

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 14, 2022**

Council Vice President Reed called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given virtually by Police Chaplain Nicolas Camacho.

All present pledged to the flag.

There were executive sessions held after the November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> COW and during the November 7<sup>th</sup> COW meetings on litigation and personnel.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz - virtually

Councilor Daubert, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

Councilor Ventura, District 3

Councilor Butler, District 4 - virtually

Councilor Reed, District 5

Councilor Miller, District 6

Council Solicitor M. Gombar

City Auditor M. Rodriguez

City Clerk L. Kelleher

Mayor E. Moran

City Solicitor F. Lachat - virtually

Managing Director W. Heim

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Council Commendations were issued as follows:

- Council commendation recognizing the Reading Climate Corps
- Council commendation recognizing The Real Deal 610 and its creator Seleda Simmons

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Vice President Reed stated that there are nine (9) citizens registered to provide public comment – six (6) on agenda matters and three (3) on non-agenda matters.

Councilor Daubert read the public comment rules adopted by ordinance.

**Karen Campbell, Albright College Provost**, thanked Council for considering Albright's proposal for the Innovation Corridor and request for a \$2M ARPA allocation to assist with the renovations to the Student Success Commons and Library Building. She noted the community benefits stemming from having three (3) higher education organizations located within Reading. She stated that Albright's Innovation Corridor plan has garnered national attention due to its 21<sup>st</sup> century library which combines books, multimedia, community and cultural space (Jewish Foundation and African American), and the Total Experience Learning academic focus on students from Kindergarten to post high school and the new pipeline to reduce shortages in the teaching profession for the Reading School District. She noted that these initiatives are recognized beyond the boundaries of Albright's walls and Reading's boundaries. She again thanked Council for considering this proposal.

**Adelle Shade, Dean of Pre-college and Summer Programs at Albright College**, described the integration of the Student Success Center and Library with the Total Experience Learning program(former Science Research Institute "SRI" program) for all K-12 and college students. She highlighted the expansion of the program to high school seniors and the success of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade learning academy with work on computer coding for virtual reality programming. She noted the importance of entrepreneurial participation to take the programming to the next level. She stated that to date there have been 10 patent applications from pre-high school students with two additional applications pending. She described the work with the Reading School District to resolve their teacher shortage problem and the training of teachers and administrators in Total Experience Learning (60 in training now) which will better engage students and resolve disciplinary issues. She described the world-wide interest in the Total Experience Learning technology and her pride in the Albright education momentum. She thanked Council for considering Albright's proposal.

**Jacqueline Fetrow, Albright College President**, stated that Albright is seeking a \$2M ARPA allocation to support their comprehensive academic hub and Student Success Library and Commons as a resource for students and educators from Kindergarten through post high school across the City of Reading. She noted that Albright relocated to northeast Reading in the 1920s, where it became an anchor for the newly developed neighborhood. She stated that having the Total Experience Learning program in the former warehouse at 11<sup>th</sup> and Rockland Streets caused the community to re-identify as an Innovation Corridor. She noted that Albright's residential students are Reading residents and that 60% of Albright alumni remain within Berks County. She stated that the City's allocation of \$2M will advance the Corridor project and allow the ground breaking of the Library project in March 2023. She thanked Council for their consideration.

**Susan Looney, RACC President**, thanked Council for considering the RACC proposal. She stated that RACC is the largest higher education institution in the Reading/Berks area, credit and non-credit, with an annual enrollment of 8,500 students, half of which are Reading residents and 41% of those students are Hispanic which provides RACC with the Hispanic Serving Institutions federal designation as RACC exceeds the minimum of 25% Hispanic enrollment. She noted that 90% of those enrolled remain in Berks County. She noted that a RACC education creates professionals and drives economic development. She stated that many of those enrolled receive life changing experiences that transfer on to new generations. She stated that a RACC credit tuition is \$6,000 per year with students eligible for federal aid. She noted that RACC distributes \$1.2M in scholarships. She described their goal to double the enrollment of the health care programs to assist with correcting the shortages in this skilled professional field. She stated that RACC is requesting a contribution of \$3M.

**Ernest Schlegel, of Pear Street**, stated that he has reviewed the proposed draft Ordinance 50-2022 to amend the Charter Board ordinance and Judge Gavin's ruling on Charter Complaint #54, which affirms the constitutionality of the Charter Board process and the process used to address submitted complaints. He took issue with the draft ordinance prepared by the City Solicitor, as it erodes the power of the Charter Board afforded by Charter Amendment 1. He expressed the belief that if Council approves this ordinance they will have violated the Charter and State law. He suggested empaneling a Charter Review Commission to review changes of this magnitude. He agreed that the City has spent a lot of money on Charter enforcement; however, he expressed the belief that the negligence of the City Solicitor, along with bad decisions/advice, administrative mistakes, etc. also has cost the City an excessive amount of money over time and created higher risks. He asked Council to consider Charter Section 211 which allows Council to remove the City Solicitor. In addition, he suggested building a multitier parking garage behind City Hall on Cedar Street to allow parking of City owned vehicles and employee vehicles. He also encouraged Council to invest in the remediation of blight by providing dedicated funding to the Redevelopment Authority and/or a land bank to improve the City and its tax base.

**Bevelyn Martinez, of Avenue A**, was not present or connected virtually.

**Maryann Ciarlone, of N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, noted that the plan to restore the park located within Centre Park was reviewed at an October community meeting. She stated that the lively meeting about this plan included a discussion about the renovation of the fountain in the center of the park. She took issue with a remark made by the City's Capital Projects Manager that a bigger fountain is a better fountain. She described the various fountains models, noting that the bigger fountain costs \$15K more than other models and it would be out of scale with other features in the park. She stated that overspending on the

fountain would eliminate the improvement of the General Gregg statute located a block away. She noted that bigger is not always better and she distributed copies of the documents she was referring to.

**Evelyn Morrison, no address provided**, expressed the belief that expenditures in the proposed 2023 budget show large increases in contracted and consulting services line items across the board. She asked Council to keep a watchful eye on those line items. She expressed concern with the Charter changes Council moved through the referendum process, when We The People was forced into seeking aid from the Court of Common Pleas. She expressed the belief that the Charter Board is concerned with the Charter government amendments Council has moved forward. She expressed the belief that the Charter is a document that gives the people the right to self-govern and that due to the lack of a Government Study Commission Council has decided to amend the Charter in a way that erodes the Charter and civil rights. She stated that the Charter went into effect in 2001 for the people and by the people and that a group of seven (7) officials should not have the ability to refer 15 referendum questions for public consideration when the people have no clue what they are voting on. She stated that this must stop, as the people's property rights are under attack. She agreed with ARPA funding for educational institutes. She cautioned those involved in the Climate Corps about the hazardous and unremediated postindustrial toxic waste. She stated that although there was a unanimous vote to try to stop Toxic Trespass from moving forward, We The People will still move the initiative forward. She stated that this will not be a friendly process and she asked for forgiveness in advance prior to the challenge of officials who have negatively impacted the civil rights of We The People.

**Carol Riley, of S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street**, updated Council on her ongoing problems with her landlord which continue to be unresolved. She stated that her seizure disorder caused her termination from the Reading School District and she described her efforts to educate the Reading School District about epilepsy since 2013. She asked the County to prepare an Epilepsy Commendation similar to that prepared in Lancaster County for Epilepsy Month which occurs each November.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked Ms. Riley for her presentation and agreed with the need for public education on seizure disorders.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council Vice President Reed called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, along with the summations of discussion from the October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> COW meetings and the November 7<sup>th</sup> Nominations meeting.

**The agenda for this meeting including the Consent Agenda legislation, as amended, and the minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, along with the summations of discussion listed were approved by acclimation, 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 acclimation 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 161-2022** – authorizing the solicitor to execute and submit the approval of the repository bids for 518 R S 11<sup>th</sup> St, 519 Cedar St, 225 Hudson St, and 646 Bingaman St

**B. Award of Contract** – for the purchase of a 2023 Chevy Tahoe SSV to 911 Rapid Response, Annville PA at the cost of \$76,272.25 from the 2022 CIP and purchase of Cardiac Monitor Equipment to One Beat Medical, Miramar FL at the cost of \$35,694.00 from the 2022 CIP. 911 Rapid Response is a PA COSTARS Vendor and the contract reflects COSTARS pricing.

**C. Award of Contract** – for the Potassium permanganate for the Wastewater Treatment Plant 25,000 gallons of 25% sodium permanganate shipped in 275-gallon totes to Carus USA 315 Fifth Street, Peru, IL who is the low bidder with total bid price of \$300,000.00

**D. Resolution 162-2022** - authorizing the setup of a PLIGT investment account, and authorizing the finance department to transfer the OPEB Trust assets from the Wells Fargo checking account into the PLIGT investment account. This will require the Wells Fargo account to subsequently be closed

**E. Resolution 163-2022** - by virtue of Resolution 134-2009, adopted December 14, 2009, the City of Reading declared its intent to follow the procedures for the disposition of records set forth in the Retention and Disposition Schedule for Records of Pennsylvania Municipalities issued in 2009; Council hereby authorizes the disposition of the following public records:

### Public Works

Timesheets, Overtime Cards from 2010 – 2017

Loading Zone Applications from 2006 – 2009

**F. Award of Contract** – for the 18W Hancock and East Wyomissing Blvd. Islands Project – Layer 1 Project to Grace Industries, Inc., Bath, PA in the amount of \$202,842.60. The work is located along East Wyomissing and Hancock Blvds between Brookline Manor Circle and Gerry Street

**G. Award of Contract** – for the Fireman's Museum HVAC Project to Entech Engineering, Reading, PA in the amount of \$17,555, funded by the Public Works budget. The City sought

proposals (RFPs) from qualified individuals and consulting firms to provide the City's Public Works Department with the evaluation of the Fire Museum HVAC system, design engineering services, technical specification preparation and construction management services.

**H. Resolution 164-2022** – regretfully accepting the resignations of Robert Conklin and Lee Olsen from the Reading Planning Commission to remain in compliance with the PA MPC

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor reported on the events and activities he attended since the October 24<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

The managing director stated that today marks his 90<sup>th</sup> day as the managing director. He described his work to understand past and present challenges and create solutions. He stressed the need for employee evaluations and work to improve the functionality of the organization. He also noted the need to end the silo mentality within the organization and encourage cross-communication between all offices which will improve the effectiveness of the organization. He stated that he has asked all department directors to complete self-evaluations and he has begun meeting with the directors to review and discuss the self-evaluations and develop metrics to measure their progress.

The managing director stated that he is working with the HR Department to develop leadership training programs for employees and other programs to encourage personal development.

The managing director stated that interviews with HR director applicants are underway. A Zoom interview with a potential Public Works director applicant is also scheduled.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired if the salary ranges are an impediment to attracting qualified directors. The managing director expressed the belief that the HR salary range is appropriate; however, the Public Works range may need some adjustment based on the City's expectations.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz encouraged the managing director to develop partnerships with the local colleges to enable current employees to enroll so they can acquire the educational requirements for leadership positions.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the managing director for his work to enhance the performance of the departments and employees. She noted that the Vietnam vets are seeking future care for the memorial, which is located outside of Memorial Grove, noting that at one point in the future the memorial will become orphaned.

The mayor left the meeting at this time.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** William M. Heim, Managing Director  
**PREPARED BY:** Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant  
**MEETING DATE:** November 9, 2022  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** November 14, 2022

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### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- The Community Development Department assisted Mayor Moran in preparing a federal fund request summary form for use by different agencies to commence and complete projects impacting economic development within the City. The form emphasized the City's need for a substantial infusion of funds and was discussed with Senator Casey during his visit on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Community Development Director met with the developing company for the Gateway West residential development, a 42 2- and 3- bedroom apartment completed project. All units serve low- to moderate-income families.
- The CD Director met with Opportunity House representatives to discuss shelter operations and a possible expansion to accommodate the increase in homelessness, especially during the winter season.
- The CD Department participated in the preparation and review of the TOD (Transient Oriented District) RFP. The RFP was prepared by a City consultant, reviewed by the City, GRCA, Berks Alliance, and the County of Berks, and released on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **DOWNTOWN:**

- The Downtown Coordinator is collaborating with Reading-Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center Art Department for possible window art within the Downtown.
- The Downtown Coordinator is contacting property owners of vacant and neglected front window areas to offer assistance in improving the presentation of the space.
- Downtown Ambassadors continue daily cleaning activities with the assistance of the Hope Rescue Mission team. In addition, Ambassadors assist people daily with parking difficulties.
- The Downtown Coordinator is organizing the City's annual Holiday Parade, which is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. So far, 71 applications have been received for participation in the parade.

### **FINANCE:**

- The Finance Department's Information Technology Division is in the process of establishing a presence at other City buildings. A space is now set up for an IT Administrator at the WWTP facility, and a space is currently being identified at the Public Works facility on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The Finance Department's Citizens Service Center provided the following updates:
  - The Business Privilege License revenue collected is expected to be higher for 2022 due to the staff's increased efforts in collecting delinquent fees.

- 2022 Per Capita Tax can be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup> without incurred fees. A link was placed on the City's website regarding this announcement.
- The CSC is organizing the City's Annual Angel Tree Holiday event for Reading School District elementary school students. Tyson-Schoener Elementary School was chosen this year, and City staff is excited to help make this event a success by purchasing gifts for the students attending.
- The Finance Department's Purchasing Division provided the following updates related to projects:
  - Baer Park Improvements – This project consists of tree removal, tree pruning, understory clearing, and grubbing; provision of earthwork, porous asphalt paving walkways, segmental block piers, landscaping; installation of owner-furnished modular play and swing structures, safety surface mulch; and incidental related work. Bids are currently being accepted. The deadline for submission is December 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> & Penn Street Courtyard – This project consists of the removal of brick paving and replacement with stamped concrete. The removal and replacement of the existing ramp with a new ramp. Tree removal and replacement of trees, grates, and guards. Bids are due on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Finance Department provided the following updates on the AHL Grant activities:
  - Community-Accessible Testing & Education (CATE) vaccine clinic is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ) survey is officially closed, and surveys are being entered into the REDCap platform. The data from the surveys are being analyzed and validated by the Penn State College of Medicine (PSCOM) team, and a student worker from RACC will assist with the Hands Across Reading data analysis.
  - The Community Engagement Coordinator continues to do outreach with community organizations. The team is planning on volunteering time a local food drive events ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- The Capital Projects Manager provided the following list of completed projects:
  - Essick Park Asphalt removal
  - Southwest Apron
  - Bernhart's Dam
  - Bernhart's Dam Lead/Creek EPA Safety Approval
  - 11<sup>th</sup> & Pike Phase 1
  - City Park Pavilion

**FIRE:**

- The Reading Fire Department officially placed Tower 1, the new ladder truck, in service on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The tower ladder it replaced is now in reserve and designated Tower 2.
- RFD Chief Stoudt participated on the oral interview panel for 25 entry-level FF/EMT applicants. A list will be finalized at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Board meeting, with the hope of hiring 10 recruits in early 2023.

- All RFD members completed a Driver Confidence Training Course, a Department of Health requirement. The Reading Fire Training Lieutenant organized the course.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> & Marion Fire Station construction was scheduled for completion in December 2022; the projected completion date has been pushed back to January 2023 due to supply chain issues.

#### **LIBRARY:**

- The Reading Public Library was awarded \$22K by the Truist Foundation to support a part-time bilingual paraprofessional staff member to work in the Reference Department and teach bilingual computer classes. We want to take this opportunity to thank Truist for their support in enabling us to create such an important position that will directly help many in our community build very important skills.

#### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department received their new Harley Davidson Pan-America Police motorcycle and placed it into service on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The motorcycle was purchased with CIP funds.
- The Reading Police Department's Lt. Lance Lillis continues to schedule and attend community outreach activities throughout the city.

In addition, Lt. Lillis and Sgt. Fegley actively responds to numerous calls received weekly regarding homelessness. Their response includes coordinating homeless resources, including referrals and coordinating with Public Works to clear sites of large debris left behind.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- Public Works staff has also completed:
  - 29 sites were cleaned up, primarily illegal dumping sites, which resulted in 379 bags of trash and litter, 123 bulk items, 31 tires, and 7 televisions.
  - 39 graffiti abatement projects from various locations throughout the City
  - 11 dead animals were picked up
  - 54 storm drains were cleaned out
- Public Works Clean City Coordinator reports:
  - 3 cleanup events with 9 volunteers were held, which resulted in the collection of 23 bags of trash and litter, 5 televisions, 8 tires, 4 bulk items.
  - 5 Adopt-A-Block cleanup events were held, which resulted in 36 bags of trash and litter.
  - The Annual Fairview Christian School Cleanup was held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The cleanup event yielded 4.17 tons of trash and litter, including 30 tires, 35 televisions, and numerous bulk items, with assistance from the Clean City team.
- The Public Works Sewer teams received the Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association's Collection System Excellence Award at the Association's November meeting. Congratulation to our City's Sewer team for their excellent work.

- Public Works Sustainability Manager, with the assistance of Alvernia University’s Dr. Jamie Becker’s Ecology class and Reading Climate Corps, planted 130 native willow and dogwood species tree saplings at Bernhardt creek to stabilize the stream bank increase ecological quality.

## **CITY AUDITOR’S REPORT**

### **Monday, November 14, 2022**

#### **Real Estate Transfer Tax - Update from 1/1/2018 to 10/31/2022**

The City receives a 3.5% Real Estate Transfer Tax on the sale value of all taxable real estate transactions. As of October 31, 2022, \$7,785,680.40 in revenue was recorded for Real Estate Transfer Tax. During this period, a total of 2,301 Real Estate Transfer transactions were completed, of which 1,898 were taxable and 403 were non-taxable (see Table #2). For the current year, \$5.5 million was budgeted for this revenue line item, and as of October 31, 2022, this amount has exceed its budget target by \$2,285,680.40. Out of the total revenue collected, about one million dollars came for properties that were sold for half a million dollars or more. (See Table #3)

<b>Month</b>	<b>10/31/2022</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>12/31/2019</b>	<b>12/31/2018</b>
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	654,921.99	678,323.20	501,228.42	350,731.42	324,492.29
October	958,192.93	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

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,785,680.40</b>	<b>8,793,785.75</b>	<b>6,591,062.41</b>	<b>4,651,324.54</b>	<b>4,290,174.10</b>
<b>Total Budgeted</b>	<b>5,500,000.00</b>	<b>4,700,000.00</b>	<b>4,200,000.00</b>	<b>3,800,000.00</b>	<b>3,350,000.00</b>
<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>2,285,680.40</b>	<b>4,093,785.75</b>	<b>2,391,062.41</b>	<b>851,324.54</b>	<b>940,174.10</b>

**Table #2**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Taxable</b>	<b>Non-Taxable</b>	<b>Total Transactions</b>
<b>January</b>	216	33	249
<b>February</b>	135	37	172
<b>March</b>	250	41	291
<b>April</b>	201	40	241
<b>May</b>	200	29	229
<b>June</b>	199	41	240
<b>July</b>	209	43	252
<b>August</b>	166	50	216
<b>September</b>	149	47	196
<b>October</b>	173	42	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>2301</b>

**Table #3**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Sale Price</b>	<b>Rate - 3.5%</b>
January	527 Court St.	600,000.00	21,000.00
February	18 N 4th St.	\$525,000.00	18,375.00
March	920 Lancaster Ave.	\$2,958,333.00	103,541.66
April	1415 Alsace Rd.	\$575,000.00	20,125.00
April	1235 Lancaster Ave.	\$600,000.00	21,000.00
April	1220 Perkiomen Ave.	\$850,000.00	29,750.00
April	1041 Washington St.	\$550,000.00	19,250.00
May	232 N 6th Street	664,900.00	23,271.50
May	430 S 4th Street	840,000.00	29,400.00
May	1802 Hill Road		

		599,900.00	20,996.50
May	755 Hiester Ln	1,800,000.00	63,000.00
May	501 S 9th Street	1,075,000.00	37,625.00
June	500 N 9th Street	925,000.00	32,375.00
June	354 Penn Street	1,450,000.00	50,750.00
July	1619 Lorraine Rd	650,000.00	22,750.00
July	600 N 8th Street	1,000,000.00	35,000.00
July	930 Pike Street	1,280,000.00	44,800.00
July	952 Penn St	500,000.00	17,500.00
August	148 N 4th Street	2,250,000.00	78,750.00
August	1112 Muhlenberg	851,000.00	29,785.00
September	125 Morgantown Road	950,000.00	33,250.00
September	1025 Old Wyomissing Road	1,231,650.00	43,107.75
October	715 Clinton Street	1,350,000.00	47,250.00
October	708 Centre Avenue	525,000.00	18,375.00
October	1501 N 9th Street	600,000.00	21,000.00
October	783 Court Street	2,600,000.00	91,000.00
October	1200 N 11th Street	2,700,000.00	94,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,500,783.00</b>	<b>1,067,527.41</b>

### **Comcast Cable Franchise Fees – Update as of September 30, 2022**

For the first three quarters of 2022, a total of \$556,486.53 was recorded in revenue for the Cable Franchise Fees. The revenue amount collected as of September 30, 2022, shows a decrease when compared to the revenue collected for the same period during the previous years. In 2021, \$825,000 was budgeted for this line item and \$800,925.97 was collected. And for this year, there is a probability that the Comcast Cable Franchise Fees revenue may be under budget by about \$88,000.

**The chart below demonstrates the Cable Franchise Budget to Actual from 2018 to 2022 YTD**

	YTD 2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
1ST QUARTER	191,352.32	205,330.02	207,751.86	209,042.39	212,684.39
2ND QUARTER	185,733.50	204,350.84	206,508.34	210,579.70	214,578.59
3RD QUARTER	179,400.71	197,767.57	203,557.64	199,517.55	208,734.78
4TH QUARTER		193,477.54	200,679.36	204,481.07	214,925.66
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>556,486.53</b>	<b>800,925.97</b>	<b>818,497.20</b>	<b>823,620.71</b>	<b>850,923.42</b>
<b>Total Budgeted</b>	<b>825,000.00</b>	<b>825,000.00</b>	<b>875,000.00</b>	<b>875,000.00</b>	<b>930,000.00</b>
<b>OVER/UNDER BUDGET</b>	<b>(268,513.47)</b>	<b>(24,074.03)</b>	<b>(56,502.80)</b>	<b>(51,379.29)</b>	<b>(79,076.58)</b>

### Miscellaneous:

- The Auditor Office and personnel from the Finance Department are schedule to meet with Herbein + Company during the first week of December to plan the 2022 annual audit.
- The City Controller has received confirmation via email that the annual Liquid Fuels allocation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is scheduled to be received around November 8th. This revenue is restricted and only can be used for costs associated with construction/re-construction and maintenance of local roads, streets, and bridges.

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

None.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

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### Pending Legislation

**Bill 80-2022** – amending Code Section 91-101, Salaries of designated elected officials assuming office on and after the 1<sup>st</sup> 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~~ **2024**, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2009~~ **2025**: ~~\$68,100~~ **\$95,000**.
  - (2) For the period beginning the first Monday in January, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2010~~ **2025**: ~~\$69,600~~ **\$97,500**.
  - (3) For the period beginning on the first Monday in January ~~2010~~, and ending the first Sunday in January ~~2011~~ **2026**: ~~\$71,100~~ **\$100,000** ~~2011~~ **2027**, and annually for each year thereafter: ~~\$72,600~~ **\$102,500**.
- 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. Council ~~men~~. 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***

**Ordinance** – 2023 Real Estate Tax Rate ***Introduced at the October 3 special meeting***

**Ordinance** – 2023 Position Ordinance ***Introduced at the October 3 special meeting***

**Ordinance** – 2023 General Fund Budget ***Introduced at the October 3 special meeting***

**Ordinance** – 2023 Capital Budget ***Introduced at the October 3 special meeting***

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**A. 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***

**Councilor Ventura moved, seconded by Councilor Butler to enact Bill No. 50-2022.**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved to table Bill No. 50-2022.**

The Council Solicitor advised of the need to dispose of the first motion prior to entertaining new motions, as per the Council rules.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz reminded her colleagues of the COW discussion regarding the need to table the bill to allow the City Solicitor to prepare a new amendment

that addresses the issues raised by the Charter Board Solicitor. She suggested delaying the vote on the bill until the amendment is presented and reviewed.

Councilor Daubert agreed with providing the City Solicitor time to prepare his amendment that concedes on some issues raised by the Charter Board Solicitor. He stated that if a vote on the current bill occurs, he will vote no, as he believes that it would be inadvisable to adopt the amendment as it is currently drafted.

Council Vice President Reed agreed with providing the City Solicitor with time to prepare a new draft that addresses the Charter Board's concerns.

**Councilor Ventura and Councilor Butler withdrew their motions to table Bill 50- 2022.**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill 50-2022.**

**Bill No. 50-2022 was tabled by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None – 0**

**B. Bill No. 123-2022** – authorizing a budget transfer from Public Works Solid Waste Legal Services to General Plant Supplies in the amount of \$20,000 for the purchase of recycling carts ***Introduced at the October 24 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 123-2022.**

**Bill No. 123-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None – 0**

**C. Bill No. 124-2022** – authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$165,000 from Community Development to Human Resources to repay the IRS for COVID sick leave that is not being reimbursed because we are a government entity ***Introduced at the October 24 regular meeting***

**Councilor Ventura moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 124-2022.**

**Bill No. 124-2022 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 City Code Chapter 212 Fee Schedule Section 113, Fire Prevention, Fire Protection and Medical Transportation Section 36 Fire and Rescue Services by making modifications to the fees and requirements

**B. Ordinance** – amending the 2022 Self Insurance Fund 2022 Budget to budget for Fund expenses through the remainder of 2022 by increasing the budget line items Incurred Liability Claims (521100 47490) in the amount of \$424,348.44 and Premium Payments (521100 47520) in the amount of \$276,071.30, and will be funded by an increase in Transfer from Fund Balance budget line item (521100 39900) in the amount of \$700,419.74

**C. Ordinance** - budget amendment for the General Fund 2022 budget to budget for employee parking expense and some withholding revenue from some employees to cover a portion of employee parking expense by increasing the budget line items 010830 49540 Police Parking Expense \$146,200 and 011491 49540 Parking Expense \$143,400, which will be funded by increases to 011491 39009 Parking Reimbursement, \$52,200 and 011491 39900 Transfer from Fund Balance, \$237,400

**D. Ordinance** - 2022 ARPA Fund Budget amending the 2022 ARPA Fund Budget to appropriate funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 each to Alvernia University, Albright College, and Reading Area Community College for a total of \$3,000,000.

**E. Ordinance** – authorizing the execution of a Lease Agreement between the Reading Police Department and Alvernia for office space and meeting space at 401 Penn Street for a 10 year term at no cost to the City

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 165-2022** – authorizing the execution of the 2023 CDBG Action Plan and its submission to HUD

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution 165-2022.**

**Resolution 165-2022 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Freytiz - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**B. Resolution 166-2022** – appointing Frank Denbowski to the Planning Commission

**C. Resolution 167-2022** - appointing Daniel DeCarlo to the Planning Commission

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolutions 166 and 167-2022.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that these two applicants have the qualifications and willingness to undertake the work of the Planning Commission.

**Resolutions 166 and 167-2022 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Freytiz - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Daubert was excused at this time.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the start of the Blues Fest this weekend with a concert sponsored by the Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership (MP3) on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Leiderkrantz.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked the Climate Corps for their work and she spoke about the passion and dedication Seleda Simmons brings to the Real Deal programs and partnerships.

Councilor Ventura announced that BCAP and the Real Deal are hosting a COVID test and vaccination site at the Oakbrook Development on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Council Vice President Reed reminded everyone to dress warmly for the Holiday Parade this Saturday morning.

Council Vice President Reed noted the passing of a long term Muhlenberg Township Supervisor and sent condolences to his family and his Township family.

Council Vice President Reed reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*