

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting**  
**August 23, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 with the following persons present: Council President Carl Garman; Vice President Nathalie R. Kulesa; Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr. Council Members Christopher Lincoln, Suzanne Thompson, Kristin L. Kramer, Philip C. Wert; Solicitor Charles Haws; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Secretary Cathy L. Hoffman; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Recreation Director Helen Moyer.

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Gregory Braley	Resident
	James T. Rogers	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Christin Kelley	Resident
	Robin Horman	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Property Owner
	Andy Geoghegan	Property Owner
	Oswald Herbert	Resident

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Garman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. He also announced that an Executive Session had been held on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

James T. Rogers complained about the state of the municipal lot on Franklin Street as well as the manner in which street sweeping is conducted. It was noted that this will be discussed at the next Traffic Committee meeting. Mr. Rogers also asked about the authority of a redevelopment authority to take property. After some discussion Mr. Garman stated that Council has not discussed any properties being taken by eminent domain.

Greg Braley commented about Helen Moyer receiving angry call from pool patrons as a result of the recent pool shutdown for repairs, as well as shortened hours due to the lack of lifeguards.

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

**417 Franklin Street** - Cathy Hoffman reported about Mrs. Schaeffer's concerns that were voiced at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted that Codes officials had investigated and found no water issues coming from the adjacent property.

**Recreation Issues** - Helen Moyer updated Council concerning the filtration tank breach that is currently being repaired. She voiced concern that the other three tanks are in similar condition and recommended that they be replaced by fiberglass units as soon as possible. She also spoke about people climbing the fence to enter the pool after dark. Security camera footage hasn't been helpful because of the poor lighting at the pool. It was suggested that area residents be asked to contact police if there see anyone at the pool after dark. Mrs. Moyer also reported that the installation of a disc golf course will have no impact the Borough's insurance.

**WRCRF Appointment** – Two letters of interest have been received for the vacancy on the CRF board that was created by Mr. Woodward's resignation. Candidate Tina Shenk spoke about her involvement in the Borough over the last 30 years and the accomplishments of the 'Love Team', a 501 (c)6 organization that she chairs. Some of those accomplishments included a donation to a

business damaged by fire and purchasing computers for the school. She indicated being appointed to the CRF board would not change her involvement with the Love Team.

Andy Geoghegan spoke about his business relocating to West Reading largely because of the efforts of Main Street Manager Christin Kelley. He said he would continue to support the Borough whether he appointed to the CRF or not.

**Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Thompson to appoint Tina Shenk to the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation Board. **Motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Garman suggested that the CRF look at adding an at-large member to the Board.

**Use of Salvaged Vehicle** – Mrs. Hoffman explained that the cost to obtain a reconstructed title for the 2013 Ford Interceptor would be about \$365 which includes the inspection which is currently needed. After some discussion it was decided that as long as the vehicle did not require extensive repairs, the vehicle could be used by the Public Works Director. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Kramer to take the necessary steps to obtain a reconstructed title for the 2013 Ford Interceptor in an amount not to exceed \$450. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Belovich Subdivision** – Mrs. Hoffman reported that the process of obtaining the two final signatures is still ongoing. She noted that she had met with a potential developer for the property who is currently reviewing all of the necessary items that must be done to move forward. With regard to the condition of the existing foundations, Council recommended that he obtain an independent opinion concerning the condition of the existing foundations.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Infrastructure Grant – Green Light-Go** – Mr. Lincoln proposed that the Borough apply for the grant which would be used to provide a battery back-up for the traffic signals on Penn Avenue. In order to do this, the signal heads would have to be updated as well. He stated that the grant requires a 20% match from the Borough which could be budgeted for 2017. He added that there may not be sufficient room in the signal boxes to accommodate the new equipment. If so, the cost per intersection would increase by \$30,000. This could be included in the grant application as well. Council gave permission to begin the process to obtain the grant.

**Resolution 2016-6 Police Pension Plan**

**Resolution 2016-7 Non-Uniform Pension Plan** – Mrs. Hoffman explained that both resolutions are necessary as part of the process of changing both pension plan's administrators to PSAB-MRT.

**Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Thompson to approve resolutions 2016-6 and 2016-7. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Resolution 2016-8 Emergency Operations Plan** – This resolution adopts the new Emergency Operations Plan manual which was provided to the Borough by the Westside Regional Emergency Management Agency. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to approve Resolution 2016-8. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Appointment to Shade Tree Commission** – A letter of interest was received from resident Chad Moyer. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Thompson to appoint Chad Moyer to the Shade Tree Commission. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**DCNR Letter** – A letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources explaining that because the Borough accepted federal funding in the 1970s for recreation

purposes at the Park, the lands comprising the Park were to be used for nothing other than recreation purposes in perpetuity. Because the Borough later unknowingly allowed the fire station to be built on recreation land, the Borough now must ascertain the value of the land and purchase a parcel of land that is comparable in value. There were many questions that will need to be answered therefore this will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

**Hospital Project (T-Building)** – As a result of a meeting with a Reading Hospital official, Mrs. Hoffman provided information concerning the upcoming reconstruction of S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue which is part of the completion of 'T' building at the corner of Parkside Drive North and S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

5. **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Planning Commission (August 3, 2016)** – There was one action item as part of the Planning Commission report. It was recommended to increase the liquor license transfer fee from \$500 to \$1000. Mr. Wert explained that the current fee is not adequate to cover all of the costs associated with these transfers. **Moved** by Ms. Kramer and seconded by Ms. Thompson to increase the Liquor License Transfer Fee to \$1000. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Traffic Committee (August 10, 2016)** – Mr. Lincoln stated that the line item for traffic signage will be over budget due to the purchase of new signs that are necessary to mark the truck prohibited areas. As well, the proposed expansion of the permit parking area will require additional sign purchases. The proposed permit areas are on N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the 100 block of Tulpehocken Avenue where the parking issues have been caused by institutional facilities where off-street parking is limited. **Moved** by Ms. Kramer and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the implementation of the permit parking areas on the 000 block of N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the 100 block of Tulpehocken Avenue. **Motion carried 6-0.**

The remaining Committee/Commission reports were not presented individually. **Moved** by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to approve the remaining Committee reports. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and personnel. When the meeting reconvened at 9:29 p.m. no action was taken.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

James T. Rogers commented that there are vehicles in Municipal Parking Lot on Franklin Street that do not have up-to-date registrations or inspections.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Moved** by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Kramer to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Borough Secretary