

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

August 17, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Elizabeth Heckler, Deborah Hutcheson, Nathalie Kulesa; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Socrates Georgeadis, Kozloff Stoudt; Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Darryl Jenkins, GVC. Absent: James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Fire Police
	Rebecca Keller	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Business/Property Owner
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Jim Livingood	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Rich Weiger	Resident
	Diane Price	Armed Forces Day Parade
	Reporter	Reading Eagle

Council President Kevin Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rich Weiger spoke about the work on Sunset Road stating that the contractor has not been on site on a continual basis. He also had some concerns regarding tree removal and possible changes in traffic patterns for Sunset Road. Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Sichler and Mr. Conrad answered Mr. Weiger's questions to his satisfaction. Mr. Jenkins will speak to the contractor concerning their absences at the work site.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Diane Price (2010 Chair of the Armed Forces Day Parade) was in attendance to present Certificates of Appreciation to the Borough, Mayor Keller, Chief Fabriziani and Chief Burkholder. She thanked everyone for their assistance in making the 2010 parade a great success and said that she looks forward to doing it again.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of July 20th, 2010.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Belovich Development - Mr. Georgeadis said that there were no new updates.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Conrad stated that Amber Rambo (307 Sunset Road) has volunteered to serve on the Shade Tree Commission, effective immediately. It was noted that Ms. Rambo has earned a Tree Vitalize designation and also has studied to become a master gardener. Mr. Conrad then appointed Ms. Rambo to the Shade Tree Commission.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2010-7 was written to approve the installation of an additional street light in the Sunset Road reconstruction area (400 block). **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Resolution 2010-7. **Motion carried.**

CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Georgeadis did not have a report to present.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Jenkins referred to his written report and noted four action items. **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the remaining retainage in the amount of \$1,524.38 to B. P. Paterson, Inc. for the Cherry Street Sewer Main Replacement Project. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve Payment Application #2 (final) in the amount of \$25,436.20 to Mr. Rehab for the 2010 Sewer Rehabilitation Project. **Motion carried.** Mr. Jenkins noted that correspondence will be sent to the Joint Municipal Authority requesting reimbursement for 50% of the project, now that it is complete.

Mr. Jenkins said that he had received a draft payment request from Windsor Service for the remaining portion of the Cherry Street project as well as work-to-date on the Sunset Road project (representing approximately 20% of the entire project). Given the earlier discussion regarding the delays for the Sunset Road project, it was Council's decision to pay the Cherry Street portion of the payment application, however the Sunset Road amounts should be held back. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve payment for the Cherry Street portion of the payment application from Windsor Services and to hold back the Sunset Road portion. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve payment application #2 from EJB Paving and Materials Company in the amount of \$66,452.23 for the Grape and Yarnell Streets reconstruction. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve Payment Application #1 (final) in the amount of \$34,450. to Forino Co. LP for the Spruce Street retaining wall project. **Motion carried.** It was noted that this was funded as an Elm Street project.

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sichler spoke concerning the following items:

- Borough staff will receive training for the Red Flag Rule. More information will be presented at the September meeting.
- The Recreation Department has received approval to use the Elm Street vehicle, therefore permission was requested to sell the surplus vehicle that was used for Parking Enforcement. (Ms. Klahr confirmed that using the Elm Street vehicle has been working well.) **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to sell the former Parking Enforcement vehicle. **Motion carried.**
- A Shade Tree Commission meeting has been scheduled for the coming week at which time a regular meeting schedule will be decided. Mr. Conrad asked if a chairman had been appointed for the Commission and as there had not been, he appointed Becca Keller as chair of the Commission.

Mrs. Karen Livingood (a member of the Zoning Hearing Board) asked Mr. Sichler if an alternate has been found for the Zoning Hearing Board. After some discussion it was determined that Theresa Vogel had volunteered for that position, however she had not formally been appointed. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to appoint Theresa Vogel as the alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board. **Motion carried.**

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Code Enforcement – **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Chief Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

Police Department – Chief Fabriziani began his report by introducing everyone to Canine Officer Fox who is being trained by Officer Wayne Holben. Chief Fabriziani noted that the purchase of the dog has been entirely funded by the District Attorney's office along with a \$1000 donation from Sam's Club.

Chief Fabriziani also reported the following:

- National Night Out was a tremendously successful event; kudos to everyone, especially Officer Eckert.
- Reading Hospital Security Department Supervisor Christine Bittler has requested a ride along with our officers as part of her criminal justice program at Alvernia College. **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve a ride-along program for Christine Bittler, under the current ride-along program guidelines. **Motion carried.**
- The Berks County Chiefs of Police Association has received notice of interest from 22 police departments for the testing consortium that Chief Fabriziani spoke about last month. This will provide lower costs for testing and a larger group of candidates to choose from. He noted that as part of this process, the solicitor will need to make some changes to the Borough's Civil Service Regulations.

- The Citizens' Police Academy program will begin again in October. Applications are currently being accepted. Chief Fabrizio noted that the program was very successful last year.
- A Neighborhood Crime Watch is being formed in the Borough that will be requesting residents to simply sit on their porches as a means of creating a presence in the neighborhood, and report anything that seems suspicious.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Police Chief's Report.
Motion carried.

Public Works – Public Works Director Dean Murray presented his written report, and added that in lieu of replacing two trucks as was budgeted, various repairs have been completed to the trucks that would have been replaced.

Mrs. Heckler asked about the changes that are being mandated for storm sewers and about the coalition that has been formed. Mr. Sichler said he has attended a coalition meeting and explained that their intent is to form a unified voice to be sent to Harrisburg. He added that the annual fee will be based on population which will be approximately \$500 for the Borough. It was noted that action is not required at this point.

It was further explained that the Borough had received an order from the EPA to provide additional information clarifying previous reports that were submitted. The information is being gathered and will be submitted by the deadline. The EPA is asking the Borough to follow "best management practices" and has provided possible requirements. Mr. Sichler stated that the Borough will be providing information to the EPA about the best management practices currently being followed, which may alter the EPA's requirements.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Director of Public Works' report. **Motion carried.**

Fire Department – Chief Burkholder noted that the emergency siren test had accidentally been activated by the County, and as a result some changes have been made. It will now be set off on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. by the fire department **Moved by** Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

Elm Street – Mr. Rohrbach reported the following:

- The Summer Block Party will be held on August 21st.
- Two additional murals will be dedicated on the 21st.
- They are applying to be a "Tree City USA" neighborhood as part of the Tree Vitalize program.
- Drawings of proposed improvements to the expansion neighborhood have been displayed in the foyer.
- The vision statement for the Center Point Neighborhood is stated as part of the Elm Street written report.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Elm Street Manager's report.
Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr referred to her written report. Mr. Wert commented about the increase of funds for the pool and the concession stand, and Mr. Conrad praised the “Marines and Me” program that was initiated by Ms. Klahr as part of the summer playground program. She noted that the Marines have already agreed to come back next summer.

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

Planning Commission – Mr. Wert stated that representatives from the West Reading Elementary Center proposed expansion had attended the meeting to provide a draft of the preliminary plan and get feedback concerning the proposal. At that meeting, Borough Engineer Darryl Jenkins had also presented a proposed parking lot expansion for Kuhn Funeral Home, for information purposes and to receive feedback. Mr. Wert said that a meeting would be scheduled with the Mr. Sichler, Mr. Jenkins and the engineers representing the funeral home to discuss it further. **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Planning Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Conrad announced that the September Traffic Committee meeting will be moved to a different date which will be announced later.

MAYOR’S REPORT / MAIN STREET REPORT

Mayor Keller spoke about the following items:

- An advertisement has been placed for the two available positions in the Code Enforcement department. Applications will be accepted until September 1st.
- National Night Out was held on the 2nd. He thanked Officer Eckert, Ms. Klahr as well as the other Borough departments that helped with the event. He noted that the bicycle rack at the pool was dedicated as part of the event and he thanked Mr. Rohrbach for undertaking the project.
- The ribbon cutting for the refurbished tennis courts was well attended. He thanked Pat Shields and Fromuth Tennis for their efforts.
- ‘A Taste of West Reading’ was recently held and was deemed a very successful event.
- Trick-or-Treat will be celebrated in the Borough on Sunday, October 31st from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Mayor’s report. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the revenue report for the 7 months ending July 31, 2010. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Payment Approval Report for the period of 7/20/10 to 8/11/10. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the 2009 Audit report as prepared by Reinsel Kuntz Leshner. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wert was congratulated on the birth of his daughter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss personnel. When Council reconvened at 9:07 p.m., no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant