

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2006 – 6:04 P.M.**

West Reading Borough Council held a Special Council Meeting at Borough Hall on the above date. Council President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Michael P. Ferenchick, Nathalie R. Kulesa, Michael H. Doyle, Michael W. Morrill, Kevin M. Conrad, and Mayor Shane J. Keller. The purpose of the meeting is to interview candidates for a Council position.

VISITORS:     James A. Beane – Borough Foreman Jim Beane  
                  Jennifer Auman – 215 Chestnut Street  
                  Jason Ganster – Code Compliance Officer  
                  Sam Loth – Executive Director Main Street  
                  Corporal Rick Vetter – West Reading Police Department

Amy Good-Ashman – Ms. Amy Good-Ashman gave information about her years of service to the Borough and her commitment to Council, if appointed. Ms. Good-Ashman noted with regard to raising taxes she would look at all sides and make an informed decision. Community policing and code enforcement are on her priority list. When asked about increasing home ownership, Ms. Good-Ashman replied that the Elm Street program is a good way to start this process. When asked about ICGR, Ms. Good-Ashman stated the Borough should start small by the sharing of information and possibly participating in some events, without spending incredible amounts of money.

Philip Wert – Mr. Wert gave information about himself, how he came to live in West Reading, and his involvement with the Planning Commission. Mr. Wert presented his view with regard to ICGR. Mr. Wert currently supports the Borough by attending its activities and by shopping in its stores as much as he can. Mr. Wert is a teacher and teaches government. He continues taking classes to keep current on issues that affect the Borough. Mr. Wert feels that if the east side of the river is developed, the Borough should consider developing the west side, after receiving much needed information about the development and maintenance of it. When asked about taking properties in order for development to proceed, Mr. Wert stated he would be in favor of it, if the plan were right.

James Gallen Jr. – Mr. Gallen gave information about himself and spoke about his previous years on Council. Mr. Gallen stated he feels the Borough should challenge the non-profit status of the Hospital and believe they are not paying their fair share, especially since the Police personnel spend more and more time at the Hospital. If selected, Mr. Gallen would be very qualified to handle financial matters by maximizing services to cost. Mr. Gallen stated he would run in the next election, even if he were not chosen today.

Council Member Michael Morrill – Mr. Morrill spoke about the qualities a Council Member should have and with that in mind, he nominated James Gallen Jr., seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle. The vote resulted in a 3-3 tie. Mr. Morrill then read Section 901 of the Borough Code. A discussion ensued, followed by a recess of Council at 6:56 p.m. to call the Borough Solicitor for advice. The meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m. Solicitor Dan Becker joined the Council meeting and reviewed the facts to date. Mr. Becker referred to Section 1033 of the Borough Code, which addresses this issue. The Code states that in all cases, when there is a tie vote, the Mayor may cast the deciding vote, if in attendance and if he wishes to. Mayor Shane J. Keller voted no. Motion failed 4-3.

On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, to nominate Philip Wert to the position of Council Member. Again, there was a 3-3 tie. Mayor Keller voted no. Motion failed 4-3.

On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, to nominate Amy Good-Ashman to the position of Council Member. There was a 3-3 tie. Mayor Keller voted yes. Motion carried 4-3.

Oath of Office of Amy Good-Ashman - Mayor Shane J. Keller gave the Oath of Office to Amy Good-Ashman, who then took her seat on Council.

Water Meters – Solicitor Dan Becker explained the options with regard to the purchase of Water Meters. Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council authorized the purchase of Sensus waters meters at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

### **BUDGET SESSION**

Borough Manager George I. Tindall presented the proposed 2007 budget which includes the addition of 4 ½ employees and is short \$118,000. Council will review police, Main Street, codes, and fire department expenditures this evening, time permitting.

#### **Police Budget**

Following discussion, on motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council hired two new police officers (Karie J. Eckert, senior officer, and Chad Marks) based on seniority at their earliest convenience when they can start, but at a minimum of one week between the two hires. Motion passed 5-2, with Mr. Morrill and Mrs. Kulesa voting no. Mr. Morrill explained prior to the vote that he is voting no at this time, only because Council has not fully discussed the 2007 budget and he wants to ascertain that there is enough revenue next year to support two full-time officers.

#### **Main Street Budget**

Council Members discussed the Main Street budget for next year with Mr. Loth and will consider the requests made.

Adjournment – On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper  
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall  
Borough Manager/Secretary

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