

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 30, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held a special meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 to discuss personnel, with the following persons present: Council President Nicholas Imbesi; Council Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Christopher Lincoln, Nicholas Gardecki, Patrick Kaag; Jennifer Bressler, Suzanne Thompson; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman.

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Oswald Herbert	Resident
	James Rogers	Resident
	Jason Ulrich	Resident
	Karen Livingood	Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Nicholas Imbesi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., which was followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council recessed to executive session at 7:02 p.m. to discuss personnel. When Council reconvened at 8:00 p.m. the following actions were taken:

Mr. Imbesi explained that staff had been working with Council to fill the Code Enforcement Department Manager position which is budgeted for the last half of 2019 and as a result, current Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman will assume this position as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Imbesi will then accept the position of Borough Manager effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to put these changes into place, Mr. Imbesi read his letter of resignation from Borough Council.

July 30, 2019

Honorable Members of Council,

In order to implement the proposed restructuring of borough administration, please accept this letter as my official resignation from West Reading Borough Council effective immediately.

Serving on council and as your Council President has been the greatest honor and privilege in my life. The amount we have been able to accomplish together for the Borough of West Reading is truly remarkable and each of your contributions to our community do not go unnoticed. West Reading is a better place because of the hard work each of you bring to the table.

I am beyond excited about the new direction taking place in our borough. The steps we are about to take will help ensure better services for our residents and improve the codes department, which will strengthen our borough government to answer the call of service.

Thank you for entrusting me as your council leader and for giving me the opportunity to serve. West Reading is a great community and I know together we will make it even better.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas F. Imbesi

**Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Kaag to accept Nicholas Imbesi's resignation from Borough Council. **Motion carried 6-0**

Mr. Imbesi removed himself from the Council table and Mr. Wert then presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag to reassign Cathy Hoffman as the Code Enforcement Department Manager effective September 1<sup>st</sup> and appoint Nicholas Imbesi as Borough Manager effective September 1<sup>st</sup> per the proposal presented to Council.

In favor of the motion: Mr. Wert, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Gardecki, Mr. Kaag, Ms. Bressler

Against the motion: Ms. Thompson

**Motion carried 5-1.**

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief Powell stated that the amount to be reimbursed for the police vehicle lost during the recent flooding is \$31,000. The cost for a 2020 unmarked police SUV Interceptor from New Holland Ford is \$34,659. An additional \$3,500 will cover the cost of installing the radio (salvaged from the flooded vehicle) and the purchase and installation of lighting. Lighting from the flooded vehicle will be used as much as possible, however it may not be compatible with the 2020 vehicle.

**Moved** by Mr. Gardecki and seconded by Mr. Lincoln to approve the additional funds for the purchase and outfit of the 2020 Ford Interceptor in an amount not to exceed \$38,500. **Motion carried 6-0.**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Karen Livingood asked for an update regarding the bridge by the pool that was severely damaged by the flooding and rendered unsafe. Mrs. Hoffman responded that the bridge is not covered by insurance therefore the Borough will not be compensated in any way for the damage. Also, a bid of \$16,000 was received to remove the bridge however due to the ingenuity of borough crew members, the bridge was able to be detached from its foundation and moved to an area nearby where it was subsequently taken apart and hauled away. The cost is estimated to be around \$1000.

Oswald Herbert asked if the special meeting was advertised and Mrs. Hoffman indicated that it was advertised in the Reading Eagle as well as the Borough's website.

Mr. Rogers commented that he was opposed to the manner in which the positions were filled and that no advertising was done. Mr. Wert explained the circumstances that lead to the actions taken this evening as well as the process that Council went through three years ago while attempting to find a qualified candidate for Borough Manager which produced one candidate who had unrealistic demands. Mr. Rogers requested that his disapproval be stated in the record.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Kaag to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Borough Manager