

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

February 17, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, James Gallen Jr., Michael Morrill, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Police Chief Ed Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr, Main Street Executive Director Nevin Hollinger; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman. (Mr. Doyle arrived just as the Reading Hospital presentation began at 7:10 p.m.)

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Elizabeth Heckler	Resident
	Tina Shenk	400-406 Penn Avenue
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Don Haines	Resident
	Jim Livingood	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	John Roland	Reading Hospital
	Richard Mable	Reading Hospital
	Paul Toburan	Reading Hospital
	David Major	Reading Hospital
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Jay Kupiszewski	Resident
	Joe Townsend	Resident
	Roy Kissinger	St. James Church

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roy Kissinger of Saint James Church gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jay Kupiszewski stated that the Borough's website is being underutilized, noting that there are no minutes available. As well, he felt that residents would be better served if information were available concerning vehicle break-ins and other situations that are of concern. Chief Fabriziani stated that crime alerts could be added in future, however a decision now has to be made whether or not to keep the website in-house, now that the server has been brought up to date.

READING HOSPITAL CO-GENERATION PLANT PRESENTATION

Paul Toburan introduced individuals from Reading Hospital who were in attendance: David Major, Lead Project Manager; the Director of Facilities; John Roland; Dick Mable. Mr. Toburan stated that the information being presented was just to bring everyone up-to-speed with what the Hospital is intending to do. Brian Flynn from Z & F Consulting Inc, Wayne, PA was on hand to give a brief presentation regarding the 7 megawatt cogeneration plant that the Reading Hospital is proposing to install that will provide cheaper and cleaner electric power for the hospital complex. Mr. Flynn provided specs for the project and it was noted that the hospital hopes to have it running by September 2010.

JANUARY 22ND EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mrs. Kulesa announced that an Executive Session had been held on January 22nd to discuss pending litigation.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approved the minutes of January 20th 2009.
Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins announced that bids were received on February 11th for the 2009 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Low bid was from Sewer Specialty Services, Inc. in the amount of \$12,965. Mr. Jenkins recommended awarding the project to this contractor. **Motion** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to award the contract to Sewer Specialty Services, Inc. in the amount of \$12,965. **Motion carried.** It was noted that this project came in significantly under budget.

Bids for the Pool Painting Project were received on February 16th. Low bid was from Walt's Professional Painting, Inc. in the amount of \$67,700. however this amount could fluctuate depending the amount of repair that needs to be done once the paint is removed. Mr. Jenkins added that he has checked the contractor's references and everything is in order. **Motion** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to award the contract to Walt's Professional Painting, Inc. in the amount of \$67,700. **Motion carried.** It was noted that \$110,000 has been budgeted for this project.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Georgeadis stated that Ordinance 978 has been advertised and is ready for Council's vote. He noted that the ordinance is a housekeeping item that will allow some permit fees to be amended by resolution rather than by ordinance. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve Ordinance 978. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

UGI Gas Line – Mr. Tindall updated Council by stating that he met with UGI to look at the surveyed plan for the gas line that will provide natural gas to the Hospital's proposed co-generation plant. The route that is being proposed will start at Old Wyomissing Road, then along Parkside Drive South, between the Museum and the Planetarium, then under the Wyomissing Creek and Parkside Drive North, to the Hospital campus. He noted that with this route, no easement will be required from the Borough.

Ordinance 977 – This ordinance will increase the sewer rate by \$.20 per 100 cubic feet which is the same rate increase that the Borough must pay to the Joint Municipal Authority. As well, the ordinance was duly advertised. **Motion** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve Ordinance 977. **Motion carried.**

Met-Ed Street Lighting Resolution – **Motion** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Street Lighting Resolution from Met-Ed to change out street lighting at 141, 200, 206, 220, and 235 Chestnut Street. **Motion carried.**

Re-Appointments – Mrs. Kulesa stated that Mr. Richard W. Weisser, Jr. has agreed to be reappointed as the Business Privilege and Local Services Tax Collector. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to reappoint Mr. Weisser for a one year term from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. **Motion carried.**

Sidewalk Café Regulations – Mr. Tindall stated that the ordinance permits the sidewalk cafés to operate from April 1st to October 31st each year, but felt that this needs to be changed to allow the cafés to be utilized as long as the Avenue is open. Chief Fabriziani recommended that the entire ordinance concerning sidewalk cafés be reviewed. Council agreed for the review to take place.

Changes to Chapter 14, Section 206 (2) – Mr. Tindall stated there are several references in the section pertaining to traffic regulations that need to be changed because they are no longer valid. It was decided that the changes will be made and the amending ordinance will be brought forward at the next Council meeting.

Motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Borough Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Georgeadis then left the meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT:

Mr. Herbert gave a brief overview and noted that the Authority's operating license will need to be renewed in 2010 and that new restrictions may be imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection, potentially including the treatment of phosphates and nitrates. He also noted that with regard to the installation of the bio-solids dryer, the Authority has given the contractor an additional 90 days to complete the project. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve the JMA report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Recreation Commission – Daphne Klahr stated that the meeting was not held again due to the lack of a quorum. She stated that a letter had been received from Karen Livingood offering to volunteer as a member of the Recreation Commission. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to appoint Karen Livingood to the Recreation Commission. **Motion carried.** Ms. Klahr also noted that interviews for summer staff will be held on February 23rd and 26th if any Council members wish to attend. She noted that they have received 50 applications, much more than in previous years. Ms. Klahr also reported that the installation of the exercise equipment is nearing completion and the equipment is already being utilized by residents.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the Recreation Coordinator's report. **Motion carried.**

Safety Committee – Mr. Tindall noted that the new insurance representative from Vist has been attending the Safety Committee meetings. **Motion** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Safety Committee minutes. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission – Mr. Tindall stated that at the last meeting, the Commission reviewed the conditional use application for 500 Penn Avenue. The Commission recommended the approval of the application to Council, therefore the Public Hearing will be advertised to be held on March 17th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Planning Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad stated that the resident at 321 Franklin Street has applied for a handicapped parking space, therefore the ordinance will need to be advertised. **Motion** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to advertise the handicapped parking space. **Motion carried.**

There were no action items from the Infrastructure Committee minutes. **Motion** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee reports. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani stated that a request had been submitted from Officer Holben, in accordance with the current police contract, to switch a vacation day to a sick day (January 19) which he incurred due to the hospitalization of his child. Chief Fabriziani also asked for a more expeditious manner in which to resolve these requests, given that in the past they were approved by the Borough Manager. He explained that

the new contract inadvertently requires the requests to come to Council and requested that all future requests be approved by the Mayor.

Motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to switch one day (January 19, 2009) from a vacation day to sick day for Officer Holben. **Motion carried.** Council agreed that all such future requests should be handled by the Mayor.

Motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller reported that a snow emergency was declared at the end of January and that 50 tickets were written and 21 cars towed from the snow emergency route. It was noted that the snow emergency was announced for 2 ½ hours along the snow route before the ticketing and towing took place.

Mayor Keller also reported about a letter received from Fortna Inc. regarding the professionalism of our police department and particularly Officer Ed DeLosier who had assisted them during two break-in incidents.

Chapter 14, Part 4, Section 403 of the Borough's Code of Ordinances allows for the Mayor to designate a towing company and storage garage subject to the approval of Council. Mayor Keller asked for approval to name V&M towing as the new towing and salvage company for the Borough. He stated that they have met the requirements in the Ordinance and their fees are competitive. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to designate V&M Towing as the Borough's towing and salvage company. **Motion carried.**

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

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane referred to his written report regarding a fire hydrant in the middle of the 200 block of Penn Avenue (northside) that has been removed due to a motor vehicle accident (the third time the hydrant has been damaged by a vehicle accident). He noted that there are other hydrants in the area that will be easily accessible in the event of a fire. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve the Borough Foreman's Report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder stated that he had distributed copies of the Fire Company's annual report. He announced that on March 13th Congressman Gerlach will be presenting a check to the Fire Company in the amount of \$42,416. which is through the Assistance to Firefighters' Grant Program. **Motion** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve the Fire Chief's Report. **Motion carried.** Mr. Tindall thanked and commended Chief Burkholder for the work he does and for being awarded the grant.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nevin Hollinger updated Council by stating that the votes for the BID will be received and tallied on March 6th. If the BID is renewed, Council will have three tasks: receive the vote count, authorize the advertising of the results, then accept or reject the BID renewal (which can't be done for at least 7 days after the advertising). After discussion regarding the timing, it was decided to advertise on March 10th, hold a special meeting on March 11th to announce the vote count, then take action at Council's regular meeting on March 17th. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to schedule a special meeting on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. to coincide with the BID renewal. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Main Street Executive Director's Report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rohrbach referred to his report which includes year end information. He noted that he has been asked to resubmit the DCED grant under the Borough's name instead of Elm Street because the original contract is under the Borough's name. As well, they are asking for an updated cooperation agreement because the original agreement expired in June 2008. He stated that he has spoken with the solicitors regarding the agreement and revisions have been made, and he asked that Council approve the agreement, contingent upon the Authority approving it. Council would not approve the agreement without first having the opportunity to review it, therefore Mr. Rohrbach was asked to email it to Council. It was noted that the Authority will meet on March 4th and that Council could approve it at the March 11th meeting.

Motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Elm Street Manager's Report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 1/31/09:

Motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the Revenues Report for one month ending 1/31/09. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 1/15/09 TO 2/12/09:

Motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Payment Approval Report for 1/15/09 to 2/12/09. **Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed for Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. No action was taken once the meeting resumed, therefore the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by,

George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary