

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

February 28, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, with the following persons present: Council President Ryan Lineaweaver; Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Pro-Tem Christopher Lincoln; Council Members Jennifer Bressler, Patrick Kaag, Denise Drobnick, and Zachary Shaver; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Solicitor Joan London; Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer Chad Moyer; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas (via Zoom); Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

VISITORS:

Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom)

James Rogers, Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Lineaweaver noted an executive session that was held today at 6:15 p.m. to select a candidate for the Public Works position and discuss pending litigation for the Lofts at Narrow. It was noted that Borough Council will reconvene to executive session immediately following tonight's business meeting without anticipated action to discuss employee performances.

3. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers inquired as to any action taken after the second executive session last week. Mr. Lineaweaver reported that no action was taken.

Mr. Rogers described his October comment regarding reinspection's of the Lofts at Narrow building based on the Fire Marshal's report of a chemical odor in the building. Ms. London explained that executive session discussions did not pertain to items within the Fire Marshal's report but to rental property inspections, permitting and fees. A judge found the fees to be reasonable and the inspection to be lawful under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Lofts at Narrow appealed that decision which is currently pending a settlement agreement. Mr. Rogers indicated that he would bring a copy of the Fire Marshal's report to the next Council meeting that lists the chemical in question.

5. **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Fire Police Approval** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to allow the solicitor to draft an ordinance that would authorize the Borough Manager to approve Fire Police assistance requests. Mr. Lineaweaver indicated that this would alleviate the stress of last-minute requests obtaining Borough Council approval.

Motion to request the Borough Solicitor to draft an ordinance to authorize the Borough Manager to execute Fire Police Assistance requests. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Shaver. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. **Public Works Position** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to provide a conditional offer of employment for a full-time Public Works position. Mr. Lineaweaver noted that the Personnel Committee met last week to interview several candidates and has made a recommendation to Borough Council.

Motion to provide a conditional offer of full-time employment to an individual to fill the Public Works position. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- c. **Special Event Ad Hoc Committee** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to create an Ad Hoc Committee to meet on the first Friday of the month to review special event applications. This would allow better coordination of comments and recommendations prior to being brought to Borough Council for approval.

Motion to authorize the creation of a Special Event Ad Hoc Committee to review Special Event Applications. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Shaver. **Motion carried 7-0.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers recalled the chemical odor that was noted in the Fire Marshal's report associated with the Lofts at Narrow building as creosote.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made to recess to executive session at 7:13 p.m. without anticipation of any action to discuss employee performances. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Borough Council reconvened at 8:33 p.m. No action was needed at this time.

- 8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Shaver and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary