

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL
2nd Regular Meeting

June 27, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its 2nd Regular Meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 with the following persons present: Council President Carl Garman; Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr.; Council Members Christopher Lincoln, Suzanne Thompson, Grace Craze, Philip C. Wert, Nicholas Imbesi; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Cathy L. Hoffman; Solicitor Keith Mooney; Engineer Tom Unger; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach. Vice President Nathalie R. Kulesa; was unable to attend.

VISITORS:	Doug Zeeger	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Helen Moyer	Rec Director
	Andrew Kearney	Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Garman 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. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Spruce Street Water Project** – Engineer Tom Unger reviewed the bids that had been received on June 26th. It was noted that the low bid exceeds the budgeted amount by more than \$100,000.00 therefore it was decided to postpone making the decision concerning the project until the July meeting. Financial Specialist Donal Renninger will present the 6 month review of revenues and expenditures at that meeting, which will provide the information necessary to make a determination. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Ms. Craze to accept the bids. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- **Chestnut Street Sidewalk Project** - Mr. Rohrbach reported that \$65,442 in grant funds will be remaining once the 6th Avenue Streetscape project is complete, and DCED has indicated that those remaining grant funds may be used for other projects. The Chestnut Street sidewalk project has been in the planning stages for years and Mr. Rohrbach would like to see it completed however based on previous estimates the shortfall for the project would be approximately \$88,000.00. He asked Council to commit to spending \$8500.00 to bid out the project to determine what the actual cost would be. It was noted that the existing grant funds do not have to be expended for several years, therefore the project could be budgeted for 2018. Council also asked Mr. Rohrbach to prepare a list of other project that the remaining funds could be used for that would not require additional funds from the Borough.
- **BARTA Bus Stop Changes** – Chief Powell received notification from BARTA concerning two new stops that are going to be added: on 7th Avenue by the “T” Building and on S. 5th Avenue near Spruce Street. An existing stop near the clock tower will be eliminated. The ordinance that lists all bus stops has not been updated since 2006 therefore an inventory of

bus stops will be completed and a recommendation made to Council regarding the amendment of the ordinance to incorporate these changes.

- **Fall Festival Request re Closure of 5th Avenue** – Members of the WRCRF have requested that 5th Avenue, between Cherry Street and Delaney Circle be closed for Fall Festival and included in the street closure submission to PennDOT for that event. After some discussion it was decided that without input by the Fire Chief, no decision could be made. Given that the application must be made prior to the next Council meeting, Mrs. Hoffman was instructed to include the closure of 5th Avenue in the application, and a formal decision would be made prior to the event. It was noted that PennDOT must be consulted for the closure of Penn Avenue only, however additional street detour/closure information must be included in the submission.
- **Trash and Recycling Contracts** – Eagle Disposal has contacted the Borough and offered a one year extension for the trash and recycling contracts which currently expires on December 31, 2017. Discussions ensued regarding the contracts being sent out for bid, and the possibility of acquiring a different hauler that would provide bins with integrated covers. **Moved** by Ms. Craze and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to extend the contract with Eagle Disposal for trash and recycling collection for one year. **Motion carried 6-0.**

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Parkview Road Bridge** – Chief Powell had undertaken the collection of data regarding vehicle usage on the bridge. That data has not been received as yet, therefore nothing further was discussed.
- **EAC Minutes & Energy Audit** – Mr. Wert spoke about the recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Commission concerning the energy audit that EAC had received a grant to complete. There were two submissions, an ASHRAE level one from Entech Engineering and an ASHRAE level two from Consolidated Engineering. **Moved** by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Ms. Thompson to award the energy audit to Consolidated Engineering in the amount of \$5,600 which will be paid by Met-Ed. **Motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Wert also mentioned an event that is being planned for the end of July where residents will be asked to clean up an area of the borough. The clean-up event is being planned as a contest with prizes being awarded and all participants having a free night at the pool and a cookout. **Moved** by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Ms. Thompson to approve the EAC report. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- **Parking Enforcement – Walker Proposal** – The following information was presented:
 - An updated proposal has been received from Walker Parking Consultants
 - A meeting has been set to discuss parking with Equus Partners
 - This will be discussed further at the July meeting
- **Cooperative Police Service Agreement** – Chief Powell stated that an agreement has been written which will allow Borough police to patrol the area of the park that is in the City of Reading. He requested permission to send the document to the City for their review. **Moved** by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Ms. Thompson to authorize Chief Powell to send the proposed agreement to the City of Reading for review. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- **Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report** – There were some questions concerning the report:
 - 01-400-611 Miscellaneous Costs is over budget by \$8000
 - The repairs for the Fire Company's leaking roof should be covered by warranty

Moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Ms. Craze to approve the Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Chief Powell also reported to Council that an incident had occurred at the pool where police responded to the report of a man concealing a gun. The individual had a permit to carry therefore there was no violation. Discussion ensued regarding guns being allowed in the park and it was noted that there is case law stating that a municipality cannot prohibit someone carrying or concealing a gun.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss personnel. When the regular meeting reconvened at 10:06 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Ms. Thompson to continue the petition to reapportion the WASD from at large to three regions for the election of school directors. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Borough Manager/Secretary