

BOROUGH OF WEST READING - COUNCIL ORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2008

West Reading Borough Council held a organization meeting at Borough Hall on the above date at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Shane J. Keller called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council members Kevin M. Conrad, Michael H. Doyle, James Eschbach, James J. Gallen, Jr., Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, Borough Foreman Jim A. Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Elizabeth Heckler - 460 Chestnut Street
Richard Mable - The Reading Hospital & Medical Center

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Shane J. Keller swore in the following Council members: James J. Gallen, Jr. and James R. Eschbach.

ROLL CALL, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keller took roll call, asked for a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mayor Keller asked for nominations for President of Borough Council. Mr. Doyle nominated Nathalie R. Kulesa. There were no other nominations and the nominations were closed. Following discussion, Council voted 3-2 for Mrs. Kulesa as Council President. Voting "no" were Mr. Morrill and Mr. Conrad.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mayor Keller asked for nominations for Vice-President of Borough Council. Mr. Gallen nominated Michael H. Doyle. There were no other nominations and the nominations were closed. Council voted 5-0 for Mr. Doyle as Council Vice-President.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The Reading Hospital & Medical Center Agreement – Mr. Tindall informed Council that the Agreement between the Hospital and the Borough is to pay a contribution of \$525,000 each year for a three-year period increased each year by the Consumer Price Index. Mr. Doyle referred to paragraph four, regarding if payment has been made and the law changes. Mr. Doyle recommended that any refund to the Hospital be pro-rated. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council approved the agreement, subject to the revisions discussed.

Reading Hospital No-Smoking Policy – Mr. Tindall, Chief Fabriziani, and Richard Mable of the Hospital will discuss this policy on January 11, 2008.

Ordinance No. 963 – This ordinance sets the tax rate for 2008. On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 963.

Ordinance No. 964 – This ordinance sets the sewer rates for 2008. On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 964 by a 5-1 vote, with Mr. Gallen voting “no”.

Proposed Ordinance – This proposed ordinance changes when a property inspection must be completed. Mr. Tindall explained the reason for this change. Mr. Gallen inquired as to the length of time it takes to complete the inspection of approximately 700 units. Ms. Levering replied that she and Mr. Trate started inspections at the end of August and are just finishing the first round. Mr. Gallen requested a report on the kind of revenue derived from these inspections. Following discussion, on motion made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the proposed ordinance for advertisement.

Cooperation Agreement-Penn Avenue Tax Increment Financing District – Mr. Tindall explained that this agreement is with the County of Berks. By signing this agreement, the Borough is pledging to pay down the County’s debt. If the County comes up with extra money, it is not their money. Council asked the Solicitor to obtain a clarification of Table 2 (What is the \$375,232 and the yearly payments of \$20,846). The table does not support the documentation received. This will be discussed at Council’s January 15, 2008 meeting.

Appointments/Reappointments:

Roberts Rules of Order

Vacancy Board – 1 Year Term

Mark D. Burkholder 1/1/08 12/31/08

Borough Manager/Secretary and Sewage Enforcement Officer

George I. Tindall 1/1/08 12/31/09

Borough Solicitor

Kozloff Stoudt – Socrates J. Georgeadis 1/1/08 12/31/09

Borough Treasurer

Sharon L. Morgan 1/1/08 12/31/09

Business Privilege and Local Services Tax Collector

Berks Earned Income Tax 1/1/08 12/31/08

Code Enforcement Officer

Gerald Trate 1/1/08 12/31/09

Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

Tracey Levering 1/1/08 12/31/09

Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer

Richard Robinson 1/1/08 12/31/09

Plumbing Inspector

William Gernert 1/1/08 12/31/09

Backup - Great Valley Consultants

Engineer

Great Valley Consultants 1/1/08 12/31/09

Zoning Officer

George I. Tindall 1/1/08 12/31/09

Assistant Zoning Officer

Tracey L. Levering 1/1/08 12/31/09

Building Inspectors

Great Valley Consultants – Commercial 1/1/08 12/31/09

Gerald Trate – Residential 1/1/08 12/31/09

Planning Commission – 4 Year Term

Philip C. Wert 1/1/08 12/31/11

Ronald D. Fisher Sr. 1/1/08 12/31/11

Michael H. Doyle 1/1/08 12/31/09

Recreation Commission - 2 Year Term

** Minimum of five members and maximum of fifteen members may serve two-year terms. One member must be a member of Borough Council.

Daphne Klahr, Recreation Coordinator-no voting power 1/1/08 12/31/09

George I. Tindall, Borough Manager-no voting power 1/1/08 12/31/09

Nathalie R. Kulesa, Chairperson 1/1/08 12/31/09

Pamela Daniels 1/1/08 12/31/09

Regina Doyle 1/1/08 12/31/09

Elizabeth Heckler 1/1/08 12/31/09

Katie Macrina 1/1/08 12/31/09

Shannon Wagner 1/1/08 12/31/09

Marcy L. Wilkes 1/1/08 12/31/09

Richard Wilkes	1/1/08 12/31/09
<u>Shade Tree Commission – 4 Year Term</u>	
Catherine Wunsch	1/1/08 12/31/11
<u>Police Civil Service Commission - 6 Year Term</u>	
James D. Livingood	1/1/08 12/31/13
<u>Emergency Management Board Member</u>	
Shane J. Keller	1/1/08 12/31/08
Nathalie R. Kulesa	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>Emergency Management Coordinator</u>	
Thomas Bausher	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator</u>	
Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley - 5 Year Term</u>	
Harry D. Grill, Jr.	1/1/08 12/31/12
<u>Western Berks Water Authority</u>	
James A. Beane	1/1/08 12/31/12
<u>Zoning Hearing Board - 5 Year Term</u>	
Karen L. Livingood	1/1/08 12/31/12
<u>Housing Review Board – 3 Year Term</u>	
Elizabeth Heckler	1/1/08 12/31/10
<u>Police Pension Fund Committee – 3 Year Term</u>	
Kevin M. Conrad	1/1/08 12/31/10
Kevin P. Duncan, Sr.	1/1/08 12/31/10
Michael H. Doyle	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>Fire Chief and Hazardous Materials Incident Commander</u>	
Mark D. Burkholder	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>First Assistant Fire Chief</u>	
Richard Quattrock	1/1/08 12/31/08
<u>Second Assistant Fire Chief</u>	
Dean E. Murray	1/1/08 12/31/08

Lieutenants

James A. Beane

1/1/08 12/31/08

Chad Moyer

1/1/08 12/31/08

Jeffrey Reinert

1/1/08 12/31/08

Fire Marshall

Jason S. Ganster

1/1/08 12/31/08

Auditor

Reinsel Kuntz Leshner LLP

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council approved the list of appointments and re-appointments.

Council Seat – Mr. Doyle moved that one of the three candidates be appointed to Borough Council. Mr. Conrad asked Mr. Eschbach what his intentions are after this meeting is over regarding his seat. Mr. Eschbach is moving out of the Borough on January 25. He replied that he would like to temporarily remain on Council and play a part in the selection process.

Resignation of Stephanie J. Murray - Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis stated that Council has received a letter of resignation from Stephanie J. Murray, who was re-elected in November. On motion duly made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Doyle, Council accepted the resignation of Stephanie J. Murray with regret.

Appointment - Mr. Doyle moved and Mr. Gallen seconded to appoint Mr. Geddio to the vacant Council seat. Mr. Morrill stated he would like to meet Mr. Geddio and Mrs. Vogel. The vote resulted in a 3-3 tie, for which Mayor Keller voted “no” to an appointment tonight and “yes” for the interview process. On motion duly made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council voted to interview Mr. Geddio, Mrs. Vogel, and Mr. Wert starting at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment - On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Conrad, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie A. Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary