

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECEMBER 19, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on the above date. Council President Stephanie J. Murray called the meeting to order with the following persons present: Council Members Kevin M. Conrad, Michael H. Doyle (7:15 p.m.), Michael P. Ferenchick, Amy Good-Ashman (7:25 p.m.), Nathalie R. Kulesa, and Michael W. Morrill; Mayor Shane J. Keller, Borough Manager George I. Tindall, Solicitor Socrates J. Georgeadis, Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani, Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder, Code Compliance Officer Jason S. Ganster, Borough Foreman Jim A. Beane, and Administrative Assistant Rosalie A. Loeper.

VISITORS: Karen and Jim Livingood – 211 Sycamore Rd
Ruth Cardell – 728 Reading Ave
Chris Reinert – 158 Penn Ave
Rev. Sean Myers – St. James Church
Phil Wert – 214 Olive St
Kelly Lonaberger – 133 Franklin St
Don Haines – 156 West Fulton St

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Pastor Myers gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved the minutes of the Council/Budget Meeting of October 19, 2006 and the Regular Council Meeting of November 21, 2006.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's Report. The following items were discussed:

Adopt 2007 Budget – Mr. Tindall informed Council that 2006 should end with an approximate balance of \$380,000 and the General Fund balance should be approximately \$30,887. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council adopted the 2007 Budget.

Authorize Great Valley Consultants to update Zoning and SALDO ordinance – 01-413-330-00. Mr. Tindall stated that he has worked with Great Valley Consultants during the past year and in that time they have become very familiar with the current Borough Zoning Ordinance and its loopholes. Mr. Ferenchick reminded everyone that any recommendations must go before the Planning

Commission. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael Morrill, and passed, Council authorized Great Valley Consultants to update the Zoning and SALDO ordinance.

2007 Water Rate Increase – Mr. Tindall stated that the Western Berks Water Authority has advised that it is increasing the water rates 10% to the Borough. The following rate increases were recommended: Quarterly Residential/Public rate from \$3.53 to \$3.85 per every 100 cf.; Quarterly Commercial/Industrial rate from \$3.92 to \$4.14 per every 100 cf.; Monthly Residential/Public rate from \$3.81 to \$4.24 per every 100 cf.; and Monthly Commercial/Industrial rate from \$4.20 to \$4.55 per every 100 cf. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, and passed, Council approved to advertise the above rates for adoption in January 2007.

Authorize Borough Manager and Public Works Foreman to prepare lease agreement for street sweeper – 30-430-000-00. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council authorized the Borough Manager and the Public Works Foreman to prepare the lease agreement for the street sweeper.

Authorize advertisement for Public Works Laborer – 01-430-140-00; Code Enforcement Officer – 01-413-133-00; for Seasonal Maintenance Workers – 01-430-172-50; for Pool Staff- 90-452-180-01. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved to advertise for the above-listed positions.

Authorize purchase of replacement Public Works vehicle not to exceed \$50,000 – 01-430-336-00. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council approved to replace a Public Works vehicle, not to exceed \$50,000, which includes several pieces of equipment, which will go on it.

Approve Council, Commission, Committee Meeting Calendar for 2007 – Council reviewed the meeting calendar for 2007, which schedules the May Council meeting on May 22 instead of May 15, which is Primary Election Day. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council approved the meeting calendar for all groups for 2007.

Reappointments for 2007 – Council reviewed the following list and on motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, approved the following list of names to serve.

Business Privilege & Occupational Privilege Tax Collector
Berks Earned Income Tax

1/1/07 12/31/07

Planning Commission – 4 Year Term

Robert H. Frill	1/1/07 12/31/10
Ronald V. Schaffer – new appointment	11/21/06 12/31/08

Fire Chief and Hazardous Materials Incident Commander – 1 Yr-Term

Mark D. Burkholder	1/1/07 12/31/07
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First Assistant Fire Chief

Richard Quattrock	1/1/07 12/31/07
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Second Assistant Fire Chief

Dean E. Murray	1/1/07 12/31/07
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Lieutenants

Jason S. Ganster – Fire Marshall & this position	1/1/07 12/31/07
Chad Moyer	1/1/07 12/31/07
James A. Beane	1/1/07 12/31/07

Emergency Management Coordinator

Thomas Bausher	1/1/07 12/31/07
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Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani	1/1/07 12/31/07
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Emergency Management Board Member

Shane J. Keller	1/1/07 12/31/07
Stephanie J. Murray	1/1/07 12/31/07

Zoning Hearing Board - 5 Year Term

Rodney E. Baer	1/1/07 12/31/11
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Housing Review Board – 3 Year Term

Michael Geddio - new appointment	1/1/07 12/31/09
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Police Pension Fund Committee – 3 Year Term

Kevin P. Duncan, Sr.	1/1/07 12/31/09
Vacancy	9/23/06 12/31/08

Vacancy Board – 1 Year Term

Mark D. Burkholder	1/1/07 12/31/07
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West Reading High School Class of 1955 – Mr. Tindall advised that the graduating class of West Reading High School – Class of 1955 - during its recent reunion through member Jim Rogers took up a collection to plant trees in memory of this class. The trees have been purchased and planted. Mr. Tindall thanked the Class of 1955.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Engineer's Report. The following items were discussed:

Belovich Group Town Homes - Release No. 7 - Project Manager for Great Valley Consultants, Edward J. Fink, recommends the payment of Release No. 7 from the escrow account for \$50,700.00 to Belovich Group. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved payment of \$50,700.00 to Belovich Group for Release No. 7.

Street Paving of Beaver and Elk Alleys – EJB Paving and Materials Company - Payment Application No. 1 – EJB Paving and Materials Company has presented the first and final payment request for this project for \$23,625.56. Mr. Jenkins of Great Valley Consultants recommends full payment of the requested amount. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved Payment No. 1 for \$23,625.56 to EJB Paving and Materials Company, as first and final payment.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Solicitor's Report. The following items were discussed:

Ordinance No. 943 – Open Burning and Recreational Fires – This ordinance was passed at the November 21, 2006 Council meeting in order to receive County grant funds to purchase a leaf vacuum. The Solicitor advised that this ordinance was not advertised for the November meeting, but had been advertised for the December meeting. He asked that the ordinance be re-enacted. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 943.

Ordinance No. 944 – Tax Rate for 2007 – This ordinance fixes the tax rate for 2007. The Tax Rate for General purposes is 4.25 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation and the tax rate for Fire Protection purposes is 1.35 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 944.

Ordinance No. 945 – Amends Chapter XIV – Motor Vehicles and Traffic – This ordinance amends various sections of Chapter XIV. This ordinance prohibits parking on the east side of Playground Drive at a point 185 feet south of Sycamore Road; limits parking on the east side of South Second Avenue at a point 36.5 feet south of Cherry Street and a point 44.5 feet southwardly therefore Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as two-hour parking; and places a handicapped parking space on the east side of Olive Street at a point 114 feet south of Walnut Street and a point 22 feet southwardly thereof. On motion duly

made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council adopted Ordinance No. 945.

Authorize advertisement of ordinance to change frequency of residential rental inspections – 01-400-340-00. This ordinance will provide for once-a-year inspections and when a rental unit is vacated. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved to advertise an ordinance to change the frequency of residential rental inspections.

Resolution No. 2006-19 - Revised Schedule of Rates for the Borough for 2007 – Mr. Tindall explained the changes in rates for playground, pool, certificate of occupancy, sign permit, and rental housing occupancy permit. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-19.

Heliport License for The Reading Hospital & Medical Center – Solicitor Georgeadis stated that he has obtained the Heliport License for The Hospital voluntarily by Richard Mable of The Reading Hospital. The license was issued on September 22, 2004. There are two approved flight paths by directional. The one is 360° – 180° and the other is 100° and 280°. Mr. Tindall explained the degree system. Mr. Georgeadis will investigate further.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council accepted the October 25 and November 15, 2006 Traffic Committee minutes. The following items were discussed:

Fourth Avenue and Franklin Street – The Traffic Committee recommends the removal of two parking spaces. One on the Northwest corner and the other at the Southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Franklin Street. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, and passed, Council approved to advertise for the removal of these two parking spaces.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad and passed, Council accepted the October 25 and November 15, 2006 Infrastructure Committee minutes.

RECREATION COMMISSION – On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Recreation Commission Report. The following items were discussed:

Christmas Decorating Contest – Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa announced the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest.

Colored Lights – Barry Lehr, 127 Olive St
 Jasmine Zuluaga, 200 Playground Dr
 Jeff Bohn, 117 Kent Way
 Overall – Mary Pratt, 415 Franklin St
 Irene Lape, 223 Olive St
 White Lights – Jill Bradley, 422 Sycamore Rd
 Deborah Miller, 306 Summit St
 Shannon Wagner, 535 Chestnut St
 Borough Employee that decorates, but is not allowed to win anything –
 Jim Beane, 143 Tulpehocken Ave.
 Recreation Commission Member that decorates, but is not allowed
 winning anything – Katie and Tim Macrina, 309 Sunset Rd

Tree Lighting Ceremony – Mrs. Kulesa noted that the Tree Lighting Ceremony went well.

PLANNING COMMISSION – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Planning Commission Report. Philip Wert and Amy Good-Ashman were appointed Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Council Member Michael Ferenchick stated personnel minutes would be forthcoming.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Police Chief's Report. The following items were discussed:

Traffic and Non-Traffic Citations - Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani stated that beginning January 2007, the County of Berks will no longer purchase Traffic and Non-Traffic Citations for the Borough. Because of this, the Borough started stockpiling the citations; however, it was recently found that the AOPC have raised the cost to take a hearing from \$6 to \$7. The officers may use the current citations; however, they must remember to change the cost from \$6 to \$7. The cost to purchase citations is \$95/thousand. The 11 cents per citation cost comes out of the \$12.50 the Borough receives.

House Bill – Chief Fabriziani was notified that in 2007, the Borough must pay for DUI costs for blood tests, if the suspect is not arrested. The blood tests cost between \$200 and \$300. More information is forthcoming.

Executive Session – Chief Fabriziani requested an executive session to discuss police personnel

MAYOR'S REPORT/GARDEN CLUB – On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael P. Ferenchick, and passed, Council accepted the Mayor's Report. The following items were discussed:

Thank you - Mayor Shane J. Keller thanked everyone for the flowers, cards, and words of sympathy during his time of bereavement. Mayor Keller also thanked all involved with the tree lighting ceremony and for Mr. and Mrs. Claus who were a big hit. He also thanked the Doyle family for the yellow ribbons placed upon the tree.

Parade Approval and PennDOT Approval – Mayor Keller requested Council approval to hold a parade on March 17 and approval to have Chief Fabriziani write PennDOT for its approval. He explained the assembly point of the parade is at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, which will proceed north on Seventh Avenue, east on Penn Avenue to Third Avenue, south on Third Avenue to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore to the playground. Mayor Keller announced that he recently did a spot for Comcast TV, to broadcast every 25 minutes and 55 minutes of the hour during January. Mr. Keller announced that Kuhn Funeral Home has donated their TV time and newspaper ad space for the Centennial. On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council approved to hold a parade on March 17, 2007 and approved to have Chief Fabriziani write PennDOT for its approval to close Penn Avenue for the parade.

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT - On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Borough Foreman's Report. Everyone congratulated Mr. Beane on the birth of his third son, Caleb Macauley Beane, born on December 8, 2006.

MAIN STREET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council accepted the Main Street Executive Director's Report. The following items were discussed:

Resolution No.2006-16 – Proposal for Funds with DCED of the Commonwealth of PA - This resolution authorizes the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$50,000 for Year-3 funding of the Elm Street Program component of the PA New Communities Program. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-16

Resolution No. 2006-17 – Authorizes the installation of Beautification Planters
This resolution authorizes the installation of beautification planters at specific gateway locations within the ten points Neighborhood of the Borough

of West Reading. This program provides for funding up to \$20,000. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-17.

Resolution No. 2006-18 – Authorizes the Installation of Pedestrian Safety Lighting on the Borough of West Reading Penn Avenue Underpass

This resolution authorizes the installation of Pedestrian Safety Lighting on the Borough of West Reading Penn Avenue Underpass – Milepost AF-9.20 – File 117-30935 of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge. On motion duly made by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, seconded by Council Member Michael H. Doyle, and passed, Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-18.

Thank You – Mr. Loth thanked the Borough Crew for doing an outstanding job on decorating Penn Avenue.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael P. Ferencick, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council accepted the Code Compliance Officer’s Report. The following items were discussed:

Penn View Motel – Demolition has started.

West Reading Walk-In Bingo - The Zoning Hearing Board approved “package bingo” at the West Reading Walk-In Bingo.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT: On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Nathalie R. Kulesa, and passed, Council accepted the Fire Chief’s Report. Fire Chief Mark D. Burkholder stated the Children’s Christmas Party went well. He also stated that he is waiting for the return of the Squad/Rescue vehicle.

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT BY GL NO. – FULLY PAID INVOICES DATED 11/16/06 TO 12/12/06. On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved this report.

PAID INVOICE REPORT AND UNPAID INVOICE REPORT – On motion duly made by Council Member Michael W. Morrill, seconded by Council Member Kevin M. Conrad, and passed, Council approved these reports 6-1, with Council Member Amy Good-Ashman abstaining.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE – SIGNS PERMITTED IN ALL DISTRICTS – Council Member Michael Morrill stated that the Solicitor has reviewed the proposed sign ordinance and made some changes to it. This ordinance had previously been presented to Council. Following discussion, Council decided that the Solicitor would fine-tune the ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Stephanie J. Murray called an executive session to discuss police personnel and litigation. The meeting reconvened and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Loeper
Recording Secretary

Approved by George I. Tindall
Borough Manager/Secretary