

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

Special Meeting

March 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held a special meeting at Borough Hall on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members James Gallen, Michael Geddio, Michael Morrill, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Public Works Foreman Jim Beane; Main Street Executive Director Nevin Hollinger; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Amber Rambo	307 Sunset Road
	Oswald Herbert	314 Reading Avenue
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	John Pakradooni	103 Franklin Street
	Kurt Bertges	450 Penn Avenue
	Larry Shaub	Reinsel Kuntz Leshner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Larry Shaub of Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, explained the process they performed regarding the receiving of votes and the calculation of the results for the BID. He noted that of the 128 properties that fall in the Business Improvement District, 48% responded with 61 no votes being recorded. It was noted that the 'no' votes could not exceed 40% in order for the BID to be re-established.

Council discussed the repercussions of the vote, one of which is the \$18,000 shortfall that now exists in the 2009 budget, funds that would have been received as part of the BID assessment. It was noted that non-essential services would have to be cut in order to absorb the \$18,000 shortfall. Members of Council were unhappy with the outcome and felt that it is important to determine why the property owners did not wish to continue with the BID, given that the properties on Penn Avenue have received so much with the reconstruction of the Avenue as well as the services that were provided in the prior BID program.

Potential options regarding how to move forward were discussed but no solutions were determined. Mr. Tindall will look at the budget to determine what areas can be reworked. Main Street will attempt to find out what caused the property owners to vote no. The issue will be brought forward again at the next Council meeting.

ADVERTISING OF REVISED ZONING ORDINANCE

After some brief discussion, it was decided to proceed with the advertising of the Revised Zoning Ordinance. It was noted that the 2 minor revisions that were discussed at the February 24th meeting will be incorporated in the final version of the Ordinance that is being completed by Mr. Jenkins.

Motion by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Morrill to authorize the advertisement of the Zoning Ordinance update of January 2009 as presented by Great Valley Consultants noting that it is a restatement of the Borough's existing Zoning Ordinance. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Mr. Rohrbach said that the Agreement between the Authority and the Borough is based on the premise that successful revitalization programs are a strong partnership of residents, business and government. It spells out that West Reading is a progressive leader in revitalization efforts, that the organization is charged with planning for an implementing the day-to-day programs, that the Borough desires to be a participant in the Commonwealth's Elm Street program and that the purpose is to strengthen the residential neighborhoods and improve the quality of life. The agreement lays out certain technical and legal responsibilities for both the Borough and the Authority. It has been reviewed by both solicitors.

Mr. Georgeadis stated that this requires a special project audit every two years and that the Elm Street Program has to comply with Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) guidelines.

There was some discussion regarding what would be considered an ineligible expense and Mr. Rohrbach noted that in such an instance, DCED could be asked to modify the budget. He added that in 2008, the funds that remained after the South Second Avenue improvements were completed was modified by DCED and permitted to be used for the façade program.

Motion by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the execution of the Borough of West Reading and West Reading Elm Street Cooperation Agreement. **Motion carried.**

Council then recessed to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. Regular Session reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Wert to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary