

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

August 21, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin M. Conrad; Vice President James J. Gallen Jr.; Council Members Elizabeth L. Heckler, Nathalie R. Kulesa, Deborah Hutcheson, Amy B. Good, Philip C. Wert; Mayor Shane J. Keller; Borough Manager Richard J. Sichler; Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder; Borough Solicitor Daniel P. Becker; Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey L. Levering; Public Works Director Dean E. Murray; Elm Street Manager Dean L. Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy L. Hoffman; Borough Engineer Terry Naugle.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Temple
	Jason Witman	Chestnut Street
	James A. Bohn	Chestnut Street
	Steve DeLucas	Reading Eagle
	Tina Shenk	Penn Avenue
	Audrey Schaeffer	Franklin Street
	Karen Livingood	Sycamore Road

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Kevin M. Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.
2. Wyomissing Foundation Chairman John Weidenhammer and Karen Rightmire, President were in attendance to present a check to the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation in the amount of \$110,000. They noted that \$30,000 is designated for the P.A.R.R. program and \$80,000 is for the operation of Elm Street.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Jason Witman spoke about the roof at 342 Chestnut Street that has been covered by a tarp since last October when it was damaged by heavy rain storms. Mrs. Levering said that it is being addressed through the rental inspection process and that the owner has stated that he will complete the work in the next month. Mayor Keller instructed Mrs. Levering to cite the owner if he has not complied within 30 days.

James Bohn complained about the trash/recycling collectors who are throwing the trash and recycling cans/bins after they are emptied. Mr. Sichler will contact Eagle Disposal regarding the complaint.
4. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:**
Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of July 17th (regular session), August 8th (special session), and the Conditional Use Hearing on June 25th, 2012. **Motion carried.**
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business to discuss.
6. **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**
 - a. **Berks County MS4 Ordinance** – Mr. Sichler explained that public education for stormwater management is a requirement from both federal and state government for each municipality however in Berks County the County provides this education on behalf of each municipality. The County is now requesting that each municipality pay \$1000 in 2013, and \$500 per year for the subsequent four years. He added that if the Borough had to do its own education program, it would be time consuming and more costly. It was noted that the County has been providing this education through seminars at the Agricultural Center however it is the first time that they

are asking for financial assistance. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the Borough if the Environmental Advisory Council were to participate with the County in this endeavor. As a final note, Mr. Becker said that he has reviewed other samples of this ordinance.

Moved by Ms. Good and seconded by Mr. Wert to advertise the MS4 Ordinance. **Motion carried.**

7. **CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:**

- a. Solicitor's Report – Mr. Becker had nothing further to report.
- b. Engineer's Report – Mr. Naugle said that they are wrapping up the design drawings and bid documents for the 5th Avenue sidewalk project which will be ready for distribution next week. Bids must be returned by September 15th.

Mrs. Heckler spoke about the gas meters that are being installed at the front of houses and asked if this is a government regulation or a UGI policy. Mr. Becker said that he will look into it immediately and report back to Mr. Naugle. If there is something that can be done, the Planning Commission will take action at the September meeting.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Engineer's Report. **Motion carried.**

8. **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- a. County Radio System – Mr. Sichler updated Council regarding the funding that will be required to purchase radios when the new system comes into effect. He said that over seven years, the amount will be \$43,200/yr, and over five years, it would be \$60,500/yr. Chief Fabriziani recommended opting for five years given the life span of electronic equipment and how they will be used (police, fire personnel).

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to authorize the Borough Manager to begin the paperwork for the radio program. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Borough Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

9. **MAYOR'S REPORT & WEST READING COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION REPORT:**

Mayor Keller noted that Council had received the July 2nd minutes of the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation and noted that the next meeting will be held on September 4th at the BiCentennial House.

Regarding the police department, Mayor Keller reported that three of the four new part-time officers are on the street with their assigned field-training officer, and that the fourth officer should be on the street by the end of the week.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Mayor's Report. **Motion carried.**

10. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- a. Code Enforcement – Mrs. Levering said that Council had a copy of her written report. There were no questions.

Moved by Ms. Good and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Chief Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

- b. Police Department – Chief Fabrizio asked for Council’s permission to turn the ownership of their “UMP” (a semi-automatic short rifle) over to the Berks County Emergency Response Team because the officer trained and certified to use it has left the department. He added that it was purchased prior to the inception of BCERT but now they have no need of it. BCERT does use this type of weapon which is why he recommended that it be turned over to them. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Good to donate the UMP to the Berks County Emergency Response Team. **Motion carried.** Chief Fabrizio noted that the transfer will be done according to ATF requirements because of the type of weapon.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the Police Chief’s Report.

Motion carried.

- c. Public Works – Mr. Murray was asked about blacktop patching projects, including alley work and he responded that areas that have been dug up will be blacktopped, as well as alligatored areas throughout the borough. Regarding the potholes in the alleys, he said that they will repair what they can however some areas require complete rebuilding. Those areas will be presented again at budget time.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the Public Works Director’s Report. **Motion carried.**

- d.. Fire Department – Chief Burkholder referred to his written report, and noted that as promised the new ladder truck was in the parking lot. Mr. Conrad announced that he would be adjourning the meeting from the fire truck.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the Fire Chief’s Report. **Motion carried.**

- e. Elm Street – Mr. Rohrbach said that he did not have a written report but noted that the “Let’s Paint The Town” project is scheduled to proceed on the 400 block of Chestnut Street and that 93 people have already volunteered. Mr. Rohrbach also announced that the head of the Department of Community and Economic Development would like to attend the October Council meeting to present a check in the amount of \$300,000.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Elm Street Manager’s Report. **Motion carried.**

11. **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

- a. Recreation Commission – Mrs. Kulesa announced that the Father/Daughter and Mother/Son dances will no longer be held at the West Reading Elementary School because the school district is now charging fees to use the district’s facilities. The dances will be held at the Fire Company from now on.

Mrs. Heckler spoke about the gate by the diving well that needs to be fixed or replaced. Mr. Murray said he would look at it to see if it can be repaired temporarily until a permanent repair can be completed. He will report back to Mrs. Heckler.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Recreation Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

- b. Planning Commission – Mr. Wert reported that at the last meeting, the Commission had a first look at the Reading Hospital’s preliminary plan for the proposed surgical tower. He noted that the Hospital will return for at least one more meeting before the Commission makes a recommendation to Council.

With regard to the proposed Zoning amendments, Mr. Wert stated that the Commission has reviewed the document, Mr. Becker has reviewed the revisions, and the Commission has reviewed Mr. Becker's comments. At this point the amendments are ready to go to the Berks County Planning Commission and after some discussion it was decided that the amendments will still be sent however if there are changes to be made concerning the gas meter issue, an additional document will be sent to the BCPC who will have 30 days to review it. Mr. Naugle will prepare a red-line version and send it to the BCPC next week. Two copies will also be available at Borough Hall for Council's review.

Mrs. Heckler asked about the electronic sign that is being requested by St. James Church and Mrs. Levering said that the sign would be in contravention of the Zoning Ordinance, which will require the Church to appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Planning Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

- c. Environmental Advisory Council – Mr. Wert reported that there were no action items, however that a new chair has been appointed. He also noted that there is a vacancy on the Council and Mr. Sichler said they would be advertising soon to fill that vacancy, along with a vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission. Interested residents are asked to submit their letter of interest to Mr. Sichler.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Environmental Advisory Council Report. **Motion carried.**

12. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Revenues with Comparison to Budget Report for the 7 months ending 7/31/2012. **Motion carried.**
- b. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Payment Approval Report for 7/17/2012 – 8/16/2012 and 8/17/2012 – 8/20/2012. **Motion carried.**

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Prior to adjourning, Mrs. Heckler reminded everyone to begin thinking about the budget.

At 8:02 p.m. Mr. Conrad recessed the meeting to the parking lot where the new ladder truck was located. **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant