

Borough of West Reading Special Meeting

Monday, December 29, 2014

West Reading Borough Council held a Special Meeting at Borough Hall on Monday, December 29, 2014 with the following persons present: Council President James J. Gallen, Jr.; Vice President Philip C. Wert; Council Members Elizabeth L. Heckler, Nathalie R. Kulesa, Grace Craze, Carl Garman; Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr.; Borough Manager Richard J. Sichler; Borough Solicitor Daniel P. Becker; Administrative Assistant Cathy L. Hoffman.

Residents James T. Rogers, Eileen Fox, Keith Fox, Kathy Frymoyer, Suzanne Thompson, Oswald Herbert, Chris Lincoln and Nick Lesagonicz were also in attendance.

1. **Call to Order**

Council President James Gallen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

2. **Public Comment**

Residents Keith and Eileen Fox spoke about having voted for Kathleen Frymoyer in the last election and stated their support for her again.

3. **Executive Session**

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Mr. Becker left the meeting at this time.

4. **Council Vacancy**

Kathleen Frymoyer spoke about the last election's results and said she is still interested in the well-being of the community and being a member of Council. She noted her employment and volunteer work as well and indicated that if she were appointed, she would definitely run for re-election in 2015 which is when this seat term is finished.

Oswald Herbert spoke his service on the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley Board and also noted that he would see re-election if appointed.

Nick Lesagonicz told Council about his education, training and current employment. He also spoke about his 20 year volunteer service with the West Reading Fire Company, noting his rank as Lieutenant. He was unsure if he would run in the 2015 election, given that he has not served in public office before.

Chris Lincoln spoke about his engineering background and his service on the Borough's Planning Commission and Pension Committee. He noted his interest in running in 2015 but would not definitely commit to doing so as yet.

Suzanne Thompson spoke about her broad background in municipal service such as writing policy, contracts and grants, and noted her volunteer work with Elm Street and Crime Watch. She indicated that she would definitely seek re-election in 2015, if appointed.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Craze to appoint Chris Lincoln to the vacant Council seat.

Voting yes: Ms. Craze, Mrs. Heckler, Mr. Wert, Mr. Gallen

Voting no: Mr. Garman, Mrs. Kulesa

Motion carried.

5. **Executive Session Action**

Moved by Ms. Craze and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve a severance package for Code Enforcement employees as discussed in Executive Session. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Rodriguez spoke about his involvement in seeking representation on the Wyomissing Area School District Board for the residents of West Reading and has spoken with several attorneys concerning this issue. Council met in Executive Session with an attorney who is willing to represent the Borough in this case for \$6000 and will take the matter to the Court of Common Pleas with a petition of at least 500 signatures, pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code. **Moved** by Ms. Craze and seconded by Mr. Garman to approve the \$6000 expenditure for legal fees to begin this process. **Motion carried.**

5. **Public Comment**

There was no further public comment other than continued discussion about the Wyomissing Area School District Board situation.

6. **Adjournment**

Moved by Ms. Craze and seconded by Mr. Garman to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant