

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

April 20, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Vice-President Kevin Conrad; Council Members James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman, Elizabeth Heckler, Deborah Hutcheson, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Public Works Foreman Jim Beane; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Darryl Jenkins, GVC. Absent: Borough Manager George Tindall, Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach.

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| <u>VISITORS:</u> | Ruth Cardell | Fire Police |
| | Amber Rambo | Resident |
| | Karen Livingood | Resident |
| | Jim Livingood | Resident |
| | Jim Rogers | Resident |
| | Oswald Herbert | Resident |
| | Sheila Scott | Resident |
| | Tina Shenk | Business/Property Owner |
| | Rich Sichler | Resident |
| | David Najarian | Kempton |

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at which time a moment of silence was observed in memory of Harry Reeser Jr., Lori Weidenhammer and Estelle Yeager. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call then followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Rogers spoke about Mr. Wagner's request from the March 16th Council meeting, which was to move a handicapped parking space to a location directly in front of his home. He felt that Mr. Wagner, as a long-time resident of the Borough and a veteran, deserved to have the space moved. Council reiterated their reasons and stated that there was a space across from Mr. Wagner's home and another two spaces down on his side of the street. They noted that Borough policy dictates that handicapped spaces may only be permitted at the end of a block. It was also noted that the Borough policy for handicapped spaces complies with Title 75 of the Motor Vehicle Code. Also, since the policy went into effect in 1997, all handicapped parking spaces have met the policy requirement. There are only three in the Borough that do meet the policy and they were all pre-existing.

Mr. Rogers also spoke about Council minutes not being available immediately after the last meeting, because he had left the meeting early and wanted to know the outcome of the Council session.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the minutes of March 19th, 2010 acknowledging the revised first page that was distributed prior to the meeting. **Motion carried.**

BERKS COUNTY SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

Mr. Wert reported that he, along with Ms. Hutcheson, had attended the Smart Growth Alliance Conference on March 27th that entailed two presentations. The first presentation discussed the 422 corridor and the passenger rail line with a Wyomissing terminus. The second concerned the Wyomissing Square project, discussing the history behind the project and the development of the project.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Georgeadis stated that three ordinances had been advertised and are ready to be enacted. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve Ordinances 990, 991, and 992. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Solicitor's report. **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins stated that the Olive Street Pumping Station emergency generator is up and running, however the contractor was not able to process a payment application for this meeting, therefore he asked if Council would approve the payment subject to GVC's receipt of the final payment application and review of quantities. Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the final payment application in the amount of \$33,006.50 subject to receipt of the final payment application and review of quantities by GVC. **Motion carried.**

Also pertaining to the Olive Street Pumping Station, there is a capital project in this year's budget for the upgrade to the mechanical components – Line Item 08-481-800. He requested approval to begin the process for this budget year. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to authorize GVC to begin the design and subsequent bidding for this project. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Jenkins stated the bids had been received that morning for the Elm Street grant funded project for reconstruction of the street, curbing and sidewalks. Low bid was from EJB Paving. The first component of the project will cover the work at Grape and Yarnell Streets. The second will reconstruct a portion of the access roads at the Borough pool. Mr. Jenkins stated that the scope of work will be revised to ensure that the project stays within the funds that have been allocated through the grant. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to award the contract to EJB Paving in an amount not to exceed \$166,517.20 and to authorize GVC to negotiate with the contractor as needed to keep the project within the budgeted amount. **Motion carried.**

Bids were received for the Spruce Street retaining wall project which is also grant funded project through Elm Street. Forino Co. was the low bidder. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to award the retaining wall project to Forino Co. in an amount not to exceed \$34,450. **Motion carried**

Mr. Jenkins also reported on the second street project which will entail the finalization of the Sunset Road project. He stated that it should be ready to go to bid in early May, with completion being anticipated for mid July.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Engineer's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Met-Ed Resolution – Resolution 2010-3A has been requested by Met-Ed which will allow the upgrade of two street lights as part of the Sunset Road project **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Resolution 2010-3A for the upgrade of two street lights on Sunset Road. **Motion carried.**

JMA Appointment – Mr. Harry Grill has resigned his appointment with the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept Mr. Grill's resignation. **Motion carried.** Mrs. Kulesa asked that another interested in the JMA appointment should send Council a letter of interest.

Act 32 Second Alternate Appointment – Mrs. Kulesa was appointed as second alternate for the Act 32 meetings.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

In addition to his report, Mr. Trate also tendered his resignation, effective July 30th, 2010. He did note however that he would be willing to continue working in Code Enforcement on a part time basis. Council agreed to review this information in Executive Session. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept Mr. Trate's resignation. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Safety Committee report as amended. (One of the dates in the minutes was incorrect.) **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr presented the following information:

- The playground project has begun. A site plan for the project was displayed, which includes the paving of the access road. She noted that they are \$7000 short for the paving.
- The pool consultant evaluated the pool and has provided a detailed report, copies of which were given to Council. She noted that the consultant has offered to attend the next Council meeting to discuss his findings. He has recommended that nothing be done to the diving well other than what is necessary to open it for the season.
- Requested that Council approve moving \$7500 from the recreation capital project fund. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to allow \$7500 to be moved from the recreation capital fund towards this project. **Motion carried.**
- Borough crew is excavating now and the equipment will be installed on April 23rd, if the site is ready.
- Father/Daughter dance will be held on May 7th.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success.
- Council requested that the pool consultant attend the May 19th meeting, therefore his presentation will be placed early on the agenda.
- The newsletter is being finalized, however not all articles have been submitted.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani referred to his written report and reported that criminal arrests for the first quarter of 2010 are up substantially. Serious crime issues are up as well – as a result, overtime is also up. He also stated that an incident occurred early Sunday morning where shots were fired at a vehicle at the 300 block of Spruce Street. Both detectives are working on the incident.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

BERKS COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD:

Mr. Conrad stated that he had received information concerning a program that provides summer employment for economically disadvantaged youth. He asked if Council felt it could be of use for local youth and if so, he would attend the meeting scheduled for May 4th. It was suggested that the businesses on Penn Avenue might benefit, therefore this information will be passed on to the Business Association.

MAYOR'S REPORT / MAIN STREET REPORT:

Mayor Keller reported that the new POW*MIA flag was secured from a local POW*MIA non profit organization, for a \$25 donation. He also reminded Council that the Armed Forces Day Parade will be held on May 15th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Keller stated that in light of Mr. Trate's resignation, he wished to open a discussion concerning the Codes Department. He reminded Council that one of the duties of the Mayor is to enforce the Borough's ordinances and regulations which he is unable to do when the Codes Department does not report to the Mayor. He suggested that the Codes Department be relocated to the current manager's office and open up the window to the Police lobby. He added that the staff could be cross trained which would make the Codes Department more accessible because of the Police department's extended hours. Council briefly discussed the possibilities and it was decided that copies of the Municipal Code will be distributed to Council to assist them in making an informed decision. Also, a document will be prepared that details the implementation of these potential changes to the Codes Department.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Mayor's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane told Council that he had received two written estimates for stump grinding and requested Council's approval to accept the low bid. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to award the project to Picture Perfect Landscaping in the amount of \$1612. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Beane explained that he had recently attended a five week GIS training course and now wishes to use the system to record geographical information. The computer that currently houses the GIS system is too old to allow updates therefore he requested Council's approval to purchase a new computer. He stated that he had received an estimate from Ridge Support Technologies for \$3746. and added that it was budgeted from line item 06400407 and 08400407 (\$2500 from water and \$2500 from sewer). He stated that he would confer with Mr. Tindall prior to making the purchase. Mr. Beane explained the scope of his studies for the GIS system and its capabilities. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to allow Mr. Beane to confer with the Borough Manager and authorize the purchase for an amount not to exceed \$3750. **Motion carried**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Borough Foreman's report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder explained that a problem has arisen with the ladder on the ladder truck which will require approximately \$100,000 to completely repair. (He provided documents and pictures pertaining to the ladder.) The truck is unusable now, and was already scheduled for replacement in 2012. Council reviewed all of the information concerning how the ladder became damaged, if a warranty was available and various scenarios concerning what would happen if the truck was sold or repaired. Council began discussing ways that the new truck could be purchased sooner. Chief Burkholder stated that there is a \$300,000 government grant that could possibly be obtained if a fire department has a vehicle in bad condition, which the Borough qualifies for. As well, there is a possibility of obtaining 2% financing for up to \$250,000. Council felt that it would be best to move forward with the grant process and see if the vehicle can be purchased earlier than originally planned, therefore Chief Burkholder will have the specifications ready for the next Council meeting and the grant writer will complete the grant process.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rohrbach was not in attendance because of bereavement leave therefore Mayor Keller gave a brief report. He stated that Earth Day had been a great success with a large number of volunteers cleaning up various areas including the Bertolet Dock, and also building beds in the community garden. A shed was also installed at the garden to house tools. Mayor Keller also noted that a water line has been installed at the community garden and that the Western Berks Water Authority is donating the water.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Elm Street Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUE WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – 3 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2010:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the revenue report for the 3 months ending March 31, 2010. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT – 3/16/10 TO 4/15/10 AND 4/16/10 TO 4/19/10:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Payment Approval Report for 3/16/10 to 4/15/10 and 4/16/10 to 4/19/10. **Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss personnel. When Council reconvened at 9:59 p.m., no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Nathalie R. Kulesa
Borough Council President