

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

May 18, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members Nathalie Kulesa, Deborah Hutcheson, James Gallen; Mayor Shane Keller; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Police Chief Edward Fabriziani; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Dan Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Terry Naugle, Great Valley Consultants. Councilwoman Elizabeth Heckler arrived at 7:20PM.

Absent: Amy Good-Ashman; Daphne Klahr; Elizabeth Heckler.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Temple
	Audrey Schaeffer	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Property/Business Owner
	Amber Rambo	Resident
	Christian Doyle	Resident

Council President Kevin Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Property/Business Owner Tina Shenk advised that she decorated the trees on Penn Avenue for the Armed Forces Day Parade. She asked Council if the ribbons could stay on the trees through Memorial Day. Ms. Shenk said that there would be a block captain who would be responsible for taking the ribbons down. She said the next set would go up in about 1 or 2 weeks before Art on the Avenue and will come down the next day.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of April 19th, 2011. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of May 11, 2011. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the revenue report for the three months ending April 30, 2011. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Payment Approval Report for 4/15/11 to 5/12/11. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was nothing to report.

CONSULTANTS' REPORTS:

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Becker reported that he's been in contact with the attorneys for Dominion Power. They're waiting for information regarding their proposal; the attorney's still haven't received the proposal to report back to council.

A background check had been conducted for the assistant pool manager. Mr. Becker recommended that council make a motion to withdraw their offer of employment to the assistant pool manager based on the background investigation.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Kulesa to withdraw the offer of employment for the assistant pool manager. **Motion carried.**

Belovich - Mr. Becker advised that he and Mr. Sichler met recently to discuss Belovich. There is no additional information to report. Dan Becker had sent an email Scott Landis the attorney for Fulton Bank. It was explained to him that there are a few issues that had to be addressed. They include the weeds, fencing, the foundations and storm water.

Mr. Wert mentioned the stop signs. He said they are not there when you come out of the development across from Elm Street. Chief Fabrizio said the signs can't go up because the street isn't designated at a borough street. Mr. Wert said he's concerned due to children playing and people walking their dogs. Chief Fabrizio stated that we may want to suggest this to the bank. Chief Fabrizio also advised that there is a problem with people parking the wrong way on that street. Mr. Becker said this would be something to look into.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Solicitor's Report. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Conrad advised that there was an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss potential litigation and personnel issues. Ms. Kulesa advised that there was also an executive session on May 5, 2011 to discuss personnel as well.

Engineer's Report –

Mr. Naugle advised that the street design work for the sidewalk projects is continuing. Mr. Rohrbach had been given some drawings that he's going to present to the committees tomorrow evening. Once they get the feedback they will continue with the design and the project will be ready to go to bid. He's looking to request approval for bid at the June meeting for project A.

Traffic counts are being done on Museum Road and Parkside Drive North at the intersection for the traffic light. Once complete it will be sent to Penn Dot.

Moved by Ms. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Engineer's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sichler advised that the gator was sold for \$3,175. Mr. Sichler also advised that an offer was made to Ryan Usela for the assistant pool manager position at a rate of \$10.00 per hour. He was originally hired as a lifeguard.

Mr. Sichler and Mr. Murray met with applicants for the Public Works summer seasonal position. The following individuals were selected: Corey L'Esperance (returning employee), Andrew Christman, and Alex LaManna. If one of them doesn't accept the offer a position will then be offered to Dan Maunderitz. They will be paid at the standard rate.

Moved by Ms. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept offers for the positions of the 3 summer public works employees. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT AND MAIN STREET REPORT:

Mayor Keller advised that the Armed Forces Day parade will start on Saturday at 10:00 AM and begin at 8th and Penn Avenue. This is a rain or shine event. The parade was very well attended last year.

Main Street – A new website called www.lovestreading.org has been developed. The Main Street Authority has contracted with Neo-Pangea. The website was developed as a marketing tool for West Reading and not just for Main Street. The website went live last week in anticipation to promote the Friday the 13th "Love West Reading" block party. This event was very well attended even though it didn't see a lot of promotion and marketing.

Mr. Keller asked council to make a motion to instruct the solicitor to work with the Chief Codes Enforcement Officer to revise the following ordinances: garbage, refuse and recycling ordinance, certificate of occupancy ordinance and the renovation ordinance to make them consistent with the UCC and building codes.

Moved by Ms. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to instruct the solicitor to revise these ordinances. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Mayor's report. **Motion carried.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Code Enforcement – Chief Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering presented her written report for consideration. **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Chief Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

Police Department – Chief Fabriziani stated that the 2011 Ford Explorer has come in and will be outfitted for us as the K-9 unit. The new Charger has also come in and is currently waiting to be decal.

Some of the equipment from the old vehicles will be placed into the new vehicles to keep the costs down to stay within the budget. Due to staff shortages, Berks County Sheriffs will be assisting with traffic control during the Armed Forces Parade to cover the intersections.

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

Public Works – Public Works Director Dean Murray presented his written report. Mr. Murray added that truck # 20 had to go back to the shop for additional brake work as it locks up continuously. Mrs. Heckler asked if the tree in Mrs. Wunch's memory was planted on S 3rd Avenue. Mr. Murray advised that a total of 30 trees have been planted recently including the Wunsch's.

Mrs. Heckler asked if the pool is close to being complete. Mr. Murray stated that the big pool was filled today and it will be ready for Memorial Day weekend. There are some issues regarding paint in the big pool. Mr. Murray advised that this will be addressed in the fall.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Public Works Director's report. **Motion carried.**

Fire Department – Chief Burkholder referred to his written report. The fire department assisted with a recent fire in Bern Township. Mr. Wert asked about the FEMA grant. Mr. Burkholder didn't have any new information to report. He advised that the fire company had been told from a source that in the next month they will be done.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

Elm Street – Mr. Rohrbach distributed pictures from the Earth Day event. He thanked the borough manager, and his son, Tina and Mrs. Heckler for participating in the clean up. There were fewer people in attendance this year but a lot had been accomplished. He also thanked the borough crew for collecting the accumulated trash. Berky's Transfer and Site Container Service donated the disposal of all collected waste.

Mr. Rohrbach advised that this month's issue of PA Borough's News magazine featured West Reading's ten point's neighborhood on the front cover. He also stated that the borough has gotten some very good press recently. Mr. Rohrbach advised that plans on the S 3rd Avenue Streetscape Improvements project are being reviewed. He had gone door to door distributing flyers to the residents last week letting them know about the meeting tomorrow at 6pm to discuss some options and get feedback from the community.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Elm Street Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission - Mrs. Kulesa advised that orientation will be held at the pool on Saturday at 9AM as well as a clean up day at the pool. She said help is requested.

The Father/Daughter Dance was held at the firehouse on May 6th. Mrs. Kulesa thanked Chief Burkholder for the use of the building for the dance. There was a lot of positive feedback and they may consider alternating the dances there. Playground dedication will be held on Wednesday June 22nd. They are hoping for Judy Schwank to attend.

Mr. Sichler advised that \$32,000 has been budgeted for the security cameras. \$20,000 will be provided by the Wyomissing Foundation specifically for the security cameras; \$12,000 will be coming out of the general fund under the recreation budget and the remaining \$1,000 has been contributed by Ed Kuhn. Chief Fabrizio questioned the data storage. Mr. Sichler said it will be web accessible and can be viewed from the mobile computers in the police cars. Chief Fabrizio advised that something needs to be written as far as whom can access to the video footage in case it would need to be used in a criminal case. Mr. Conrad also asked if Chief Fabrizio, Mr. Sichler and Mr. Becker can have a policy can be written up for the June meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the purchase and installation of security cameras for the playground area not to exceed \$33,000. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Conrad advised that a thank you letter needs to be sent to Ed Kuhn for his \$1,000 contribution to the security cameras. Mr. Wert asked Mrs. Kulesa what the pool numbers were like so far this season or are to be expected. She said there was discussion on membership breakdowns and Daphne will provide the information at the June meeting. All of the members of the pool were contacted and offered the discounted rate if they applied before the deadline. Mrs. Kulesa stated that only a few people took advantage of the reduced rate.

Moved by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Recreation Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Planning Commission - Mr. Wert advised that the Planning Commission is still discussing zoning. Mr. Conrad said that they will need to have a conditional use hearing for 546 Penn Avenue. This should be done for the June meeting. Mr. Wert stated that the applicant has been informed.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Hutcheson to accept the Planning Commission Report. **Motion carried.**

Shade Tree Commission –

Mr. Sichler reported that a large Sycamore tree in the 500 block of Sunset Road died and is scheduled to be removed. An Oak tree located at the intersection of 5th and Museum Road is also scheduled for trimming to remove limbs that were damaged over the winter.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the Shade Tree Commission report. **Motion carried.**

Environmental Advisory Council

Mr. Sichler advised that Amber Rambo was voted to be chairperson for this committee. He advised that the EAC has had their first meeting. They've organized, set up and advertised the meeting schedule. Meetings are being held once a month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 7PM.

Mrs. Kulesa asked how the monthly recycling program is going. Mr. Sichler stated that the first day wasn't a success. This is a yard waste collection and is being done at the borough garage on the first Saturday of the month. It had been advertised incorrectly in the Reading Eagle. There will be someone at the borough garage available to collect the yard waste in biodegradable paper bags.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to approve the Environmental Advisory Council report. Motion carried.

Traffic Committee

Mr. Conrad reported that they are considering making Cherry St and Court Street are one way alleys. This has been discussed several times and no action was taken. They are looking for the approval to start an engineering study and to see if this is feasible to do. There is no cost available at this time. Mr. Conrad stated that unless council is interested in this, it won't be pursued. Mr. Conrad advised that they're going to ask the engineer how much this will cost the borough and have the engineer report back to council so this can be discussed at the next meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to approve the Traffic committee report.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Kulesa to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Burkholder
Administrative Clerk