regard to the reapportioning of the school district by stating that a hearing had been held on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Court of Common Pleas and that an order was issued on December 17<sup>th</sup> which overruled the preliminary objections. The school board has since filed a petition for reconsideration. The attorney representing the petitioners has filed a reply to that motion.
  - e. **Newsletter** – Mr. Sichler said that staff is preparing for the spring newsletter and the 'Council Corner' section is available. It was suggested that the newest member of Council, Kristin Kramer, could prepare something. Mr. Garman asked that a specific deadline be given to all contributors which must be adhered to without exception. Mr. Sichler noted that Mrs. Burkholder will soon send out an email to all regular contributors.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.
6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**  
Council recessed to Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation at 7:21 p.m. When the regular session reconvened at 8:11 p.m. no action was taken.
7. **ADJOURNMENT:**  
**Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Administrative Assistant