

BOROUGH OF WEST READING - COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 18, 2008 – 6:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held a special budget session at the West Reading Fire Company, 223 Playground Drive, on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members: Michael Morrill, Kevin Conrad, Philip Wert, Michael Geddio, James Gallen; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Treasurer Sharon Morgan; Police Chief Ed Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Main Street Executive Director Nevin Hollinger; Fiscal/Administrative Clerk Stephanie Burkholder. Council Vice-President Michael Doyle was not in attendance but was connected via cell phone.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Tindall stated that residents/taxpayers had been mailed a postcard inviting them to attend the budget workshop to speak regarding the possibility of a tax increase, as proposed by Council.

The following residents/taxpayers spoke regarding the proposed tax increase:

Harry Grill – 422 Oak Terrace	Dan Billings – 522 Barnhardt Way
Jerry Theodosiau – 603 Penn Avenue	John Adams – 232 Sycamore Road
Felix Chila – 431 Sycamore Road	Kerry Hicks – 213 Chestnut Street
Robert Mills – 212 Chestnut Street (tenant)	Harold Kline – 210 S. Third Avenue
Fred Moser – 408 Penn Avenue	Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut Street
Tom Hassler – 408 Penn Avenue	Sheila Scott – 322 Chestnut Street
Chris Hassler – 408 Penn Avenue	Rose Kugler – 110 S. Second Avenue
Jay Kupisewski – 228 S. Third Avenue	Anne Louise Reinert – 529 Chestnut Street
Joe Townsend – 107 Kent Way	Kurt Bertges – 219 Tulpehocken & 450 Penn
Oswald Herbert – 314 Reading Avenue	Lucille Tirdell – 308 Sunset Road
Elaine Edgecomb – 307 Tulpehocken Avenue	Jerry Razzano – 222 Kent Way
Amber Rambo – 307 Sunset Road	Dan Devore – 224 S. Fourth Avenue
Stanley Gernert – 114 Tulpehocken Avenue	Cynthia Devore – 224 S. Fourth Avenue
Doug Geiger – 546 Penn Avenue	Audrey Schaeffer – 419 Franklin Street
Jean Tucci – 215 Tulpehocken Avenue	Diane Schonour – 308 Chestnut Street
John Dytky – 725 Wayne Avenue	Joseph Campitelli – 306 Chestnut Street
Jeff Rockett – 713 Penn Avenue	Sandra Messner – 325 Kline Street
Chris Ernst – 307 Summit Avenue	Bill Demore – 325 Kline Street
Rina Carhuayano – 725 Penn Avenue	Jeff Cullen – 630 Penn Avenue
John Hansbury – 422 Penn Avenue	Frank Ferandino – 303 Summit Street
Ron Heim – 430 Chestnut Street	Alan Clouser – 311 Reading Avenue

Those who spoke were predominantly against a tax increase, citing fixed incomes and the downturn of the economy as reasons. They encouraged Council to look at ways to cut the Budget and had many questions regarding wages and the unions.

Council members also took the opportunity to speak regarding the proposed increase, reminding the residents that they are taxpayers too. Residents were also reminded that people choose to live in West Reading because of the quality of life and level of services. This doesn't come without a price and if taxes are not increased, the quality of life will be compromised. Mrs. Kulesa stated she would meet with anyone who wished to discuss the budget further.

ADJOURNMENT:

The budget session was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:
George Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary