

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

March 17, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Vice-President Michael Doyle; Council Members Kevin Conrad, James Gallen Jr., Michael Geddio, 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.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Elizabeth Heckler	Resident
	Sheila Scott	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Don Haines	Ephrata
	Jim Livingood	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Pete Santiesteban	500 Penn Avenue
	Rebecca Keller	Resident
	Audrey Schaeffer	Resident
	Bethany Ritzman	Resident
	John Pakradooni	103 Franklin Street
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Daryl Jenkins	Great Valley Consultants

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Reverend Caesar Caseras of Lighthouse Christian Center gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bethany Ritzman stated that she had received a fine of \$86 for not clearing the snow from her sidewalk in January. She wondered why it took so long to be issued and why the charge is so high when the fine itself was only \$25. Code Enforcement Gerald Trate explained that once citations are processed from the Code Enforcement Department, the District Justice issues them. The extra \$61 is for charges from the District Justice's office, which the Borough has no control over. Mr. Doyle asked if there was a way to make the process similar to the parking ticket process and Mr. Georgeadis explained that it can be changed if the ordinance governing the process is changed.

Moved by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to authorize Mr. Georgeadis to investigate the procedure and determine what ordinances need to be enacted. **Motion carried.**

Oswald Herbert spoke regarding the previous Council Meeting when the BID vote was discussed. He suggested the installation of parking meters to offset the BID debt load. Mr. Conrad responded that this has been discussed by the Traffic Committee, however it would cause further parking issues in the residential areas.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the minutes of: February 17 – Special Session; February 17 – Regular Meeting; February 24 – Special Meeting; March 11 – Special Meeting **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins said he had no action items. Questions regarding Phase 5, Penn Avenue, were discussed. It was noted that the work would not require closing 5th Avenue at all. He also noted that the advertisements for the upcoming alley paving project would be in this week's newspaper.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Georgeadis noted that just prior to the Council meeting (6:30 pm) a Public Hearing had been held for the property at 500 Penn Avenue regarding a conditional use application for a second floor apartment, which was requested by the owner, Pedro Santiesteban. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Conditional Use application for 500 Penn Avenue. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Georgeadis also brought two ordinances for approval, the first being #979 which ratifies the millage for 2009 at 5.5 for general purposes and 1.35 for fire protection. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve Ordinance 979. **The motion was carried with a 5-2 vote (Mr. Gallen and Mr. Doyle voted "no").**

The second ordinance addresses the traffic regulation that prevents turning at certain intersections. Mr. Georgeadis explained that it will clean up some outdated sections. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve Ordinance #980. **Motion carried.**

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

Mr. Georgeadis and Mr. Jenkins then left the meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Met-Ed Street Lighting Resolution – Mr. Tindall said that Met-Ed is upgrading more street lights in the borough and requires a resolution to do so. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve Resolution 2009-4 regarding street lighting. **Motion carried.**

Census 2010 – Mr. Tindall stated that a request for volunteers has been received from the 2010 Census Bureau. Anyone interested should contact Borough Hall.

Commission/Committee/Board Appointments – Mrs. Kulesa read the list of reappointments, as follows:

NAME	POSITION	BOARD / COMMITTEE / COMMISSION	TERM	DATES
Jim Beane	Member	Shade Tree Commission	4 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2012
Tom Bausher	Emergency Management Coordinator	West Side EMA	1 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009
Ed Fabriziani	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	West Side EMA	1 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009
Shane Keller	Member	Emergency Management Board	1 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009
Nathalie Kulesa	Member	Emergency Management Board	1 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009
Janice Jackson	Member	Housing Review Board	3 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2011
Michael Doyle	Member	Police Pension Fund Committee	3 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2011
Mark Burkholder	Member	Vacancy Board	1 year	Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the reappointments as stated by Mrs. Kulesa. **Motion carried.**

Met-Ed Planned Power Interruption – Mr. Tindall informed Council that Met-Ed is expecting to shut down power service on April 8th in certain areas on the north side of the Borough in order to make repairs. The shut down is expected to occur during the day, for a period of approximately eight hours. He noted that Met-Ed will be sending at least 3 notices to the residences that will be effected.

As a final note, Mr. Tindall told Council about the “Outstanding New Professional Award” that had been presented to Daphne Klahr at the recent Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society Conference award ceremony.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Trate stated that his department received an overwhelming number of calls regarding the snow citations that were recently issued from the District Justice's office. He also made Council aware of a situation with a local residence which required intervention because it threatened the quality of life for both the resident and neighboring homes. He distributed pictures of the home both before and after the clean-up.

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

JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT:

Mr. Herbert gave a brief report regarding activities of the Authority. **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the JMA report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr asked Council to approve the hiring list for summer Recreation staff that was included in the Council packets. She noted that only three on the list were new employees.

Moved by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the Borough of West Reading summer employee recommendations as found in the packet. *(Mr. Doyle abstained from the vote.)* **Motion carried.**

Ms. Klahr stated that she is working the second part of the grant for the fitness equipment project at the park. The grant will cover paving a walkway around the equipment, safety lighting and additional equipment. She stated that the grant from DCNR will be for \$34,000 with \$7000 being provided by the Borough and \$7000 from the Rotary Club. (The Borough's portion was included in the 2009 budget.) A resolution is required for DCNR to move forward with the grant. **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve the passage of the resolution per DCNR. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Klahr also highlighted the upcoming Fishing Rodeo, Easter Egg Hunt and Father-Daughter Dance.

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

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the Safety Committee minutes of February 17, 2009. **Motion carried.**

Traffic Committee – Mr. Tindall stated that there were no minutes because of a problem with the tape recorder, however there was one housekeeping issue to bring forward. Chief Fabrizio stated that an ordinance amendment needs to be advertised to change the status of 5th and Chestnut from a stop-sign intersection to a traffic signal intersection. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to advertise the ordinance amendment. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabrizio stated that the West Reading Police Department will be receiving \$14,646 grant as part of the government's stimulus package however there are specific parameters for its use. Once more information is received, recommendations will be brought forward. There is also another grant that may provide some funds for personnel, but it will have to be investigated as well.

Chief Fabrizio said there had been two vehicle thefts over the weekend and asked residents to be more watchful of anything that looks unusual.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller stated that PennDot has approved the permit to use Penn Avenue for the Armed Forces Day Parade which will be held on May 16th, beginning in the Borough of Wyomissing and ending in the City of Reading. There was some discussion regarding the funding for the event and the extra personnel required.

Mayor Keller requested reappointment for the following Main Street Authority/Foundation Board Members whose terms expired on December 31st 2008:

John Woodward	Main Street Authority	4 year term
George Tindall	Main Street Foundation	4 year term
Deborah Hutcheson	Main Street Foundation	4 year term

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the reappointments. **Motion carried.**

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

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Beane referred to a recent incident where there was a power outage (caused by Met-Ed equipment) that again effected the Olive Street pumping station. He said that the interruption was short but it was another reminder that a generator is absolutely critical for the pumping station.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the Borough Foreman's Report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder reported that on March 13th Congressman Gerlach presented a ceremonial check to the Fire Company in the amount of \$42,416. He thanked Mrs. Kulesa for attending the presentation. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Fire Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nevin Hollinger said that he had no action items for Council but did mention the upcoming Art on the Avenue event which this year will be linked with Jazz Fest. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the Main Street Executive Director's Report. **Motion carried.**

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dean Rohrbach reported that he has been doing some grant writing and fundraising of late, and announced the April 18th neighborhood clean-up.

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

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 2/28/09:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve the Revenues Report for one month ending 2/28/09. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 2/17/09 TO 3/16/09:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Payment Approval Report for 2/17/09 to 3/16/09. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by,

George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary