

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL
2nd Regular Meeting

April 25, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its 2nd Regular Meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 with the following persons present: Council President Carl Garman; Vice President Nathalie R. Kulesa; Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr.; Council Members Christopher Lincoln, Suzanne Thompson, Philip C. Wert, Nicholas Imbesi; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Cathy L. Hoffman; Solicitor Keith Mooney; Engineer Tom Unger. Council Member Grace Craze was unable to attend.

VISITORS:	James T. Rogers	Resident
	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Katina Boyce	Mobilitie
	Kevin Golden	Mobilitie Solicitor

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Garman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. CONDITIONAL USE HEARING:

The meeting was recessed at 7:04 p.m. to conduct a Conditional Use Hearing concerning the addition of a utility pole with a wireless communication device on the 300 block of S. 7th Avenue. Council heard testimony from the applicant and reviewed the exhibits. Council then moved into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. to consider the application. When the Hearing reconvened at 7:40 p.m. a motion was brought forward with the following conditions:

1. That the Borough be allowed to co-locate on the pole
2. That the necessary permits must be received prior to beginning the work
3. Mobilitie must comply with all Borough codes
4. Mobilitie must provide security for the removal of the pole, if necessary

The motion was made by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried 6-0.**

It was also noted that the decision would be announced at the May 17th Council meeting.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to close the hearing. **Motion carried 6-0.**

(Transcribed minutes of the Hearing will be available with the decision.)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amber Rambo spoke about various code issues including hedges that are too tall (by the school and at stop signs), parking issues, ordinances not being enforced on weekends, and issues with curbs and sidewalks.

James T. Rogers spoke about parking on Grape Street and snow plowing on Reading Avenue.

Oswald Herbert spoke about the replacement of curbs and sidewalks.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Sidewalk Replacement Moratorium** – Council again reviewed the ‘Sidewalk Repair’ document and discussed the proposed remediation plans for sidewalks that have been lifted by overgrown shade trees. Because the moratorium has been in place for so long it was recommended that residents be given sufficient time to plan for the concrete repairs. It was also noted that even if a resident is ready to repair their sidewalk, the Shade Tree Commission may not have the funds to remove the tree. Borough staff were asked to obtain the number of worst sidewalks that would require repair as soon as possible. Once Council knows how many properties fit in the ‘high’ category, they can better determine how to proceed. This will also be brought back to the Infrastructure Committee for final review.
- **Crossing Guards** – As a follow-up to previous discussions regarding the crossing guards, a handout was provided concerning training, which can be done at no cost by AAA. After much discussion, it was determined that according to the Borough Code a resolution must be passed by the school district in order for the Borough to enact the necessary ordinance, given that there is currently no written document that covers the relationship between the Borough and the school district concerning crossing guards. Mayor Rodriguez stated that he has discussed this with the superintendent and Ms. Vicente has stated that she will be able to provide the resolution, therefore Mayor Rodriguez will communicate Council’s request to move forward with the process.
- **Sweeper Purchase – Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to authorize the first payment of \$53,268.10 for the purchase of the street sweeper. **Motion carried 6-0.**

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Special Event Permit** – Some concern was raised about an upcoming event sponsored by a local business which was approved by Council and included the closing of S. 6th Avenue for the event. Given that the Borough currently doesn’t have a permit that would cover necessary safety aspects of this type of event, it was decided that the Public Safety Committee review a draft that was prepared by staff and determine how to implement the necessary changes. Mr. Mooney said that Bern Township has a very thorough permit application and said he would obtain a copy. Aspects of concern include certificate of insurance, adequate barriers, police presence if necessary, special permit from PLCB etc. Mr. Garman will also contact the organizer of the upcoming event to ensure that safety measures are in place. The Public Safety Committee will also review the Bern Township application and determine what action should be taken.
- **Rock Salt Order** – The annual agreement with the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council for 250 tons of rock salt needs to be completed and executed. **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to approve execution of the rock salt agreement. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- **Penn Avenue Street Closures** – Due to an oversight, the CRF events for 2017 have not been formally approved by Council therefore it was **Moved** by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to approve Art on the Avenue on June 17th, Cruisin’ the Avenue on September 2nd, Fall Festival on September 16th and Run Santa Run on December 9th. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council recessed to Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss personnel. When the regular meeting reconvened at 10:12 p.m. it was Moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to hire Danny C. Voorhies and Brandon L. Breitenstein as full time police officers subject to the completion of the additional required testing. **Motion carried 6-0.**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

James T. Rogers spoke about restricted parking on street sweeping days and also asked if there was anything further concerning the possible purchasing of the land by the river.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Imbesi to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Borough Manager/Secretary