

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2006 - CORRECTED MINUTES

West Reading Borough Council held a special Council meeting at Borough Hall on the above date at 6:04 p.m. President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council Members Kevin M. Conrad, Michael H. Doyle, Michael P. Ferenchick, Amy-Good-Ashman, Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill, Mayor Shane J. Keller, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis, Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, and Borough Foreman James A. Beane.

VISITORS: Philip Wert – 214 Olive Street
Sharon Morgan – Treasurer

CREMATORIUM - Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis explained the controversy with this crematorium in that the attorney for the crematorium is taking the position that the last hearing on this matter was July 26 and that the Borough had 45 days from that date to issue its written decision. Mr. Georgeadis reported that the last hearing date was September 18. Mr. Georgeadis explained the next two steps. (1) Appeal the deemed approval and (2) Appeal Stanton's appeal. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the motion to authorize the Solicitor to execute the above two items. Motion carried 5-1, with Ms. Good-Ashman abstaining.

PERSONNEL AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT - Council President Stephanie J. Murray appointed Council Member Amy Good-Ashman to the Personnel Committee and General Government.

BUDGET SESSION

Codes Department – Council discussed additional personnel for the Codes Department and sign permit fees. Council discussed setting occupancy fees at \$100 and sign fees at \$100, plus a \$50 yearly fee per sign.

Fire Department – Council discussed the 2% fire department loan and other items, such as turnout gear.

Recreation Department – The budget shows that salaries will increase, but the overall amount budgeted for salaries were decreased. Garden Party revenue and expenses were deleted. Recreation Coordinator Daphne E. Klahr mentioned that 17% of pool memberships are free. Daily pool passes account for \$28,000 of revenue. The Recreation Commission recommends charging a playground fee of \$50 for the first child.

Public Works Department – Council discussed a new truck, increase in health insurance costs, increase in worker's compensation costs, personnel, equipment repairs, tree trimming, and training. The training costs revolve around the sewer machine that was

purchased many years ago. When filled with water, it weighs approximately 10,210 pounds, which places it in a Class A category and falls under tractor-trailer license. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Michael Morrill, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to have the Borough Manager approach Wyomissing Borough Manager to discuss the cost of training some or all of the Borough Crew to obtain a Class A license.

Definition and Value of a Capital Item – Mr. Tindall asked for Council's definition of a capital item and a definition of its dollar value. A long discussion followed. Council President Stephanie J. Murray formed a Finance Committee consisting of Chair Michael Morrill, Kevin M. Conrad, George I. Tindall, and Sharon Morgan.

Highway Capital – Council discussed the purchase of a new truck and sweeper. The Borough was offered \$14,000 for the current sweeper. Mr. Tindall will call some municipalities to see if they might be interested in purchasing the sweeper. Council discussed the traffic light at Seventh and Reading Avenues.

Sewer Capital – Mr. Conrad stated \$150,000 is not enough to cover what needs to be done to the sewer system. Mr. Conrad informed all that the Borough has 29,000' of sewer lines. If all the lines could be relined, the cost would be \$1.75 million, with dig ups the cost is greater. Until the priority repairs are completed, a five-year plan cannot be done.

Road Repairs/Replacement/Reconstruction – Mr. Beane suggested that no street repairs be done until the underlying infrastructure is complete. However, he did suggest that alleys could be reconstructed, since there is no infrastructure involved.

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center – Mr. Tindall and Chief Fabriziani met with Richard Mable of the Hospital about the traffic light at the former entrance to the emergency room. Mr. Mable was not aware the light did not have transponders on it and that it was not LED. Mr. Mable stated that he would take care of it. Also discussed, was the amount of time the Police Department spends at the Hospital and we asked if the Hospital would contribute an extra \$75,000 for a police officer, after explaining the percentage of time that the officers spend there. Mr. Mable confirmed that the Hospital would pay the \$75,000 extra. This yearly contribution will be stated as part of the Hospital Agreement that the Borough has with them and will be in addition to the agreed upon yearly contribution.

Adjournment - On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael Morrill, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalie A. Loeper, Recording Secretary
Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary

10/26/06