

## **BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Special Meeting – No Quorum**

**February 24, 2009 – 5:30 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held a special meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 with the following persons present: Council President Nathalie Kulesa; Council Members Kevin Conrad, Philip Wert; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager George Tindall; Borough Solicitor Socrates Georgeadis; Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Trate; Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman.

<b><u>VISITORS:</u></b>	Amber Rambo	307 Sunset Road
	Nevin Hollinger	Main Street Executive Director
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Bruce Albrecht	328 Tulpehocken Avenue
	Daryl Jenkins	Great Valley Consultants

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. There was no quorum for the meeting but it was decided to discuss the one agenda item (revision of the Zoning Ordinance), without taking action.

Daryl Jenkins reviewed the changes that were made in conjunction with the Planning Commission over the last eighteen months. Upon request by those present, Mr. Jenkins said he would forward a copy of the changes to all of Council for their review.

Bruce Albrecht noted that it has been proposed that his property be changed to Light Industrial. He stated that there would be both advantages and disadvantages if the proposed change is made. He did note that the Light Industrial designation has mixed uses and would provide extra flexibility.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the definitions section was the section that received the most changes – that approximately 60 were added and many were revised. Some of the definitions were then explained by Mr. Jenkins.

After some discussion, it was decided to remove the word “low-rise” under section 373 (b) which deals with apartments being a use permitted by Conditional Use on the upper levels of buildings provided that reasonable accommodation can be made for tenant parking. It was felt that the term low-rise was unnecessary and misleading.

The sign section was also discussed at length, particularly with regard to A-frame style signs. It was noted that existing signs of this nature are not consistent, in many cases are too large, and are placed in the right-of-way in such a way that it impedes pedestrian traffic. Tracey Levering, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer recommended that permits for A-frame type signs be approved on a case-by-case basis, at no cost. An on-site visit would include measurements being taken and a decision being made as to where the sign can be placed. Once the permit is approved, it is kept on-site and if the owner doesn't adhere to the specifications in the permit, it can be revoked. It was also recommended that the permit would remain in force (not be renewed yearly) unless something substantial changes – the ownership of the property, the type of business being conducted or changes to the sign itself.

Mr. Jenkins said he would revise the section regarding A-frame signs and submit it for Council's approval, prior to the Ordinance being advertised.

It was decided that the Revision of the Zoning Ordinance be placed on the agenda for the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time it could be authorized for advertisement.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by George I. Tindall  
Borough Manager/Secretary