

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 21, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Michael Doyle, Kevin Conrad, Michael Geddio, James Gallen Jr., 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 Clerk Stephanie Burkholder.

VISITORS: Darrin Youker- Reading Eagle Reporter
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Avenue
Elizabeth Heckler – 460 Chestnut Street
Sheila Scott – 322 Chestnut Street
Karen Livingood- 211 Sycamore Road
Oswald Herbert- 314 Reading Avenue
Don Haines – 156B West Fulton Street
Jane Meeks- Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Darryl Jenkins – Great Valley Consultants

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Oswald Herbert – 416 Reading Avenue

Mr. Herbert spoke regarding an article that he found in USA Today regarding the “Collapse of the US Financial Market. He stated that the Borough is in debt, possibly due to action from prior Councils.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

On motion duly made by Mr. Gallen seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Council minutes of September 16th 2008.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT:

Joint Municipal Authority- Looking for a volunteer from the Borough. The individual who was contacted recently is unavailable.

UGI- After much discussion Council requested that a map be drawn up so Council may review the suggested route of the UGI pipe. RHMC was in attendance along with Kurt Zieliskowski to answer any questions and concerns that Council may have. No decisions were made.

Budget Workshop Schedule- The following budget meetings will be advertised and will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Borough hall; 11/06/2008, 11/13/2008 and 11/20/2008.

Advertise for Trash/Recycling Collection Request for Bids- Jane Meeks from Berks County Solid Waste Authority was in attendance during this discussion. It was noted that the Borough can bid on trash pick-up for once a week, twice a week and even for grass clippings. Recycling would get picked up on Wednesdays. There would be a 2 year contract instead of a 3 year contract. Borough Manager George Tindall thanked Jane for her assistance.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill seconded by Mr. Doyle and passed, Council approved the advertising of the Trash/Recycling bids.

Western Berks Ambulance Association- Some discussion ensued regarding letters that were sent out to residents. Fire Chief Burkholder said there wasn't anything in the letters requesting money nor was there a fundraising letter. The Western Berks contract does not expire until 2014.

Non-Agenda Item- The Borough Manager suggested that he would like for Council to approach Cumru Township regarding the Borough taking ownership of a small piece of land which is isolated and next to West Reading and the City of Reading.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council to approach Cumru Twp regarding West Reading taking over the small isolated piece of land.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Jenkins requested from Council the release of escrow funds for Candlewood Suites in the amount of \$10,130. The amount would be released from funds to be reimbursed to the Borough for storm water improvements on Franklin Street while the street was paved.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle and passed, Council approved the release of funds to the Borough in the amount of \$10,130.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Engineer's Report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Codes Officers Tracey and Gerry had been invited to Bethany Lutheran Church by Mrs. Heckler to speak to a group of Senior Citizens and answer any questions that they may have. The Codes Department is using door hangers instead of handing out notices to property owners. A record is being kept so the Codes Department knows which properties have been posted as well as pictures. The process has been very effective.

On motion duly made by Mr. Gallen, seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Code Enforcement Officer's Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor addressed to Council regarding seasonal part-time employees at the pool and the playground being subjected to the Borough's drug and alcohol testing. If the policy is satisfactory it can be enacted and a part of the Borough's policy. Random testing is now being required for all Borough employees including seasonal (non-uniform).

On motion duly made by Mr. Wert, seconded by Mr. Gallen and passed, Council passed the alcohol and drug policy.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Gallen and passed, Council approved the Solicitor's Report.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Traffic Committee –

Kevin Conrad advised Council that the Committee is looking to change the nights of the Traffic Committee and Infrastructure Committee meetings starting in November which needs to be advertised. The Committee is currently meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month and is becoming a conflict in which they are then waiting a month for until any action can be taken.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the changing of the meetings for Traffic and Infrastructure to the second Thursday of each month.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle and passed, Council approved to accept the handicap parking space policy as originally stated on October 15, 2008.

Chief Fabrizio advised Council that while Public Works Foreman Jim Beane was erecting the signs on S. 4th Avenue between Penn and Cherry he found out that there is one space that has been there for many years which is a 10 minute zone and needs to be repealed. The sign is located on the west side of S 4th Avenue. The Committee will get the ordinance to show Mr. Georgeadis.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Doyle and passed, Council approved repealing of those parking spaces.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Traffic Committee minutes.

Infrastructure Committee –

Mr. Conrad reported that as part of the budget process, several water projects were identified for future consideration. Mr. Jenkins was on hand any questions.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Infrastructure Committee minutes.

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr provided a brief synopsis of recent and upcoming events. The hayride that was held on 10/17/2008 and 10/18/2008 was very successful. She is looking into getting a second wagon for next year to help with the long lines. Ms. Klahr thanked the Fire Dept, Public Works Dept and Cumru Twp Police Dept for the use of their McGruff costume and to Officer Holben for bringing K-9 Dolfo to the event.

-On 11/17/2008 the Recreation Committee will be hosting the Mother-Son Dance at West Reading Elementary Center. This year's theme is cowboy/cowgirl related. Last year there were 150 persons in attendance and they are hoping to increase that amount.

-12/05/2008 will be the Borough's annual tree lighting event.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Recreation Commission report.

Safety Committee – **On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Safety Committee report.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani advised Council that his statistics report will be included in next months report. He also reported that Cpl Keith Phillips is back from a work related injury as of 10/02/2008.

Chief Fabriziani provided details regarding the following:

- Several break-ins had occurred to vehicles that were not locked.
- Windows had been shot out in several vehicles involving a BB gun.
- A letter was read by the Chief from Robeson Police Dept thanking Officer Nguyen for assisting them in capturing an individual who was involved in the theft of scrap metal from a property. A vehicle description had been broadcast over Berks Radio. About 5 cases have been solved thanks to the help of Crime Alert Berks County.
- Areas of Penn Avenue and West Reading Elementary had experienced a graffiti issue. Within 30 minutes of the broadcast on Berks Radio a tip was received and the suspect confessed for both.

In the budget for 2009 line item #410-350 (which was for informant monies) had been budgeted \$500. The Chief is requesting Council to consider giving Crime Alert Berks County the \$500 since it wasn't used this year and most of their information is coming from Crime Alert.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved to take \$500 from line item #410-350 and send to Crime Alert Berks County.

Chief Fabriziani requested an executive session to discuss a police issue after the meeting.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle seconded by Mr. Gallen and passed, Council approved the Police Chief's Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Keller announced that there is a Code Red Reverse 9-1-1 link on the Borough's website which will enable residents and business owners in the Borough to log in and enter their information and to make sure it's accurate and up to date.

He also reported that the Main Street Authority did open bids at their 10/06/2008 meeting and the Solicitor is currently reviewing the bid packets that were submitted. There has not been a bid awarded as of yet.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Mayor's Report.

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

The Borough Foreman advised that he would like Council to consider the approval of the service contract through M&S Service Company for the service work on the pump stations.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the renewal of the service contract through M&S Service Company.

On motion duly made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Borough Foreman's Report.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder distributed his report to members of Council. He noted that the ladder truck has been sent out for rust repairs. The repairs expect to take a month. The engine was involved in a MVA recently. Chief Burkholder is waiting for the estimate to come in; once he receives it, the engine will go out for repairs. A full report of the repairs will be in next months report. The chief also reported the open house held at the fire company in October went very well.

On motion duly made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Morrill and passed, Council approved the Fire Chief's Report.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Main Street Executive Director Nevin Hollinger-

It's anticipated that the schedule will remain the same with the decision being made by Council in January. Everything should be completed by January in preparation for a decision by Council. Mr. Hollinger listed several businesses which plan to move to West Reading.

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Wert and passed, Council approved the Main Street Executive Director's Report.

ELM STREET MANAGER'S REPORT:

Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach highlighted the following:

- There is \$625,000 available in matching grants; for every \$1.00 you put up the state will give you \$10.00.
- Planting grants are available for \$750 to leverage the \$7500 for a deed search and property survey to open up Deer Alley which is located in the 300 block between Kline and Chestnut Streets.

A resolution will be needed at the next Council meeting for an infrastructure grant in the amount of \$250,000; the authority and the NAC will need to have a public hearing on those subjects.

Motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Doyle and passed, Council approved the Elm Street Manager's Report.

REVENUES WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – ENDING 9/30/08:

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Geddio and passed, Council approved the Revenues Report for the nine months ending 9/30/08.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT - 9/16/08 TO 10/17/08:

On motion duly made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Conrad and passed, Council approved the Payment Approval Report for 9/16/08 to 10/17/08.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss on ongoing police issue. The meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to give Cathy Hoffman an increase in pay of \$.93, going from a rate of \$15.07 to \$16.00 per hour effective the next pay period. There was a 5-2 vote with Mr. Conrad and Mr. Gallen voting no.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Burkolder
Administrative Clerk

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary