

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION NOVEMBER 25, 2008 – 8:30 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held a special meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, November 25th, 2008 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Michael Doyle, Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, James Gallen Jr., Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Police Chief Ed Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate, Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Main Street Executive Director Nevin Hollinger; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach.

VISITORS: John Adams – 232 Sycamore Road
Darren Youker – Reading Eagle
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut Street
Joseph Townsend – 107 Kent Way

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. which was followed by Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

Approval to Advertise the Proposed 2009 Budget

Mr. Tindall stated that authorization is required to advertise the proposed 2009 budget which is ready for public viewing for 10 days, at Borough Hall. It will then be voted on at the December 16th regular Council meeting.

After much discussion regarding the budget in general, as well as the millage rate increase that has been proposed, Council brought the motion forward to advertise the budget.

On motion duly made by Mr. Wert, seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed by a vote of 6 to 1, Council approved the advertising of the proposed 2009 Budget. Mr. Gallen – yes; Mr. Geddio – yes; Mr. Wert – yes; Mr. Doyle – no; Mr. Morrill – yes; Mr. Conrad – yes; Mrs. Kulesa – yes.

Main Street Business Improvement District

Mr. Hollinger said that having received the bids for the BID maintenance contract, the Main Street Authority has made a recommendation regarding the millage for the next five years. Years one and two will be assessed at 2.0 mills, year three 2.25 mills, year four 2.50 mills and year five 2.75 mills. It was noted that the current millage is 1.6 which brings in \$34,500. Any funds remaining after the maintenance contractor is paid will be applied to the debt. It was noted that the business members will have an opportunity to vote for or against the increase and it will take a 40% approval vote to permit the increase.

After much discussion regarding the impact this will have on Main Street businesses, Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Authority. **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Main Street Authority, to increase the millage as follows: Year one – 2 mills, Year two – 2 mills, Year three – 2.25 mills; Year four – 2.50 mills; Year five – 2.75 mills.**

Sewer Rate Increase

Mr. Tindall stated that Council had received a copy of a letter from the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley stating they will be increasing the rate for sewage treatment from \$2.20 per 100 cubic feet to \$2.40 per 100 cubic feet. Mr. Tindall recommended that this 20 cent increase be passed on to Borough customers. **On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Gallen and passed, Council approved the 20 cent per 100 cubic feet fee increase, per the JMA.**

Police Contract

It was noted that a decision has to be made regarding the upcoming Police Contract by the end of 2008. Council then adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the contract.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Gallen and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary