

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 3, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its reorganization meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 with the following persons present: Mayor Shane Keller; Council Members James Gallen Jr., Elizabeth Heckler, Philip Wert, Kevin Conrad, Deborah Hutcheson, Nathalie Kulesa; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Police Chief Edward C. Fabriziani; Attorney Peter Schuchman Jr., (Kozloff Stoudt); Administrative Clerk Stephanie Burkholder. Absent: Council Member Amy Good-Ashman.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Mark Burkholder	West Reading resident & Fire Chief
	Tracey Levering	Code Enforcement Officer
	Dean Murray	Public Works Director

1. Mayor Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mayor Keller requested nominations for the office of Council President. Mr. Wert nominated Kevin Conrad. As there were no other nominations for the office of Council President, Mayor Keller closed the floor for nominations and requested the vote for the appointment of Kevin Conrad as Borough Council President, which was passed unanimously.

Mayor Keller requested nominations for the office of Borough Council Vice President. Mr. Wert nominated James Gallen, Jr. As there were no other nominations for the office of Council Vice President, Mayor Keller closed the floor for nominations and requested the vote for the appointment of James Gallen, Jr as Vice President of Borough Council, which was passed unanimously.

Mayor Keller then turned the meeting over to Mr. Conrad.

Mr. Conrad advised that Council needs to elect a President pro tem. This would be in case either the president or vice-president isn't present at the meeting. Mrs. Heckler nominated Philip Wert for President pro tem, which was passed unanimously.

3. **ORDINANCE # 1007**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the tax rates for 2012 to be advertised and then passed at the January meeting. The rates would be 5.5 mills for real estate and 1.6 mills for fire protection. Motion carried.

4. **APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS FOR 2012**

Mr. Conrad advised that Mark Burkholder could not remain on the vacancy board because he's

already an elected official as being the borough's Tax Collector and cannot do both. Mr. Keller advised that someone cannot be considered an elected official if they are an employee. Ms. Kulesa had suggested Stu McDonough as being a member of the vacancy board but will need to confirm with him first to see if he's interested. Mr. Conrad stated that for the time being they will keep Mr. Burkholder on the vacancy board until they find a replacement.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the list of appointments and reappointments for 2012. **Motion carried.**

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING CALENDAR**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the meeting calendar as distributed which will include the addition of the EAC to be added to this list which was missed. **Motion carried.**

6. **FIRE TRUCK SALE**

Discussion ensued regarding the fire truck and what the best option was as far as what to do with the truck. The options were to either scrap the truck or donate it to the Keystone Hook and Ladder Co. #1 of Reading. Mr. Sichler stated that Keystone Hook and Ladder is a 501C3 non-profit organization that Mark Civitarese is involved with and the company has the desire to turn the truck into a tour bus which would limit the borough's liability. Mr. Conrad said he would like to see the truck be used for something instead of just scrapping it. Mr. Keller suggested donating the truck, and then Keystone can make whatever modifications needed. Mr. Conrad suggested stating in the agreement that the borough has the option to scrap the truck and keep the funds themselves if Keystone decides to scrap the truck in the next two years.

Motion made by Ms. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to donate the ladder truck to the Keystone Hook and Ladder Co #1 of Reading, with the condition that it not be scrapped for a period of two years. **Motion carried.**

7. **CODES SECRETARY POSITION**

Motion made by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the hiring of Ms. Cynthia Shaner for the Codes Secretary position at a pay rate of \$14.43/hr. Mr. Keller estimated that her initial start date would be on January 17th depending upon when Ms. Shaner provides her resignation to her current employer. **Motion carried.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was then reconvened by Mr. Conrad at 7:24 p.m. He had advised that the final copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement from February of 2011 for the police department needed to be signed.

Motion made by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to authorize Mr. Conrad and Mr. Sichler to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to readjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Burkholder
Administrative Clerk