

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
October 10, 2022

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Joby Soisson, Celebrate Recovery Leader.

All present pledged to the flag.

There were executive sessions held after the October 10th COW meeting on real estate, litigation and personnel.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz
Councilor Daubert, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Ventura, District 3 - virtually
Councilor Butler, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Miller, District 6
Council Solicitor M. Gombar
City Auditor M. Rodriguez
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Managing Director W. Heim
City Solicitor F. Lachat

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Department of Fire & Rescue Services Commendations were issued for the rescue of a female civilian from the 3rd floor of 417 North 11th Street on July 19, 2022 by First Deputy Michael Glore and Chief James Stoudt, as follows:

Unit Citation

- Lt. Steven Ginder – R1
- FF/EMT Kurtis Knauss – R1
- FF/EMT David Rottmann – E1
- FF/EMT Steven Turner – T1
- FF/EMT Ralph Marks – T1

Department of Fire and Rescue Services Commendations were issued for the efforts of

civilians for their efforts to rescue other occupants of the home from the 2nd floor via the porch roof, as follows:

Civilians

- Samir Afif
- Steve Varady

Council commendations were issued to the following:

- **Commendation** – to the Village of Reading and Radarra McLendon
- **Commendation** – celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Centre Park Historic District

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that there are two (2) citizens registered to provide public comment on non-agenda matters.

Councilor Reed read the public comment rules adopted by ordinance.

Alexis Paul, of North 9th Street, stated that in the past he sold drugs and made poor life choices; however, he is now reformed and he is interested in assisting with the anti-drug and anti-violence movement.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that Ms. McLendon, founder and executive director of the Village of Reading is present and she encouraged him to connect with Ms. McLendon to assist in her program.

Councilor Daubert expressed the belief that Mr. Paul's decision to attend tonight's meeting when the work of The Village of Reading was celebrated is serendipitous.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed adding that the meeting started with an invocation from Joby Soisson, Celebrate Recovery Leader.

Don Lorah, of Washington Street, stated that he spoke two weeks ago about the problems created by panhandlers at 24/7 businesses and the problems they create for neighborhoods. He encouraged business owners to post No Loitering signs.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked Mr. Paul and Mr. Lorah for their input.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes from

the September 26th Regular Meeting and the October 3rd Special Meeting, along with the summations of discussion from the September 26th and October 3rd COW meetings. She stated that the under the Consent Agenda heading Resolution F should be changed to an Award of Contract.

The agenda for this meeting including the Consent Agenda legislation, the minutes from the September 26th Regular Meeting and the October 3rd Special Meeting, along with the summations of discussion listed were approved by acclamation, without objection.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is designed to provide efficient approval of non-controversial legislation that does not require discussion/debate by giving approval via acclamation when the meeting agenda is approved. The President of Council will call Council's attention to the list of Consent Agenda legislation at the meeting before action is taken, which allows Council to remove a piece of legislation for separate consideration.

A. Resolution 149-2022 – authorizing the upgrade of ten (10) current repeater sites for the installation of ten (10) additional camera sites to expand the VSU Camera network to sixty-two (62) City-wide camera sites at locations that are currently not utilized to LTW (Lets Think Wireless, LLC), Pine Brook, NY at the cost of \$63,994.00. The cost is included in the Police Dept budget. LTW has the current VSU maintenance contract and is a member of CoStars.

B. Resolution 150-2022 - In compliance with Act 57, the Tax Collector for the City of Reading, commencing on January 1, 2023 and for all tax years thereafter, shall grant a request to waive Additional Charges for real estate taxes if the taxpayer does all of the following:

- (a) Provides a waiver request of additional charges (on a form provided by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development) to the Tax Collector in possession of the claim within twelve (12) months of a qualifying event; and
- (b) Attests that a notice of the property's tax bill was not received; and
- (c) Provides the Tax Collector in possession of the claim with one of the following:
 - (i) A copy of the deed showing the elate of real property transfer; or (ii) a copy of the title following the acquisition of a mobile home or manufactured home subject to taxation as real estate showing the date of issuance or a copy of an executed lease agreement between the owner of a mobile or manufactured home and the owner of a parcel of land on which the mobile or manufactured home will be situated showing the date the lease commences; and
- (d) Pays the face value amount of the tax notice for the real estate tax with the waiver request.

C. Award of Contract – for the 3rd and Spruce HVAC Project to Blanski Energy Management, Reading, PA charged to the CIP in the amount of \$200,000 and ARPA in the amount of \$350,000 for the total cost of \$538,990 for the installation of a new HVAC Unit

D. Award of Contract – for the 3rd and Spruce Roofing Project to Ark Contracting, Mt. Union, PA charged to CIP for \$50,000 and ARPA for \$400,000 for the total project cost of \$443,070 for the partial demolition of portions of the existing building as indicated or required in preparation for the alterations and the installation of the new roofing system

E. Resolution 151-2022 – authorizing the City Solicitor to execute the acknowledgement forms to accept the Repository bids submitted for 360 McKnight St in the amount of \$2,100, 524 S. 11th St in the amount of \$1,100, 143 Poplar St in the amount of \$2,100, 732 Franklin St in the amount of \$2,100 and 223 Hudson St in the amount of \$575.24

F. Award of Contract – for External Audit Services to Herbein & Company, Reading, PA for a 4 year period with the option to extend for an additional 2 years at the cost of \$72,500

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The managing director highlighted the report which was distributed electronically and attached to the agenda. He reported that Property Maintenance Management met with the Downtown Ambassadors to help them understand various maintenance needs at buildings which will be communicated with business owners. The CSC Manager met with Property Maintenance staff to help them improve their management of service requests. He noted the upcoming Health Literacy event and COVID/flu vaccine clinics. The Reading Fire Department will have nine members recognized on October 18th at the 2021 Lehigh Valley Burn Foundation Preferred Spirit of Courage Award for heroism. The administration has been actively involved in meetings to restore passenger rail service between Philadelphia and Reading.

Councilor Reed inquired if the organizations participating in the Health Literacy event are being charged. The managing director stated that the event is focused on women's health and he expressed the belief that there is no charge to participate.

Councilor Reed stated that some organizations told her that there is a \$100 charge per table. She expressed the belief that as the event is being held in City Hall, there is no rental fee so there are no overhead costs to cover and she noted her disagreement with adding a fee. She asked the managing director to look into this matter, noting that she will provide the names of the organizations that she has conversed with.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz noted that a few weeks ago the CD Director stated that the department is on track to spend down the HUD funding awarded to the City by November. She requested an update. The managing director expressed the belief that CD is on track to meet the HUD spending requirements, noting that the City can request an extension if required.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the administration for their attention to the blighted garage in the 1400 block of Fairview Street which has compromised the adjoining garages. She inquired how the City would recoup the funding to secure this property. The managing director explained that as the property owner ignored directives to make repairs, the City can secure the property and lien the property owner.

TO: City Council
FROM: William M. Heim, Managing Director
PREPARED BY: Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant
MEETING DATE: October 10, 2022
AGENDA MEMO DATE: October 5, 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- The Community Development Director continues in contact with community partners such as Helping Harvest and Alvernia University on projects that will positively impact the city.
- The CD Department continues to attend biweekly Project Management team meetings to discuss progress on CDBG-funded projects. More than 15 projects (primarily public parks, ADA ramps, and fire stations) are in part financed by Community Development Block Grants. The City must spend \$3,597,787.50 (1½ times the amount allotted in 2021 of \$2,398,525) by November 1st.

Currently, less than \$841,844.83 remains to be spent before November 1st. If funds are not expended, HUD requires the City to provide a detailed plan on how and when the funds will be used.

- Community Development is currently applying for two grants. The first is the **Healthy Homes Production grant** for a total of \$2M with a 15% City match. The grant will help aging families battling elevated blood lead levels (EBLL). The second is the **Older Adults Home Modification Program grant** for \$1.25M. This grant does not require a match but does require a professional therapist. The funds will assist elderly individuals in maintaining a healthier lifestyle.

DOWNTOWN:

- The Downtown Ambassadors continue with the daily cleaning of the Penn Street Corridor with the assistance of the Hope Rescue Clean team.
- The Downtown Coordinator met with the Property Maintenance Manager and a PMI Supervisor to better understand what Downtown Ambassadors should focus on as it relates to Property Maintenance concerns. Several properties were discussed, and brainstormed on possible solutions. Communication will occur with business owners to inform them of expectations and responsibilities.
- The Downtown Coordinator visited business owners in the 500 block of Penn Street to discuss art/decoration projects for the holidays. Business owners expressed interest in assisting with holiday decorating.

- The Downtown Coordinator met with the City's 275th Anniversary Coordinator regarding a planting project their committee is planning.
- Downtown Ambassadors completed Narcan training from the City's EMS staff. They also completed safety training.
- Upcoming events occurring in the Downtown area are as follows:
 - October 28th: Mayor Moran's Halloween on Penn event
 - November 19th: Holiday Parade
 - December: Tree Lighting and Holiday Market (date TBD)

FINANCE:

- The Finance Department's Citizens Service Center provided the following updates:
 - CSC Manager is working with the Human Resource Department to assist with future customer service training.
 - The CSC Manager assists the Solid Waste team in establishing the administrative functions related to dumpster permitting, including electronic billing, notifications, and form development.
 - The CSC Manager met with Property Maintenance Division personnel to discuss service requests and ways to improve workflow.
- The Finance Department's Accounting Division provided the following updates:
 - The Accounting Manager met with Public Works staff to assist with the new Direct Energy invoices. Two vendor numbers were created for Direct Energy gas and electric accounts, and the Sustainability Manager will create a profile for future EFT payments.
 - The Accounting Manager also met with Public Works staff to answer Munis system-related questions and with the Capital Projects Manager to discuss Fund 34 Capital Projects spreadsheet for reconciliation purposes.
 - A 2023 Downtown Corridor budget was created, including the new Munis accounts. Figures for fringes were reviewed and approved by the City Controller
 - Internal budget work continues for 2023 budget revenues, expenses, and salary status.
- The Finance Department's Purchasing Division provided the following updates related to projects:
 - Dumping Abatement RFP - Re-bid was advertised, and bids are due on October 21, 2022.
 - 3rd & Spruce Rec Center Roof Replacement – Bids were received on September 21st and are currently under review.

- 3rd & Spruce Rec Center HVAC Improvements – Bids were received on September 21st and are currently under review. _
- Egelman’s Lower Dam Modifications RFP – Three proposals were received. The selection committee is currently reviewing the technical proposals.
- Sidewalk Project for Community Development – Bids are due on October 7th.
- Skyline Drive Observation Overlook Clearing – Mount Penn Mountain from the Pagoda to List Road Project – Bids are due on October 13th.
- Upcoming Projects:
 - Registering Abandoned Properties for Community Development
 - Reading Skate Park Construction
 - Reading Iron Playground
- The City Controller is working with Accounting Division to identify areas of improvement within the transactional recording process.
- The City Controller is preparing for the upcoming DCED grant closeout audit
- The City Controller has determined minimal discrepancies exist between USL vs. Munis.
- The Finance Department’s Project Manager is working with the Accounting and Treasury Division to establish the HCM positive pay file.
- The Finance Department provided the following updates on the AHL Grant activities:
 - Powerful Woman event is scheduled for October 15th in Council Chambers. Grant staff is working with various departments to ensure the event is successful.
 - Community-Accessible Testing & Education (CATE) vaccine clinic is scheduled to run through November.
 - Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ) survey is ongoing. 235 paper responses have been collected. The goal is set at 1,000.
REDCap technology is almost complete allowing for online survey participation.
 - Upcoming Grant-related activities include:
 - September 30th – Salvation Army Food Distribution (City of Reading only)
 - October 5th – Vaccine Clinic at 6th & Penn Streets
 - October 6th – Opportunity House
 - October 8th – Out in the Park with LGBT Center
 - October 8th – Breast Cancer Zumbathon at Reading High School
 - October 11th – Hope Lutheran Food Distribution
 - October 12th – Vaccine Clinic at 6th & Penn Streets
 - October 13th – Event at Reading Public Library (tentative)

- October 15th – Powerful Woman Live Event at City Hall
- October 16th - Vaccine Clinic with Giorgio Family Day at Giorgio Farm
- October 21st – Glenside Housing Complex – food distribution event
- October 28th – Halloween on Penn Street with Mayor Moran

FIRE:

- The Reading Fire Department will have nine members recognized on October 18th at a banquet in Bethlehem, PA. Our members will be given the 2021 Lehigh Valley Burn Foundation Preferred Spirit of Courage Award for heroism.
- RFD Chief Stoudt attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service the weekend of October 7th thru the 9th at the National Fire Academy. Reading Firefighter/EMT Mark “Dewey” Kulp, who passed away on January 5, 2021, due to COVID-19, will be honored during the event. RFD served as an escort for the Kulp family throughout the weekend event.
- RFD Firefighter James “Corky” Lerch Jr, who passed away on October 28, 2020, to work-related cancer, was honored on September 17th at the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs, CO. His wife was in attendance and escorted by FF/EMT Corbin Keiser, who described the event as very humbling and moving.

LIBRARY:

- The Reading Public Library has completed the Wyomissing Foundation grant application for funding for the StoryWalk project.

POLICE:

- The Reading Police Department’s Community Engagement Officer attended several recruiting events prior to the entry-level test conducted on October 1, 2022. He reported speaking and providing information to many individuals interested in the testing. In addition, work on community engagement activities continues, including but not limited to the Faith and Blue event scheduled for October 9, 2022.
- The Reading Police Youth Academy continues to see steady participation from a core group of cadets.
- The RPD Records Office Renovations project is complete. SGT Lonsinger, who oversaw the project, is working on a presentation detailing the project.
- The RPD’s VSU Expansion project has begun. Sites for new cameras and equipment have been identified, and agreements with the Reading School District and other entities to host the equipment are being completed at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Public Works staff has also completed:
 - 30 sites were cleaned up, which resulted in 247 bags of litter, including 7 bulk items
 - 7 graffiti abatement projects from various locations throughout the City
 - 11 dead animals were picked up

- Public Works staff from various divisions organized, facilitated, and participated in the 1st Annual Waltman Memorial City-wide Cleanup on September 24th. Public Works had 74 participants who worked 3 hours each and collected 96 bags of trash, seven bags of yard waste, and one bulk item. The Sustainability also partnered with Juvenile Probation volunteers, who did a fantastic job clearing embedded debris in baseball field areas.
- Public Works Operations Division assisted with the Puerto Rican Day Parade and Salsa Festival, which took place on Penn Street on September 18th.
- Public Works Sustainability Manager attended the Berks Cultural Diversity Festival on September 24th and shared information on energy efficiency, planning efforts, clean city initiatives, the Adopt-A-Block program, and recycling.

CITY AUDITOR’S REPORT

Monday, October 10, 2022

Real Estate Transfer Tax - Update from 1/1/2018 to 8/31/2022

The City receives a 3.5% Real Estate Transfer Tax on the sale value of all taxable real estate transactions. During the month of August of 2022, \$747,634.78 in revenue was recorded for Real Estate Transfer Tax; this amount included a total of 216 Real Estate Transfer transactions of which 166 were taxable and 50 were non-taxable (see Table #2). For the current year, \$5.5 million was budgeted for this line item, and as of August 31, 2022, \$6,172,565.48 has already been recorded (see Table #1). Also during the month of August of 2022, two properties sold for more than a threshold of half of a million dollars (see Table #3).

Table #1

Month	2022	12/31/2021	12/31/2020	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
January	702,030.86	535,849.04	323,123.52	223,920.68	293,105.03
February	512,582.49	523,300.89	511,220.85	615,116.21	204,053.26
March	954,153.08	1,178,885.61	601,103.82	266,411.11	348,937.95
April	736,240.82	717,308.73	235,765.07	548,506.44	347,097.22
May	883,522.38	447,710.27	157,245.87	441,084.11	322,871.76
June	842,707.71	719,042.39	1,464,932.00	363,997.72	350,369.72
July	793,696.36	752,234.50	437,026.44	359,547.89	350,708.33
August	747,631.78	1,078,840.76	361,892.51	353,006.61	514,841.63
September		678,323.20	501,228.42	350,731.42	324,492.29
October		480,665.62	493,787.54	340,908.53	389,823.15

November		844,193.89	510,649.58	330,855.79	267,444.32
December		837,430.85	993,086.79	457,238.03	576,429.44
Total Revenue	6,172,565.48	8,793,785.75	6,591,062.41	4,651,324.54	4,290,174.10
Total Budgeted	5,500,000.00	4,700,000.00	4,200,000.00	3,800,000.00	3,350,000.00
Over/(Under) Budget	672,565.48	4,093,785.75	2,391,062.41	851,324.54	940,174.10

Table #2

	Taxable	Non-Taxable	Total Transactions
January	216	33	249
February	135	37	172
March	250	41	291
April	201	40	241
May	200	29	229
June	199	41	240
July	209	43	252
August	166	50	216

Table #3

Month	Address	Sale Price	Rate - 3.5%
August	148 N 4 th Street	2,250,000.00	78,780.00
August	1112 Muhlenberg	851,000.00	29,785.00
Total		3,101,000.00	108,565.00

Admission Fee Tax Revenue– Update as of August 31, 2022

The majority of the revenue collected for the Admission Fee Tax comes from the Reading Royals, the Reading Phils and other events/concerts held at the Santander Arena and the Performing Arts Center. In 2022, the Administration budgeted \$200,000 for this revenue line item. And as of August 31, 2022, \$545,619.68 in revenue has already been collected, exceeding its budget target by \$345,619.68.

Month	Reading Phils	Reading Royals	Santander Arena-Other	Performing Art Center	Reading Symphony	Varsity Spirit LLC	YTD Amount Recorded
January	2,686.19	8,618.11	5,013.05	4,687.02			21,004.37
February	2,797.68	9,277.90	44,010.19	25,533.63			81,619.40

March	4,312.12	18,087.90	54,424.75	23,490.73		3,133.98	103,449.48
April	6,919.24	9,876.94	77,475.84	23,792.76			118,064.78
May	7,355.98	7,606.55	34,515.52	10,421.32			59,899.37
June	8,941.65	-	-	4,856.09			13,797.74
July	6,355.72	-	25,022.62	10,493.65			41,871.99
August	8,226.27	-	80,327.16	10,380.14	6,978.98		105,912.55
Total	47,594.85	53,467.40	320,789.13	113,655.34	6,978.98	3,133.98	545,619.68

Pension- State Aid Annual Allocation & Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)

The Pension State Contribution is the annual payment that the City receives from the State Auditor General’s Office. The tables below show how much the City has received annually since 2018. Most recently, on September 28, 2022, the City received more than \$3.9 million as the current year allocation from the state. And as you can see in Table #2 below, the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for 2023 is about \$17.6 million for the three Pension Funds combined. When the City receives its 2023 annual pension contribution next year from the state, it will offset the total MMO expense of the general fund by the amount of the contribution. (Table #2)

Table #1

Year	Budget	Allocation of State Aid	Variance
2018	4,050,314.00	3,705,351.33	(344,962.67)
2019	3,705,350.00	4,050,314.76	344,964.76
2020	4,050,314.00	3,830,744.28	(219,569.72)
2021	3,771,656.00	3,674,718.47	(96,937.53)
2022	3,674,719.00	3,963,045.67	288,326.67

Table # 2

Year	MMO Calculation	Allocation of State Aid	NET-MMO Obligation
2018	18,520,487.18	3,705,351.33	14,815,135.85
2019	18,522,901.00	4,050,314.76	14,472,586.24
2020	18,364,828.00	3,830,744.28	14,534,083.72
2021	18,551,458.00	3,674,718.47	14,876,739.53
2022	18,628,100.00	3,963,045.67	14,665,054.33
2023	17,579,972.00		

Miscellaneous:

On September 30, 2022, Herbein & Company submitted the City of Reading’s 2021 Financial and Compliance Audit Report to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. On September 7, 2022, the Office of

the City Auditor received a copy of the Reading Parking Authority's 2021 Financial and Compliance Audit. According to the 2021 Audit, the Reading Parking Authority's (RPA) operating revenues ended the year with a total of about \$11.4 million, compared to only about \$7.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2020. And the RPA's operating expenses for 2021 ended the year with a total of about \$8.5 million compared to \$5.8 million for 2020. This increase in operating expenses during 2021 was due to various factors including: the contributions to the City of Reading; employee compensation; and capital expenses. And the RPA's net position was approximately \$22.1 million, out of which only about \$2.7 million was unrestricted funds.

REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Pending Legislation

Bill 50-2022 – amending the Charter Board Ordinance by making various alterations such as eliminating Advisory Opinions, creating an administrative body, eliminates the confidentiality of complaints, etc. to establish reasonable guidelines on Charter Board spending ***Introduced at the May 23 regular meeting; Tabled at the June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8 regular meetings; Discussion held August 15; Discussion scheduled for Oct 3***

A. Bill 80-2022 – amending Code Section 91-101, Salaries of designated elected officials assuming office on and after the 1st Monday in January 2024 as follows:

- A. Mayor. The Mayor of the City of Reading shall be compensated at an annual salary of:
- (1) For the period beginning the first Monday in January ~~2008~~, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2009~~ **2024: \$68,100 \$99,000.**
 - (2) For the period beginning the first Monday in January, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2010~~ **2025: \$69,600 \$102,000.**
 - (3) For the period beginning on the first Monday in January ~~2010~~, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2011~~ **2026: \$71,100 \$105,000.**
 - (4) For the period beginning the first Monday in January ~~2011~~ **2027**, and annually for each year thereafter: ~~\$72,600~~ **\$108,000.**
- B. President of Council. The City Council President for the City of Reading shall be compensated at an annual salary of ~~\$5,500~~ **\$8,750** per year.
- C. Councilmen. The District Councilpersons for the City of Reading shall be compensated at an annual salary of ~~\$5,000~~ **\$8,000** per year.
- D. City Auditor. The City Auditor of the City of Reading shall be compensated at an annual salary of:
- (1) For the period beginning the first Monday in January ~~2008~~ **2024**, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2009~~ **2025: \$80,000.**
 - (2) For the period beginning the first Monday in January ~~2009~~ **2025**, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2010~~ **2026: \$54,600 \$81,000.**

- (3) For the period beginning on the first Monday in January ~~2010~~ 2026, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2011~~ 2027: ~~\$56,100~~ \$83,000.
- (4) For the period beginning the first Monday in January ~~2011~~ 2027, and annually for each year thereafter: ~~\$57,600*~~ \$84,000.

Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting; Tabled at the September 12 regular meeting

A. Ordinance – 2023 Real Estate Tax Rate

B. Ordinance – 2023 Position Ordinance

C. Ordinance – 2023 General Fund Budget

D. Ordinance – 2023 Capital Budget

A. Bill No. 115-2022 – amending the City’s Property Maintenance Code with the 2018 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code of the International Code Council, as deleted, modified or amended in Exhibit A

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 115-2022.

Bill No. 115-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7

Nays: None – 0

C. Bill No. 116-2022 – authorizing a Budget transfer in the amount of \$200,000 from Police Patrol for crossing guard services

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 116-2022.

Councilor Reed thanked Councilor Ventura for pushing the need for this new program.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that this program is running smoothly.

Councilor Ventura thanked the Police Department for their follow through. She agreed that the transition has gone well, but there is still a great need for additional guards. She reminded everyone to avoid speeding, especially during the school year and stressed the need for everyone to be mindful of the safety of our children.

Bill No. 116-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz,
President - 7**

Nays: None – 0

D. Bill No. 117-2022 – authoring the execution of an MOU between the City and the Berks County Conservation District to control accelerated erosion and to prevent sediment pollution from entering the waters of the Commonwealth which may result from earth disturbance activities in the City

Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 117-2022.

Bill No. 117-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz,
President - 7**

Nays: None – 0

E. Bill No. 118-2022 – amending City Code Chapter 23, Section 1 by adding a new Part 23-102 allowing the removal of Planning Commission members via the PA MPC or not being excused from 3 meetings.

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 118-2022.

Bill No. 118-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz,
President - 7**

Nays: None – 0

F. Bill No. 119-2022 – amending City Code 576-403 by authorizing the installation of parking stalls at proscribed locations within the City and accompanying parking regulations requiring cars parked in those areas to park within the stalls and setting forth penalties for violations of these regulations and adding a fine to City Code 576-416

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 119-2022.

Councilor Ventura questioned if this ordinance will make the stall program permanent in the pilot area.

The Council Solicitor stated that this ordinance will make the stall program permanent in the current pilot area. Future areas will need to be approved by ordinance.

Councilor Daubert stated that when first proposed he was skeptical that parking stalls would improve parking stress; however, the data suggests that the stalls work.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she supports the permanence of this program as it provides much needed structure around parking.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz agreed with the need for this program to become permanent.

Councilor Miller recalled his recent visit to Rehoboth Delaware where parking stalls are used in the downtown, noting that at the end of most blocks there is a space for a compact vehicle. He expressed the belief that the stall program works well.

Bill No. 119-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7

Nays: None – 0

10. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Councilor Butler read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – amending fee schedule in the City Code by increasing the fee for solid waste collection from \$190.92 per unit per year in 2022 to \$196.65 in 2023, for a total of \$340 for solid waste, recycling and clean city

B. Ordinance – authorizing the conveyance of 131 and 133 Schuylkill Avenue to the City from Berks County Conservancy Properties, Inc (a subsidiary of Berks Nature that is being dissolved)

C. Ordinance – authorizing a budget transfer within the Public Works Sewer Fund in the amount of \$75,000.00 from Vehicles 540743-48003 to Gas 540743-45001 (\$25,000) and Sewer Repair Supplies 540743-45016 (\$50,000) to cover projected increased costs for the rest of 2022.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 152-2022 – ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the City of Reading and AFSCME Local 3799 1st Level Supervisors effective January 1, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2026.

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution 152-2022.

Resolution 152-2022 were adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz - 7
Nays: None – 0

B. Resolution 153-2022 – to Approve or Disapprove the Certificate of Insufficiency issued by the City Clerk on the Freedom from Toxic Trespass Petition

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Resolution 153-2022.

Resolution 153-2022 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz - 7
Nays: None – 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Chief Stoudt announced that this week is the 100th anniversary of fire prevention week. He provided fire prevention tips and described the various programs available, such as the smoke detector program at owner occupied properties.

Councilor Miller agreed with the statements and tips provided by Chief Stoudt; however, he noted frustrations with tenants who remove batteries from smoke detectors or disable detectors. He noted the upcoming sale of daffodil bulbs imported from Netherlands which kicks off the City's 275th Anniversary by the Reading Rotary. The proceeds from the sale of the bulbs will be used toward Mineral Spring Park improvements.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Parking Authority for their diligence in ticketing vehicles parked at fire hydrants. She described the wonderful Blue Faith event within City Park over the weekend organized by the Police Chaplains. She noted the beauty and serenity of Mineral Spring Park and she thanked Reading Rotary for their work to make park improvements. She invited the Reading Rotary to assist in envisioning a new use for the hotel building.

Councilor Daubert stated that he and Councilor Reed spent part of Saturday with teachers involved in the Albright SRI program, which included a tour of City Hall and the story of the stained glass within Council Chambers. He announced that today the Reading High Girls Tennis Team won their first County Championship.

Councilor Butler announced that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and he encouraged women to engage in prevention activities and obtain regular mammograms.

Councilor Reed highlighted the upcoming programs at Goggleworks.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz noted the availability of Breast Cancer Awareness tee-shirts in the Police Department. She described the recent screening of "Women's Club Take Over" which covers patients' rights.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz reviewed the upcoming Council session schedule.

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk