

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MAY 7, 2025**

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Philip Wert; Vice Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Members Jennifer Bressler, Daniel Horman and Cody Rhoads; Zoning Officer and Code Department Manager Chad Moyer; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Members Zanna Leiendecker and Kacie Rodriguez were unable to attend.

**Visitors**

Klint Neiman, Resident

Chairman Wert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Neiman asked if he was being recorded. It was noted that only audio is being recorded tonight for minute taking purposes. He then proceeded to activate his body camera prior to addressing the Planning Commission. He shared that a few weeks ago he was barred from the Police Department while wearing a body camera due to a policy prohibiting recordings in the police department lobby. Through a right-to-know request Mr. Neiman discovered that a written policy does not exist, it was noted that the sign itself is the policy. However, in the right-to-know reply, Mr. Miller indicated that the police department acts in accordance with the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) directives. Following a review of the MPOETC study guide Mr. Neiman found that recording is prohibited in the lobby area of a police department. Mr. Neiman referred to sections of MPOETC that address forms of electronic or oral communications. Mr. Wert asked if Mr. Neiman was addressing the correct body with his concerns, to which Mr. Neiman noted attempts to communicate with the Mayor and a desire to alert elected officials and staff to his difficulty in dealing with certain government officials to address his current grievances. He requested that this information be shared with other borough elected officials, and that he intends to contact the District Attorney's office and then the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Philadelphia if his grievances are not addressed. Mr. Neiman noted that his use of the body camera is for accountability purposes. He also stated that the Chief of Police parks his personal vehicle in a space marked for police vehicles only.

Mr. Neiman departed the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting. **Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mr. Horman. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**New Business**

a. **Review of Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Comments on the Final Draft Downtown Zoning and Sign Ordinance**

Recapping the March 2025 meeting discussions, Mr. Wert reported that all BCPC comments were implemented into the proposed zoning amendment and forwarded to the BCPC for another review. In a review letter from BCPC dated April 17, 2025, it was noted that the proposed zoning amendment is generally consistent with the Berks County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Aspects of the vision and goals of the Suburban Berks West Joint Comprehensive Plan were found to be in line with comprehensive rezoning.

Mr. Wert noted that comprehensive rezoning eliminates the requirement to mail notices of a hearing to every parcel. Mr. Moyer plans to conspicuously post a notice in the areas of zoning map changes as well as advertise the hearing date and location in the newspaper and on the borough website. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for the July 2, 2025 Planning Commission meeting to include attendance of both the Planning Commission and Borough Council. Anticipated need for a larger venue for the hearing, such as the training room at the fire house, is being arranged. Mr. Miller indicated that the neighboring and Joint Comprehensive Plan municipalities have been provided with a red-lined version of the proposed zoning amendments, to date no feedback has been received.

A motion was made to recommend Borough Council schedule a hearing to adopt the proposed zoning amendments that align with the comprehensive plans and constitute a comprehensive rezoning.

**Moved** by Mr. Lincoln and seconded by Mrs. Bressler. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**b. Review of the BCPC comments on the South Seventh Avenue Water Main Replacement Project**

The BCPC acknowledged the consistency of the borough's pursuit of a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program. It was noted that one of the goals of the Community Facilities chapter of the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update is to provide and maintain community facilities and services that meet the basic needs of county residents and support the land use policies of this plan. The proposed project meets this goal and, as such, is consistent with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhoads and seconded by Mr. Horman to accept the BCPC review letter dated April 25, 2025 pertaining to a Grant Application to the DCED/CFA under the PA Small Water and Sewer Statewide Program for funds to be used for the South Seventh Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Miller shared that Borough Council approved the three consultant/engineer proposals to draft proposed amendments to the Stormwater Management and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance sections.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. by Mrs. Bressler and seconded by Mr. Lincoln.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary