

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 5, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

West Reading Borough Council held its reorganization meeting at Borough Hall on Monday, January 5, 2026 with the following persons present: Mayor Samantha Kaag; Solicitor Daniel Becker; Council Members Ryan Lineaweaver, Patrick Kaag, Denise Drobnick, Bethany Bower, Vicki Graff, and Justin Choate; Chief of Police Richard Torielli (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Code Department Manager & Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council Member Zanna Leiendecker was unable to attend.

**VISITORS:**

James Rogers, Resident	Suzanne Thompson, Resident
Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz, State Representative	Dolores Martinez, State Representative Office

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Samantha Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.
2. **SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Mayor Kaag noted that newly elected Council Members were sworn in before tonight's meeting.
3. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** Mr. Miller stated that approval was granted last month to extend the agreement with Western Berks Water Authority to October 2075. However, this approval had not been in the form of a resolution. An amendment to the agenda was requested to approve Resolution 2026-4.

Motion to approve an amendment to the agenda to include consideration of adopting a resolution to extend the Western Berks Water Authority agreement through October 1, 2075. **Moved** by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
State Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz congratulated Borough Council Members and looks forward to working with everyone.
5. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**
  - a. **Nomination for Council President** – Mr. Kaag nominated Ryan Lineaweaver for Council President. There were no other nominations. Motion to close the nomination for Council President was moved by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Ms. Bower. **Motion carried 6-0.** Motion to appoint Ryan Lineaweaver as Council President. **Moved** by Ms. Graff and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**  
  
Mr. Lineaweaver thanked his peers for entrusting him to perform the duties of Council President again and chaired the remainder of the meeting.
  - b. **Nomination for Vice President** – Mr. Lineaweaver nominated Patrick Kaag for Council Vice President. There were no other nominations. Motion to close the nomination for Council Vice President was moved by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Ms. Bower. Motion to appoint Patrick Kaag as Council Vice President. **Moved** by Ms. Bower and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**
  - c. **Nomination for Council Pro Tem** – Ms. Bower nominated Denise Drobnick as Council Pro Tem. There were no other nominations. Motion to close the nomination for Council Pro Tem

was moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Graff. Motion to appoint Denise Drobnick as Council Pro Tem. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Choate. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**6. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Resolution 2026-1 Reaffirm Zoning Hearing Board Members** – Mr. Lineaweaver reviewed the list of Zoning Hearing Board appointments and expiration of terms.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 reaffirming the list of Zoning Hearing Board members. **Moved** by Ms. Drobnick and seconded by Mr. Choate. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- b. **Resolution 2026-2 Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Board of Appeals** – An extension to an intergovernmental agreement with the County of Berks UCC Board of Appeals was requested.

Motion to continue an intergovernmental agreement to participate in the County of Berks Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Graff. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- c. **Resolution 2026-3 Tax Collector Appointment** – Mr. Lineaweaver noted that prior approval had been granted to appoint the County of Berks Treasurer’s Office as Tax Collector, and a vacancy of the elected tax collector position. This resolution would appoint the Berks County Treasurer’s Office as Tax Collector to serve for the remainder of the term, which is the next election cycle to vote for a tax collector.

Motion to appoint the Berks County Treasurer’s Office as Tax Collector through December 31, 2027. **Moved** by Ms. Bower and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- d. **Resolution 2026-4 Western Berks Water Authority Articles of Incorporation** – As previously mentioned, approval to extend the life of the authority through resolution was requested.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4 amending the Articles of Incorporation for Western Berks Water Authority, extending the life of the Authority until October 1, 2075. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Choate. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**7. APPOINTMENTS:** Mr. Lineaweaver reviewed the following list of 2026 appointments:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Business Privilege & Local Services Tax Collector	Berkheimer Tax Innovations	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Secretary	Cynthia Madeira	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Assistant Borough Secretary	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Treasurer	Jeanette Rentschler	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

Assistant Treasurer	Helen Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Open Records Officer	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Alternate Open Records Officer	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Alternate Open Records Officer	Cynthia Madeira	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Bank Signatories**

Treasurer	Jeanette Rentschler	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Assistant Treasurer	Helen Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Secretary	Cynthia Madeira	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council President	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Board of Appeals (IPMC)**

Member	John Harvey	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
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**Civil Service Commission**

Member	Frank Arguelles	1/1/26 – 12/31/31
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**Code Enforcement**

Code Department Manager	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Code Enforcement Officer	Andrew Weber	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Commercial Building Inspector	Ryan Wessner, SDE Inc.	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Residential Building Inspector	Ryan Wessner, SDE Inc.	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Plumbing Inspector	Systems Design Engineering, Inc	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Scott McCaffrey, SDE Inc.	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Zoning Officer	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Assistant Zoning Officer	Systems Design Engineering, Inc.	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiating Committee** – Mr. Lineaweaver noted a change to this committee to include a negotiating committee for the Public Works Department. This committee would oversee both the Police and the Public Works Department negotiations.

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Patrick Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Economic Development Committee** – Mayor Kaag offered to chair this committee, which will be decided amongst the committee members.

Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Justin Choate	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Aaron Gantz	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Robin Horman	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Main Street Manager	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Heidi Lincoln	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Emergency Services**

Emergency Management Coordinator	Tom Bausher	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	Mike Fesh	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Emergency Management Board Members	Randall Miller, Borough Manager Chad Moyer, Alternate	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Police Captain	Timothy Goodhart	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Police Lieutenant	Lance Parmer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Environmental Advisory Council**

Member	Jay Santo Domingo	1/1/26 – 12/31/28
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Finance Committee**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Vicki Graff	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	John Harvey	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Robert Lockyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Non-Voting Member	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Non-Voting Member	Jeanette Rentschler	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Non-Voting Member	Helen Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Deputy Chief	Jeffrey Reinert	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Assistant Chief	Andrew Gudinas	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Captain	Jamie Keith	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Lieutenant	Jamauri Key	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Lieutenant	Zachary Shaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Police Captain	Timothy Goodhart	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Police Lieutenant	Lance Parmer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Marshal	Mark Burkholder	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Code Official	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Fishing Dock Ad Hoc Committee**

Borough Council	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Council	Bethany Bower	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Hospital Committee**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Patrick Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

Council Member	Justin Choate	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Code Department Manager	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Housing Review Board**

Member	Janice Care	1/1/26 – 12/31/28
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**July 4<sup>th</sup> Ad Hoc Committee**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Recreation Commission Chair	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Recreation Director	Michael Esterly	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Kayla Lipari	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Justin Choate	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Stephanie Perrette	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Mayor’s Advisory Committee**

Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Police Chief	Richard Tornielli	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Chief	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works Director	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Pension Advisory Committee**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member of Civil Service Commission	Stephen DeLucas	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member of Police Bargaining Unit	Nicholas Karetas	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member of Public Works	Jamie Flickinger	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Treasurer	Jeanette Rentschler	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Assistant Treasurer	Helen Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Wayne Holben, Police	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Chad Marks, Police	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Personnel Committee**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Bethany Bower	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Zanna Leiendecker	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor (Police Matters)	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Planning Commission**

Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/29
Member	Daniel Horman	1/1/26 – 12/31/29
Member	Vacancy	1/1/26 – 12/31/29

**Professional Services**

Engineer	Pamela Stevens, Systems Design Engineering Inc.	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Solicitor	Daniel Becker, Kozloff Stoudt	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Zoning Solicitor	Jason Ulrich, Gross McGinley, LLP	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Auditor / Accounting Specialist	Maillie, LLP	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Towing Services	Matos Towing & Recovery	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Public Safety Committee**

Council Member	Patrick Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

Police Department	Richard Tornielli	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Department	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Code Department Manager	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Recreation Commission**

Council Member - Chairperson	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Secretary	Colleen English	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Heather Jagielski	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Member	Kristen Hawley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Sick Bank Ad Hoc Committee**

Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Ryan Lineaweaver	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works Director	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works Crew Member	David Rodriguez	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Shade Tree Commission**

Council Member	Vicki Graff	1/1/26 – 12/31/26
Member	Lynn Burns	1/1/26 – 12/31/29

**Special Event – Ad Hoc Committee**

Council Member	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Police Chief	Richard Tornielli	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Fire Chief	Chad Moyer	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works Director	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Recreation Director	Michael Esterly	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Town & Gown**

Council Member	Denise Drobnick	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
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Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Traffic & Infrastructure Committee**

Chairman	Christopher Lincoln	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Council Member	Patrick Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Borough Manager	Randall Miller	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Police Department	Richard Tornielli	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
Public Works Department	Kerry Grassley	1/1/26 – 12/31/27

**Vacancy Board**

Vacancy Board Chair	Andrew Moletress	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
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**Western Berks Water Emergency**

Mayor	Samantha Kaag	1/1/26 – 12/31/27
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Motion to appoint or reappoint the list of administrative and board or commission members as stated. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Choate. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- WEST READING COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION (WRCRF):** Mr. Lineaweaver reviewed the list of WRCRF-requested event dates and road closures for 2026.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays**

Request closure of N 6<sup>th</sup> from Penn to Court

Request closure of S 6<sup>th</sup> from Penn to Cherry

Request usage of the 433 Penn Avenue lot

5-9pm

April 10<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>

**Craft Pretzel and Beer Festival**

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Request closure of Penn Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> to remain open)

Request closure of N 7<sup>th</sup> and S 7<sup>th</sup>

Request closure of N 6<sup>th</sup> and S 6<sup>th</sup>

7am-7pm

Will also fill out all necessary paperwork with PennDOT

**Art on the Avenue**

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Request closure of Penn Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> to remain open with crossing guards)

Request closure of N 7<sup>th</sup> and S 7<sup>th</sup>

Request closure of N 6<sup>th</sup> and S 6<sup>th</sup>

Request closure of Tulpehocken Avenue

Request usage of the 433 Penn Avenue lot

7am-9pm

Will fill out all necessary paperwork with PennDOT

**French Fry Festival**

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Request closure of Penn Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> to remain open)

Request closure of N 7<sup>th</sup> and S 7<sup>th</sup>

7am-7pm

Will fill out all necessary paperwork with PennDOT

**Fall Fest**

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Request closure of Penn Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> to remain open with crossing guards)

Request closure of N 7<sup>th</sup> and S 7<sup>th</sup>

Request closure of N 6<sup>th</sup> and S 6<sup>th</sup>

Request closure of Tulpehocken Avenue

Request usage of the 433 Penn Avenue lot

7am-9pm

Will fill out all necessary paperwork with PennDOT

**Small Business Saturday**

Saturday, November 28, 2026

Request closure of N 6<sup>th</sup> from Penn to Court

9am-4pm

Mr. Rogers inquired about the closure of the 000 Block of Tulpehocken Avenue for the Art on the Avenue and Fall Fest events. Chief Tornielli confirmed that this roadway is normally closed during these larger events. Tulpehocken Avenue was added to the list of road closures.

Ms. Thompson inquired about road closures for the Farmers' Market. Mr. Lineaweaver thought the intent would be to continue the Farmers' Market on the shopping center lot for safety and to avoid road or lane closures.

Mayor Kaag inquired about the closure of North Sixth Avenue from Penn Avenue to Court Street, which forces traffic to a difficult line-of-sight intersection. Mr. Lineaweaver indicated that aspects of the road closure requests would be discussed by the Special Event Committee for final approval.

Motion to approve the list of 2026 WRCRF event dates and road closures. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Graff. **Motion carried 6-0.**

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** An executive session was not needed at this time.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rogers inquired whether the borough has any policies that address the recent criminal alien raids by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, as seen on television. Chief Tornielli stated that Customs and Border Protection immigration enforcement added warrant information to the National Crime Information Center. This is a clearing house that can query an individual's status. The International Association of Chiefs of Police provided clear guidance as to how to handle this information. Unless an officer can confirm that the person in question has a criminal warrant, the officer is to advise them of the warrant and release the individual. Local law enforcement does not serve Federal Civil Warrants, assist with Federal Criminal Warrants, or enforce Federal Immigration Laws. Mr. Rogers asked how to protect local citizens who might be harassed by an ICE raid. Mr. Becker suggested that if someone appears to be harassed, one should cautiously call them out and film or videotape the activity. Ms. Bower noted there are social justice-type groups in the area that can help to protect and document incidents, and she will seek further information. Ms. Thompson asked what to do when witnessing harassment during the enforcement of a warrant. Chief Tornielli noted an in-house policy that requires intervention. If an officer witnesses excessive force, they have a duty to intervene and treat people with respect.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Bower. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary