

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 20, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Vice-President Michael Doyle; Council Members Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, Michael Morrill, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Borough Foreman Jim Beane; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman. Absent: Council Member James Gallen.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Elizabeth Heckler	Resident
	Sheila Scott	Resident
	Ron Schweitzer	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Don Haines	Ephrata
	Ruth Cardell	Resident
	Jay Kupiszewski	Resident
	John Miskell	Resident
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Darryl Jenkins	Great Valley Consultants

Council President Nathalie Kulesa called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roy Kissinger, St. James Church gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Mayor Keller noted that the September 15th minutes did not adequately record the vote for the motion concerning the Parkview Road bridge. The minutes will be amended to state the following: ***Motion made by Mr. Geddio seconded by Mr. Morrill to accept the bid of \$63,094 to award the contract to EJB Paving and Materials for the Parkview Road Bridge. The motion was carried with a 4-3 vote (Mr. Morrill, Mr. Wert and Mr. Geddio voted "yes"; Mr. Gallen, Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Kulesa voted "no"; Mayor Keller voted "yes" to break the tie).***

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of September 15, 2009 as amended. **Motion carried.**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Georgeadis explained the proposed snow removal ordinance (#985) which has been advertised and is ready for the vote. **Moved** by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the adoption of Ordinance 985. **Motion carried.**

Proposed Ordinance #986 concerning the restatement of the location of a handicapped parking space on Penn Avenue was presented. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to approve the adoption of Ordinance 986. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Georgeadis stated that the Berks County Redevelopment Authority has been working with the Borough to convince the Reading Company to give up any claim they may have for a small piece of property along the river which will become part of the boardwalk. By signing the settlement agreement release, the Borough will vest title momentarily and then will immediately transfer title to the Redevelopment Authority. He added that the Redevelopment Authority has paid all legal expenses and all parties have signed off with the exception of the Borough. It was noted that the Borough will not incur any expense as part of this process. **Moved by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Conrad that the document be executed. Motion carried.**

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins stated that the bids for the Olive Street Pumping Station Emergency Generator Project were opened on October 14th and that low bidder was the Warko Group at \$43,595. **Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to award the Olive Street Pumping Station Emergency Generator Project to the Warko Group in an amount not to exceed \$43,595. Motion carried.**

Mr. Jenkins also spoke about the proposed Zoning Ordinance revisions which creates two new Overlay Districts. The first is a Commercial/Industrial Overlay District along the boundary between West Reading and Wyomissing which will provide continuity of zoning between the two municipalities in the event that there would be redevelopment of the Vanity Fair property. The second is the General Business District Overlay area along Penn Avenue which will allow for businesses that were formerly in the General Business District to adhere to the Central Business District rules and regulations and give them greater flexibility. He asked Council to review the material for discussion at the November meeting.

Mr. Wert asked about the condition of the Parkview Road bridge and Mr. Jenkins stated that the bridge deck condition is not that bad so the project will be finished under budget. He said that most of the damage was caused by salt corroding the concrete. The deck has been completely refinished and a new layer of asphalt sealer will top the deck, which should be complete by the end of the week.

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Met-Ed Resolution – A request has been received from Met-Ed to replace the street light at 324 Franklin Street. **Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Geddio to approve Resolution 2009-12. Motion carried.**

Act 101 Recycling Program Performance Grant – Mr. Tindall reported that the Department of Environmental Protection has approved a recycling performance grant in the amount of \$13,707. which is awarded based on the tonnage of recyclables collected for the year 2008.

Street Trees – Mr. Tindall said that the Borough will be planting about 40 new street trees, 24 of which have already been purchased. They will be planted in October and November.

Handicapped Parking Spaces – Mrs. Kulesa stated that the Traffic Committee has asked that they no longer be required to approve or deny handicapped parking spaces requests. Therefore, effective immediately, handicapped parking regulations will be received by the Police Department, reviewed for conformity to regulations, and forwarded to Council for a decision.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Trate had nothing further to add to his written report. **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – Mr. Tindall stated that as a cost saving measure, medical boxes located at various Borough buildings will no longer be stocked by Zee Medical and that department heads will be responsible for maintaining inventory.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr provided information about various events that are upcoming in the Borough, and provided an update concerning several DCNR grants **Moved** by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Traffic Committee – Mr. Conrad stated that the Committee will soon begin a street sign survey with the assistance of volunteers. The survey will provide information regarding the location, type and condition of all street signs, which will be entered into the GIS system.

Mr. Conrad reported that parking meters were again discussed, however members of the Committee did not recommend that parking meters be installed on Penn Avenue. He stated that the Committee doesn't wish to be involved in this discussion. Mr. Miskell, a resident who works in the parking meter industry and was in attendance, provided Council with some information concerning the positive impact meters can have for a community. Discussion ensued concerning existing parking problems in the Borough. Mr. Tindall was asked about the preparation of a Request For Proposals. After some discussion, Council decided that in order proceed, the approximate cost of a study must be determined. A decision can then be made whether the funds should be allocated for the 2010 budget. It was also decided that the parking meter issue should appear on future agendas under the Borough Manager's report and not under the Traffic Committee.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to approve the Traffic Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Infrastructure Committee – Mr. Conrad spoke about the ongoing work on Sunset Road. Mrs. Kulesa asked about the trucks that are travelling the wrong way on Sunset Road, and Chief Fabrizio stated that if the street is closed to through traffic, it would be okay to do so, however if the street is not closed, they will investigate and do what is necessary to rectify the situation.

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Infrastructure Committee report. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabrizio reported the following:

- Detective Brown was back to work as of October 2nd
- The Citizen Police Academy is going very well
- A homeless camp has been found and will be removed within the week
- The new school playground will soon have surveillance equipment installed which will be funded through the DA's office using drug forfeiture money. The monitoring equipment will be installed at our police department, along with a separate monitor in the school office.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller announced that the Greater Reading Young Professionals will be sponsoring "Costumes on the Corridor" on October 29th, beginning at the Sovereign Center and ending at Viva on Park Road. As well, Mayor Keller stated that trick-or-treat night will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 5 – 9 p.m.

Correspondence was recently received from Diane Price of the Berks County Armed Forces Advisory Committee thanking the borough for their assistance with the 2009 parade. The letter requests West Reading's support for the 2010 parade and requires an answer by December 15th as to the fiscal issues that may require their assistance. Mayor Keller said that the borough will have to decide if we wish to participate again and if so, what are the expenses that we would like them to offset. Mrs. Kulesa asked that the Chief and Mr. Tindall have some figures ready for the November council meeting for discussion.

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

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

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

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rohrbach stated that in his written report he had detailed various projects that have been funded by DCED. He specifically noted the Deer Alley survey that has been completed which includes a large map that was prepared showing problem areas. It has been reviewed by the NAC and will soon be reviewed by the Authority. Encroachment has occurred along the public right-of-way and some action will need to be taken in this regard.

Mr. Rohrbach informed Council that with the State's decreased budget, DCED funds have been cut severely. As a result the Elm Street/Main Street programs have been reduced from \$18 million to \$11 million, \$9 million of which has already been allocated. He stated that they will be preparing another application to be submitted as quickly as possible for residential reinvestment funds.

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

REVENUE WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – 9 MONTHS ENDING 9/30/09:

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Revenue Report for the nine months ending 9/30/09. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 9/16/09 to 10/15/09 and 10/16/09 to 10/18/09:

Moved by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Payment Approval Report for 9/16/09 to 10/18/09. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

As Council prepared to move to Executive Session, Mr. Conrad referred to the meeting at the Fire Company on October 19th concerning the PERF study. He noted that as part of the study it had been recommended that municipalities consider regionalizing policing services in an effort to save funds. He asked Council if the Borough should start the process by having the Mayor and Fire Chief hold discussions with municipalities in the area to find out what their interest level is. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Morrill to request that Mayor Keller and Chief Fabriziani begin talking to municipalities identified in the PERF study. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Morrill reminded Council that as part of their budget meetings, it had been suggested that the Borough look beyond fire and police for the regionalization of services. Mr. Morrill, Mr. Tindall, Mr. Beane, Ms. Klahr and Mrs. Kulesa all voiced an interest in beginning discussions with other municipalities in this regard.

As Council would not be taking any action after the Executive Session (personnel issues), it was **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Doyle to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant

George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary