

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
June 27, 2022

Council Vice President Cepeda-Freytiz called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given virtually by Nancy Lennert, Transformative Solutions Network.

All present pledged to the flag.

There was an executive session regarding personnel during the June 27th COW meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Councilor Daubert, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

Councilor Ventura, District 3

Councilor Butler, District 4

Councilor Reed, District 5

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz, District 6

Council Solicitor M. Gombar

City Auditor M. Rodriguez

City Clerk L. Kelleher

Solicitor F. Lachat

Acting Managing Director F. Denbowski - virtually

Mayor Moran

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Vice President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to provide public comment on agenda matters and one written public comment submitted.

Councilor Reed read the public comment rules adopted by ordinance.

Ryan Lineaweaver, President of the West Reading Borough Council, described the longstanding quality of life problems stemming from the continual partying at the Riverfront Park property. The noise from the 10 foot speakers attached to the roof of a vehicle has been disturbing to West Reading, Wyomissing and City residents since 2019. He added that some long-term West Reading residents are talking about moving

elsewhere due to the overwhelming noise problems. In addition to the noise there are also potential public health and welfare issues for those who choose to attend these events. He suggested working in partnership to resolve this longstanding problem.

Philip Wert, of the West Reading Borough Council, echoed the remarks made by Mr. Lineaweaver. He stated that the problems created at Riverfront Park are more than residents of all municipalities should have to tolerate. He agreed with forming a partnership to address this long-standing problem.

Evelyn Morrison, no address provided, questioned why Council is moving so many Charter amendment referendum questions forward without consulting constituents, noting that her citizens group needed to go to court for the term limits referendum she sought. She expressed the belief that Council members being lazy and reactionary by not consulting with their constituents about the proposed Charter amendments. She accused some elder members of Council for violating the Ethics Code by not reporting gift receipts in the past. She also accused Council members from coming to meetings unprepared. She stated that rather than focus on Charter amendments and other legislation, Council should instead focus on the contaminated Schuylkill River and the flesh eating bacteria present that attack those swimming in the river. She stated that physicians at Tower Health have made this diagnosis several times.

Don Pottiger, Lower Alsace Manager, read the letter below into the record:

June 27, 2022

To the Mayor, City Administration, and City Council,

I am writing this letter, representing the Supervisors of Lower Alsace Township, to address the issues which both the City and the Township are dealing with on Skyline Drive. As you may well be aware of, the gate installed by the City at the Pagoda appears to have reduced or eliminated the noise issue in this area. Unfortunately, the problem seems to have migrated to List Road at Skyline Drive. Just a few weeks ago, Chief Ray Serafin of Central Berks Regional Police informed the Lower Alsace Township Supervisors of a weekend-long problem in this area on the weekend of April 8 – 10. Chief Serafin has informed me of the calls he and his department have responded to since that date. There have been calls on May 30, and June 2, 4,5,7 and 18. The constant problem in policing this area has always come down to staffing. Central Berks Police provides police coverage to Lower Alsace Township, Mount Pen Borough, Saint Lawrence Borough, and Oley Township. This does not allow for a large enough presence to handle a large gathering like the one mentioned. I understand from my days at City Hall how difficult it is for the Reading Police Department to respond to these types of call in addition to all of the other issues they deal with on a day-to-day basis. What I believe is a hurdle that must be overcome is communication between all municipalities AND police departments involved. I will state that I have had no problems in reaching out to Frank Denbowski on any matter that has come to my attention, and Frank has always followed up if I left him a message, and I want to make that very clear. We all have a vested interest in our

municipal borders and I believe it is imperative to work together in solving these issues. We are stronger if we work TOGETHER.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, I can be reached at the Township office. Chief Serafin can be contacted at the Central Berks Police office at 610-779-1100. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Councilor Daubert thanked the West Reading Borough Council representatives for sharing their thoughts and offering to work jointly on a solution. He noted the need to also consider other issues that stem from various issues caused by the lack of consideration such as sweeping litter into the street on street sweeping day, parking in an intersection, etc. He agreed with the potential for public health and welfare issues and liability issues created by those who choose to attend these events at Riverfront Park. He noted that the quality of life complaints affect West Reading, Wyomissing and City neighborhoods south of Penn and the 18th Ward.

Councilor Reed stated that she visited the site over the weekend and witnessed in excess of 100 vehicles and people in attendance. She agreed that this is an issue causing multi-municipal quality of life problems that should be handled through a multi-municipal partnership.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the use of a multi-municipal approach to these quality of life issues that includes representatives from those who initiate these gatherings. She suggested setting limits on these large unpermitted gatherings where various illegal and unsafe activities occur.

The mayor agreed with the comments and suggestions, noting that the Reading Police Department's response has been adequate.

Council Vice President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked the West Reading officials for offering a partnership. She stressed the need to educate citizens about appropriate and inappropriate activities and applying strong enforcement. She suggested developing a task force.

Councilor Reed suggested revisiting Riverfront Development studies and implementing viable projects to develop this area.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council Vice 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 June 13th Regular Meeting of Council, along with the summations of discussion from the June 13th and June 21st COW meetings and the June 21st Nominations

Committee meeting.

The agenda for this meeting, including the Consent Agenda legislation, the minutes from the June 13th Regular Meeting of Council, and the summations of discussion listed were approved by acclimation.

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 104-2022 – authorizing the city solicitor to execute the acknowledgement sheets to APPROVE the Repository Bids in the 800 blk of Hampden Blvd and 526 S 9th St.

Administrative Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Frank Denbowski, Interim Managing Director
PREPARED BY: Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant
MEETING DATE: June 13, 2022
AGENDA MEMO DATE: June 8, 2022

The mayor noted that he recently officiated at a wedding at First Energy Stadium and the acting managing director highlighted the report attached to the agenda, distributed electronically and copied in below as follows:

FINANCE:

- The Finance Department's CSC provided the following data related to phone calls received:

Request Type	REQUESTS	PERCENT
Sewer backup	151	23.02%
Yardwaste	84	12.8%
Property Maintenance Unpaid Fees Request	49	7.47%
Needs Recycling Bin	45	6.86%
Over grown grass and weeds	36	5.49%
Property Maintenance Issues	33	5.03%
Recycling Electronics	32	4.88%

Trash Pick up	26	3.96%
Trash Enforcement	24	3.66%
Pothole or sunken utility cut	19	2.9%
Property Inspections Scheduling	13	1.98%
Meet with the Mayor	13	1.98%

Zoning Inquiry	11	1.68%
Tire Removal/Pick Up	9	1.37%
Tree Trimming Public	6	0.91%
Building and Trades Permits	6	0.91%
Property Maintenance Fees	5	0.76%
Illegal Dumping	5	0.76%
Handicap parking	5	0.76%
Tree Trimming Private Property	4	0.61%
Recycling Pickup	4	0.61%
Abandoned Vehicles on Property	4	0.61%
Unsecured/Open Property	3	0.46%
Unpermitted construction activity	3	0.46%
Street Sign Request	3	0.46%
Street Repair or Paving	3	0.46%
Sewer Inquiries	3	0.46%
No Electric	3	0.46%
Mold/Mildew	3	0.46%
Line Painting	3	0.46%
Zoning Violation	2	0.3%
Tree Questions Permits	2	0.3%
Trash Education	2	0.3%
Trash Cans Outside Too Long	2	0.3%
Street sign damaged or vandalized	2	0.3%
Street light out or malfunctioning	2	0.3%
Sidewalk Construction Permits	2	0.3%
Sewer Grates Catch Basins	2	0.3%
Recycling Education	2	0.3%
Property Inspections	2	0.3%
Illegal Conversions	2	0.3%

Hauler Issue	2	0.3%
Dog dirt	2	0.3%
Animal Control - Live Animals	2	0.3%
Vermin	1	0.15%
Vehicle Nuisance	1	0.15%
Street Sweeping	1	0.15%
Street Condition - Hazardous	1	0.15%
Rooms for Rent	1	0.15%
Odor	1	0.15%
No Water	1	0.15%
Infestation	1	0.15%
Indoor Furniture	1	0.15%
Housing Permits	1	0.15%
Hoarding Clutter Situation	1	0.15%
Historic preservation assistance	1	0.15%
Grass cutting at parks	1	0.15%
Feeding Animals	1	0.15%
Electrical Issue	1	0.15%
Curb/Sidewalk Repair Enforcement	1	0.15%
Clean City Projects	1	0.15%
Certificate of Transfer	1	0.15%
Building & Trades Inspection Electrical	1	0.15%
Abandoned Property	1	0.15%

FIRE:

- The Reading Fire Department conducted a final inspection of the new 93-foot tower ladder truck. After some final corrections and additions are made, the truck has an estimated delivery date of late June, with a start of use date of the end of the summer. This tower ladder truck will replace a 2003 75-foot model, which will be kept as a spare and used as needed.
- The RFD's Southwest Station has completed the ramp replacement project. The fire apparatus will be returned on June 21st as time is needed for the concrete to cure.
- The 9th and Marion Fire Station project site work is progressing. Below is a current photo of progress at the worksite:



HUMAN RESOURCES:

- The Human Resource Department would like to welcome the following new employees to the City of Reading organization:
 - Jaylen Barrientos-Collins as a part-time Data Transfer Clerk in Zoning as of May 31st.
 - Nelis Batista Segural as Development and Inspection Clerk in the Property Maintenance Department as of June 1st
- The Human Resource Department is currently working with Police on promotional interviews on June 16th for Sergeant and Lieutenant.
- The Human Resource Department has received 86 entry-level applications for the Fire Department. The deadline for application submission was May 31st. The next step is the written exam to be held on June 18th.

LIBRARY:

- The Reading Public Library has promoted a staff member to Teen Loft Manager and hired a Summer Library Clerk to assist with the high season. The RPL still has the following available positions:
 - 1 full-time Bilingual Library Assistant
 - 1 part-time Bilingual Library Assistant
 - 1 full-time Youth Services Coordinator

Anyone interested in applying, please visit the RPL website at:

<http://readingpubliclibrary.org/employment-opportunities>

POLICE:

- The Reading Police Department is currently planning the National Night Out event which will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd, on the 500 block of Penn Street.
- The RPD was awarded an \$8,000 grant from the 2022 Darrell and Gloria Rank K9 corps Fund and Richard Groff and Meda Kern K9 Corps Endowment.
- The RPD oversaw the destruction of dirt bikes and ATVs seized in the years 2021 and 2022.
- Chief Tornielli met with Captain Bailey and Lt. Burkhardt, new leadership from the Pennsylvania State Patrol, to find ways to collaborate on enforcement efforts and community engagement activities.

- The RPD conducted another Operation Cease Fire detail on May 5th. The RPD was assisted by Berks County's District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force, Berks County Adult Probation, Berks County Juvenile Probation, Berks County Sheriff's Office, PA State Police, and PA State Police. The detail produced the following results:
 - 1 Summary Arrest
 - 3 Misdemeanor Arrests
 - 8 Felony Arrests
 - 12 Warrants Served
 - 1 Firearm Recovered
 - 1 Stolen Vehicle Recovered
 - 25 Home Visits of Individuals on Supervision
 - 36 Traffic Stops
 - 20 Citations Issued

In addition, the following was also conducted:

- 4 Park and Walk Details
- 4 Bar/Business Checks

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Public Works staff has added extra trash cans to parks throughout the city to address the increase of waste during the warmer months.
- Public Works staff has also completed:
 - 19 clean-up projects resulted in 79 bags and 20 bulk items
 - 21 graffiti removal jobs
 - 13 dead animals picked up
 - 550 bags of litter and trash were collected from Penn Street daily cleaning
- Public Works picked up 59 televisions and 41 tires at various sites throughout the City.
- Public Works addressed 960 potholes and low street cuts in the month of May.
- Public Works Clean City Coordinator has met with County Juvenile and Adult Probation, Hope Rescue Mission, Opportunity House, and EDI Inc. to review community services policies and/or volunteer policy and procedures.
- Public Works Clean City Coordinator has walked the Hampden Heights, 11th & Pike, 3rd and Spruce, and McKnight and West Oley neighborhoods to distribute flyers for the Residential Clean-Out event on June 25th.
- Public Works staff performed community outreach within the Centre Park Historic District. Staff attended the Centre Park Flea Market event to share Clean City information with the community and passed out flyers for the Residential Clean-Out at the event and in surrounding neighborhoods.
- Public Work Solid Waste Manager attended the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) training in State College on May 12th and 13th. The training was completed, and certification testing is scheduled for July.
- Public Works has named Bill Reilly Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager. Bill was previously serving as the WWTP Operations Manager.
- Public Works Sustainability Manager attended the EPA Mid-Atlantic Summit meeting on May 25th.
- Public Works has completed the Bernhart Dam Dewatering project. The reservoir is now drained to the extent planned, and the Certificate of Completion was submitted to the DEP

and ACOE. PW will seed the basin area as a follow-up to the project. The EPA will also continue investigating the island and other previously untested areas.

Council Vice President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that she is excited to see the reuse of the Adopt a Block program and she suggested including the Youth Commission in this endeavor.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the work by the Police Department to seize illegal dirt bikes and ATVs has decreased their use within District 2.

CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

Monday, June 27, 2022

Real Estate Transfer Tax - Update from 1/1/2018 to 5/31/2022

The City receives a tax levy of 3.5% on the value of the Real Estate Transfer Tax for properties sold. During the month of May of 2022, \$883,522.38 in revenue was recorded for this line item; this amount included a total of 229 Real Estate Transfer transactions of which 200 were taxable and 29 were non-taxable (see Table #2). For the current year, \$5.5 million was budgeted for this line item, and as of May 31, 2022, \$3,788,529.63 has already been recorded (see Table #1). Also during the month of May of the current year, five properties were sold for more than half of a million dollar threshold (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		719,042.39	1,464,932.00	363,997.72	350,369.72
July		752,234.50	437,026.44	359,547.89	350,708.33
August		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	3,788,529.63	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	(1,711,470.37)	4,093,785.75	2,391,062.41	851,324.54	940,174.10

Table #2

Month	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

Table #3

Month	Address	Sale Price	Rate - 3.5%
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
Total		4,979,800.00	174,293.00

Business Privilege Tax/Business Privilege Tax Prior Year – Update as of 5/31/2022

For the current year, the City budgeted a combined \$1,789,600 for Business Privilege Tax and Business Privilege Tax Prior Year, which is a \$323,200 increase over the 2021 budget for the Business Privilege Tax line item. And as of May 31, 2022, the City has recorded \$1,429,556.40 for these line items, which is \$334,581.88 more than the revenue that was recorded during the same period in 2021.

Business Privilege Tax Revenue – 2021 vs. 2022 YTD Comparison:

	2022 Budget	5/31/2022	Variance	2021 Budget	5/31/2021	Variance
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Business Privilege Tax	1,708,800.00	1,382,972.13	(325,827.87)	1,385,600.00	1,052,824.41	(332,775.59)
Business Privilege Tax - Prior Year	80,800.00	46,584.27	(34,215.73)	80,800.00	42,150.11	(38,649.89)
Total	1,789,600.00	1,429,556.40	(360,043.60)	1,466,400.00	1,094,974.52	(371,425.48)

Miscellaneous

The City was granted by the Federal Government \$61,134,970 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). \$30,567,485 was received on June 10 of 2021, and the same amount was just received on June 16 of 2022.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 49-2022 – increasing the salary of the Finance Director by \$15,000 to \$120,000 due to the expansion on that role as Deputy Managing Director ***Introduced at the May 23 regular meeting; Tabled at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 49-2022.

Bill No. 49-2022 was tabled the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed - 5

Nays: Ventura - 1

Bill No. 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 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to table Bill No. 50-2022.

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

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

A. Bill 52-2022 - amending City Code Chapter 496 Part 2 Solid Waste by adding definitions of Container, Cart/Toter, Trash Can, Trash Bag and clarifying the set out of trash ***Introduced at the***

June 13 regular meeting

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 52-2022.

Bill No. 52-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

B. Bill 53-2022 – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before city voters on the 2022 General Election Ballot which would amend the Home Rule Charter by allowing the capital budget public hearing to be held on the same date as the operating budget public hearing ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 53-2022.

Bill No. 53-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

C. Bill 54-2022 – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before city voters on the 2022 General Election Ballot which would amend the Home Rule Charter Sections 1102 through 1109 to replace the current Referendum & Initiative with the procedure in the Third Class City Code ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 54-2022.

Councilor Ventura expressed the belief that requiring the public to come to City Hall to sign a petition is a hardship and will deter participation.

Council Vice President Cepeda-Freytiz noted her agreement.

Councilors Reed and Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that they see both sides of this issue regarding the drawbacks and benefits of the proposed change and suggested letting the electorate decide.

Bill No. 54-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed - 4

Nays: Cepeda-Freytiz, Ventura - 2

D. Bill 55-2022 – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before city voters on the 2022 General Election Ballot which would amend the Home Rule Charter Section 404 (a) - (b) – requiring Council approval for the termination of the Managing Director ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to table Bill No. 55-2022.

Bill No. 55-2022 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed - 5

Nays: Ventura - 1

E. Bill 56-2022 – amending the City Code Chapter 180, Part 7, Section 702.8 Licensing by adding the annual licensing fees at their current rate: Master \$90, Journeyman \$50, Appliance Installer \$50, Reciprocal \$100 plus the fee for classification being reciprocated ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 56-2022.

Bill No. 56-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

F. Bill 57-2022 – amending the 2022 Fund 47 ARP Fund Budget to provide the funds needed for the Mayor’s Summer Youth Initiative Program expenditures. The funds will be made available by a budget appropriation in the City’s 2022 ARP Fund budget ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 57-2022.

The benefits of starting this summer work program were discussed.

Bill No. 57-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

G. Bill 58-2022 – authorizing the conveyance of 513 S. 14 ½ Street to the RPA to be used as Residential Parking ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 58-2022.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the former East Reading Pool property is a half block from her home and while the pool was a thriving community asset when she moved in the pool started to decline when pool memberships began to fall off, leading to deferred maintenance and financial problems. She challenged her Council colleagues to identify \$6-8M to restore the property to a pool use. She suggested looking at a splash pad park at Neversink Playground instead.

Councilor Reed noted that the suggested locations in East Reading are far removed from District 5 and she suggested finding a more centralized location if the City builds a 2nd public pool.

Bill No. 58-2022 was NOT enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz - 3

Nays: Butler, Reed, Ventura - 3

H. Bill 59-2022 – authorizing the execution of a lease agreement to convey 924 – 932 Penn Street to the RPA to be used as Residential Parking ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 59-2022.

Bill No. 59-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

I. Bill 60-2022 – authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$250,000 to cover expenses related to the settlement of numerous matters in litigation ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 60-2022.

Bill No. 60-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

J. Bill 61-2022 – authorizing the Council Solicitor and City Solicitor to accept as full and final

payment for all outstanding City related to the property located at 148 North Fourth Street loans by J & A Court in the amount of \$375,000, payable no later than July 25, 2022 and deposited by the administration into the City's General Fund Reserve ***Introduced at the June 13 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 61-2022.

Bill No. 61-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6

Nays: None - 0

10. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Councilor Butler read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – authorizing residential permit parking from 8 am to 8 pm with a 2 hour period for non-permit holders Zones in the 100 block of Schiller Street, the 100 block of North 8th Street and the 200 block of Reed Street, in accordance with City Code Chapter 576 Vehicles and Traffic, Part 4 Stopping and Parking, A – Regulations, Section 576-417 Residential Permit Parking, as recommended by the Reading Parking Authority

B. Ordinance – amending City Code Chapter 396, Part 3 Park Use by providing additional authority for law enforcement agencies to act when responding to calls for service at public park properties as defined herein and allowing responding law enforcement agencies to seize devices that are in violation of this ordinance for possible forfeiture and destruction.

C. Ordinance – amending City Code Chapter 387 Noise by adding references to Chapter 396, Part 3 Park Use regarding noise at City and City agency owned properties

D. Ordinance – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before city voters on the 2022 General Election Ballot which would amend the Home Rule Charter Section 603 (a) - (b) – requiring Council approval for the termination of the Department Directors

E. Ordinance – authorizing the conveyance of 140 Schiller Street Berks County Parcel I.D. No. 6530765523615 from the Reading Redevelopment Authority and execution of the agreement of sale of the property for nominal consideration as per the agreement of sale

F. Ordinance – transferring \$10,100,000 of ARPA funds from Fund 47 to the Capital Projects Account Fund 34

G. Ordinance – amending City Code Chapter 62 Pension, Part 1 New Officers And Employees Pension Fund and Part 2 Officers and Employees Retirement System by clarifying the criteria for qualifying for a disability pension benefit

H. Ordinance – amending the City Code Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Part 2 Council

Organization and Procedure by creating a new Section 5-216 relating to the evaluation of council staff in accordance with the Charter amendment approved by the electorate at the June 2020 Primary Election

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 105-2022 – appointing Steven Symons to the HVAC Board

B. Resolution 106-2022 – appointing Steven Symons as an alternate to the Fire/Building Code Board of Appeals

C. Resolution 107-2022 – appointing Chad Milligan to the HVAC Board

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolutions No. 105-107-2022.

Councilors Goodman-Hinnershitz, Butler and Cepeda-Freytiz spoke about the professional experience these appointees bring to these boards.

Resolutions No. 105-107-2022 were adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6
Nays: None - 0

D. Resolution 108-2022 – appointing _____ as Council President

Councilor Butler moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to appoint Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz to the Council President position.

Resolution No. 108 -2022, appointing Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz as Council President, was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura - 6
Nays: None - 0

The Council Solicitor explained that the Charter provides Council with the ability to decide how to fill vacancies within 30 days of their occurrence. In this case Council decided to appoint the President from the seated Council members then open the process to the public to refill the vacant District Council seat within 30 days of June 27th.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz invited all to the flag raising ceremony scheduled for this Wednesday at 5 pm at the Pagoda.

Councilor Reed stated that the Berks History Center will be loaning the County the Berks Liberty Bell for display in the lobby of the Services Center. The ceremony is scheduled for this Thursday at 10 am. She also noted the recent presentation on the 50 year anniversary of Flood Agnes by former Fire Chief Bill Rehr and George Meiser.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk