

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
PLANNING COMMISSION**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chair Philip Wert, Vice Chair Christopher Lincoln, Terry Siggins, and Maxine Goodwin. Kim Collins and Christin Kelley were unable to attend. Deborah Hutcheson has resigned effective December 31st 2014.

VISITORS: none

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wert brought the Commission up to date about the parking study which Council authorized to be completed by Walker Parking Consultants. He noted that the project has already begun. Discussion ensued about parking in general in the Borough.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Review of Chapter I continued with the following questions/concerns:

- Section 801 – Final paragraph will be unnecessary once the Code of Ordinances is rewritten with gender neutrality.
- Section 803 – ‘Contributions by Members’ was questioned with regard to the interest rate that is to be compounded annually.
- Section 811 (b) (3) and (4) as well as 812 (c) – These sections speak about distribution and use of pension funds and may be conflicting.
- Section 840 – Mandatory Retirement may not still apply at age 65. This needs to be checked.
- Section 872 – ‘Contribution Fund’ was questioned – is there such a thing anymore. Also the section refers to a “Burgess” – is this outdated as well. The wording is also cumbersome.
- Section 906 concerning elected auditors refers to Section 1005 of the Borough Code which may need to be changed.
- Section 1001 (b) speaks of a ‘designated official’ which is too vague.
- Section 1010 lists the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau as the collector for delinquent taxes. They are now known as the Berks County Tax Collection Committee.
- Overall note – Sections that refer to Resolutions may need to reference ‘Ordinance’ due to changes in the Borough Code.
- Overall note concerning Tax Collectors – It should be noted that Deputy Tax Collectors are now required to take classes through ongoing education.

The revision of the remainder of Chapter I will be completed at the next meeting, beginning with Part 12. Mr. Wert also reported that the revised Animal Ordinance was sent to the solicitor for a preliminary legal review, which has since been completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant