

**Borough of West Reading  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**August 13, 2018**

**Committee Members Present**

Philip Wert, Nicholas Imbesi, Andrew Kearney, John Woodward, Robin Horman, Aaron Gantz (left at 7:45 p.m.), Benjamin LaManna, Dean Rohrbach, Cathy Hoffman; Mark Ratcliffe arrived at 7:25 p.m.

**Committee Members Absent**

Christin Kelley, Dean Rohrbach

**Visitors Present**

Clair Edwards

**Call to Order**

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Moved** by Nick Imbesi and seconded by Andrew Kearney to approve the minutes of July 9, 2018, 2018.

**Motion carried.**

**BID Status Update**

Mr. Wert reported that circumstances had caused a delay however a meeting should be held soon to get things back on track.

**Foreclosed & Blighted Residential Properties Update:**

Mr. Imbesi provided of list of properties that have sold so far in 2018 and their sale amount. The committee discussed the information and it was of their opinion that properties are trending upward.

311 Spruce Street – It was noted that the nursing home has informed the Borough that the property will be placed on the market soon. No further information concerning the condition of the house has been received.

**Residential Property Sales and Rental Report:**

Mr. Rohrbach was not in attendance to provide his report.

**Significant/Vacant West Reading Commercial Properties Update:**

- Narrow Fabrics Building – Most of the units have been completed and are already leased.
- VF Building – Construction continues.
- 301 Penn Avenue – No update currently available.
- 445, 447 and 449 Penn Avenue – It was noted that a nail salon occupied the first floor of #445 – as a result, a residential use would not be permitted on this portion of the building.

- 501 Penn Avenue – Construction has begun on the addition.
- 707 Penn Avenue – No update at this time.
- 711 Penn Avenue – The property has been sold – nothing new to report at this time.
- 715 Penn Avenue – The business will be sold but the ownership of the property retained.
- 166 Franklin Street – A business has begun renovations of the property.
- 23 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue – The entire property has apparently been purchased by a local contractor.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion**

No discussion.

### **Old & New Business**

- The possibility of property reassessments by the County was discussed briefly.
- Mr. Woodward provided an update concerning economic development in the Borough of Wyomissing.
- Metered parking on the Avenue was discussed. The process continues to obtain a lease agreement with the owner of the shopping center.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Hoffman