

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2022

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called the meeting to order.

The mayor asked everyone to take a moment of silence to pray for those who have been affected and will be affected by the Hurricane Ian roaring across the Caribbean Sea.

The invocation was given virtually by Brittany Letterman, FREE.

All present pledged to the flag.

There were no executive sessions held after the September 19th or 26th COW meetings.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz
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
Managing Director W. Heim
Mayor Moran

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council Commendations were issued to:

- Commendation recognizing Edward Sanchez
- Commendation recognizing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to provide public comment on non-agenda matters and one (1) citizen provided a written submission on non-agenda matters.

Councilor Reed read the public comment rules adopted by ordinance.

Mary Ann Ciarlone, of North 5th Street, read from a letter she distributed at the meeting dated September 19th which was also mailed to the mayor and managing director. She stated that a HARB member disrupted a roofer replacing a mansard roof without a HARB Certificate of Appropriateness in the 900 block of Rose Street. The homeowner is a senior on a limited income with health issues. The HARB member spoke with the roofer about the historic district regulations and the roofer became upset and walked off the job. This interaction with the roofer upset the property owner so much, she fell ill and was hospitalized. Ms. Ciarlone expressed the belief that this HARB members actions were inappropriate and beyond the scope of her position. She asked the City to intervene.

Ann Marie Wolfe, of Franklin Street, spoke about positivity and read a passage from a book about positive change.

Paul Zanno, of Maple Street, stated that he represents Providing Hope, which is an organization that provides help to those in need. He distributed pamphlets about the organization. He described the organizations outreach in areas such as Court Street, the Reading Public Library, the Buttonwood Street Bridge and the riverfront areas. He stated that over the past weekend, the organization was set up on Court Street, just past the 4th Street intersection, and a police officer disrupted the give-away event saying that they cannot operate on City-owned property and that a complaint was turned in by a Council member. He expressed hope that any problems can be resolved.

Councilor Reed read the written submission from Jacqueline Connelly, no address provided:

I'm a resident of Reading who is deeply concerned about the tyranny of the Reading parking authority. They are harassing people who try and make complaints, they try to not address complaints, making it seem more like a mob run business then professional. They are extorting \$5 for an appeal hearing and then refusing you the right to defend yourself after paying, telling you they made a decision before even seeing or meeting you. They have the funds to run 24/7 but not to address the parking issue in most parts of the city. They are driving away businesses with their bullying and illegal practices. They drive behind you and take pictures for fake tickets. They are completely out of control! They refuse to follow the parking rules themselves that they enforce on others and face no discipline for it. They target people they know will pay and leave numerous illegal cars alone because they know they won't pay. They never address parking issues at the elementary schools during drop off and pick up when nobody can even drive down the street. I would like to see a public oversight committee for them established that has nothing to do with them or the mayor so that it can be established with integrity instead of back door, shady deals between friends. I have attached pictures of the school pick up/drop off problems and of the parking authority breaking their own rules multiple times. I've already tried to email the Mayor twice about the problems but have never got a response.

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 12th Regular Meeting and the September 13th Special Meeting, along with the summations of discussion from the September 12th and 19th COW meetings and the September 19th Nominations meeting. She noted the need to correct the September 12th minutes by adding her name to the list of meeting attendees. She stated that under Introduction of New Ordinances B. Ordinance – authorizing the conveyance of 513 S. 14 ½ to the Reading Parking Authority is being withdrawn.

The agenda, as amended, for this meeting including the Consent Agenda legislation, the minutes from the September 12th Regular Meeting, as amended, and the September 13th Special Meeting, along with 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 145- 2022 – authorizing the submission of a PA DCED Strategic Management Planning Program Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to hire professional consultant services to assist in the development, adoption and implementation of a Multi-Year Financial Management Plan, provide quarterly financial reporting and cost analysis of collective bargaining agreements, and providing a \$100,000 local match

B. Award of Contract - to Hawk Valley Associates, Mohnton, PA and Hailstone Economics, Scranton, PA at a total cost of \$200,000 for the review subdivisions, land development, planning and zoning applications for compliance with City ordinances

C. Award of Contract – to Detwiler Roofing, East Earl, PA, for Phase 2 of the City Hall roof project at a cost of \$555,740.00

D. Award of Contract - to H. F. Lenz, Johnstown, PA at the cost of \$42,000 from the PW Budget to supply assistance to the City's Public Works Department with the technical specification preparation, project/program development/implantation and general engineering for the City Hall HVAC Project.

E. Resolution 146-2022 – authorizing the Acting Public Works Director with the discretion to approve the installation of additional banners on additional City Bridges as

requested with the installation costs covered by the Berks Arts Fast Lane Art for the juried contest, and exhibition celebrating and displaying the work of high school student artists, based on. The banners will be displayed until the City's traditional Holiday banners are installed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The mayor noted his desire to be transparent and he highlighted his activities since the September 12th regular meeting.

The managing director stated that viable Human Resource Director applicants have been identified and that work continues to identify viable Public Works Director applicants. He stated that he met with Property Maintenance staff regarding the need for leadership training and customer service training. He stated that a partnership between the Police and Public Works Departments allowed the installation of a gate in the Buttonwood Bridge area to block access and stop quality of life complaints. He highlighted the successful literacy program at the Library over the past summer. He described the increase in Police recruitment efforts and the Police Chief's partnership with external law enforcement agencies regarding gun control, gun trafficking and catalytic converter thefts.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the administration for the report and she asked that they respond to the issue described by Providing Hope during the public comment period, along with educating the organization about the process that is required when events are planned.

The managing director stated that he will work with Providing Hope. The mayor acknowledged the services provided by Providing Hope and he expressed support for the organization.

Administrative Report

Mayor Eddie Moran

TO: City Council

FROM: William M. Heim, Managing Director

PREPARED BY: Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2022

AGENDA MEMO DATE: September 26, 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- The Community Development Department attended a meeting hosted by Mayor Moran on September 8th with the County of Berks, Berks Alliance, and GRCA to discuss collaboration in forming the Transit Oriented District (TOD). An Executive Committee was created with representation from each organization to assign the necessary next-step tasks.
- The CD Department submitted a grant application to Lincoln Financial requesting consideration to address poverty and building equity throughout the City via the grant. If awarded, Mayor Moran will host a meeting with various local organizations and Lincoln Financial for a proposed community revitalization program focused on the southern part of the City.

DOWNTOWN:

- The Downtown Ambassador staff continues with daily cleaning of the Penn Street Corridor with the assistance of the Hope Rescue Clean team. Monday and Friday's seem to be the heaviest cleanup days, resulting in 50 bags of trash each day.
- The Downtown Ambassadors will be trained in administering Narcan by the City's EMS staff.
- The Downtown Coordinator began planning for the holiday parade. The parade is scheduled for November 19th.
- Upcoming events occurring in the Downtown area are as follows:

Page 2 of 5

- October: Mayor Moran's Halloween on Penn event
- November: Holiday Parade
- December: Tree Lighting and Holiday Market (date TBD)

FINANCE:

- The Finance Department's Information Technology Division provided the following updates on IT-related activities:
 - Completed wiring for the Police Records Renovation Project
 - Identifying obsolete telephone lines for elimination.
- The Finance Department's Citizens Service Center provided the following updates:
 - Continues discussions with the Communication Coordinator regarding publicizing the new Tyler 311 system internally and externally.
- The Finance Department's Accounting Division provided the following updates:
 - Met with Capital Projects Manager to discuss the central budget, budget project processes, year-to-date budget report, and next-year budget historical comparison Munis System instruction.
 - Internal budget prep 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 - As no bid responses were received, a re-bid will occur. The Solid Waste Manager and City Clerk are revising the specifications and will return to Purchasing for advertising.
 - Sewer Rate Study and Analysis – The City sought proposals from qualified professional consultants to conduct a comprehensive financial study of its capital retail, bulk, and surcharge rate structures to provide wastewater collection and treatment services. One proposal was received and is currently under review by a selection committee.
 - Labor and Disposal of Trash, Accumulated Nuisance, Weed Removal, and Securing Necessary Properties – Bid includes labor and disposal of all materials considered public nuisances, weed removal, and securing properties. Two bids were received, which the Project Manager is currently reviewing.
 - Grant Writing Services - Bids were due on September 15th, and six bids were received. A selection committee will begin to review the bids.
 - 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

Page 3 of 5

- The City Controller continues budget preparations for the 2023 fiscal year. Recently, completed a review of all revenue accounts to ensure a return to pre-Covid budgeting.
- The City Controller is researching and obtaining information for GASB 87,96, and 100 reports.
- The City Controller continues to assist accountants with Munis vs. USL discrepancies.
- The Finance Department's Project Manager provided the following updates related to capital projects:

- Peace Dove Conservation – An additional conservator plans to submit a bid increasing the number of quotes received to three by October 15th to recreate the statue.
- Completed Projects:
 - Essick Park Asphalt Removal
 - Southwest Apron
 - Bernhart’s Dam
 - Bernhart’s Lead/Creek (EPA confirms the site is safe with current use)
 - 11th and Pike Phase 1
 - City Park Pavilion
 - City Park Small Pavilion
 - Sidewalk Program
- The Finance Department provided the following updates on the AHL Grant activities:
 - The Community Engagement Coordinator is developing new community partnerships, attending weekly vaccine clinics, and leading the grant program's social media and website development.
 - Upcoming Grant-related activities include:
 - September 21st – Vaccine Clinic with Mayor Moran on 6th and Penn Streets
 - September 23rd – Planned Parenthood event
 - September 24th – Guts and Glory Wellness Expo
 - September 28th – Vaccine Clinic with Mayor Moran on 6th and Penn Streets
 - September 30th – Salvation Army table event
 - October 15th – Powerful Woman Live Event at City Hall y
 - October 16th Vaccine Clinic with Giorgio Family Day at Giorgio Farm
 - October 21st – Glenside Housing Complex – food distribution event

FIRE:

□ The Reading Fire Department and Muhlenberg Township Fire Department were awarded an AFG grant to replace all fire hoses on the current frontline engine companies. The City will be upgrading the size of our supply hose and standardizing couplings. Delivery is expected to be approximately Spring 2023.

Page 4 of 5

- The RFD will host entry-level physical agility testing (CPAT) on September 22nd and October 1st.
- The RFD promotional testing will occur on September 13 and 14th, with oral interviews on October 4th.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- The Human Resource Department would like to welcome the following new employees to the City of Reading organization:
 - Dahiana Antiles Hernandez, Building & Trades Secretary, as of October 3rd
 - Juan Ruiz, Fiscal Officer (transferring from Pension Coordinator position), as of September 16th

LIBRARY:

- The Reading Public Library has officially completed Summer@RPL 2022 attendance numbers for all branches. A total of 318 programs were held and attended by 4,022 people at all branches. 456 take-home activities were also distributed.
- The Reading District Library held a successful author event featuring middle-grade and young adult author Amy Sarig King on September 7th.
- The RPL continues to offer free weekly art workshops for all ages. The schedule is as follows:
 - Watercolor at the Northeast branch on Wednesdays 4pm-6pm
 - Children’s Illustration at Southeast branch on Thursdays from 3pm-5pm
 - Photography on Saturdays from 10:30am-12pm
 - Drawing at the Northwest branch on Mondays from 3pm-5pm

- Mojigante Maskmaking at the Northwest branch from 4pm-6pm

POLICE:

- The Reading Police Department collaborated with Public Works on a gate installation project under the Buttonwood Street Bridge to limit access to the old railroad bed, where parties and loud music were a concern.
 - The Reading Police Department's Community Engagement Officer continues to attend multiple community and recruitment events, including the Puerto Rican Day Festival and several college campuses, to encourage entry-level tests. In addition, Lt. Lillis is working with local churches to host Pastries and Police events and with RPD Chaplains to plan the Faith and Blue event on October 9th.
 - RPD Chief Tornielli continues to collaborate with County, State, and Federal agencies. He recently met with the US Attorney for the Eastern District and the County DA to coordinate gun trafficking investigation efforts between the RPD, ATF, and the USAO. The HIS and the USAO will also assist the ATTF in investigating the catalytic converter thefts that are taking place in high numbers in Reading and Berks County.
 - The RPD has improved its overtime system by implementing an application-based system. The new system will allow Lieutenants to focus more on assessing and
- Page 5 of 5

developing deployments to attack crime and disorder issues rather than calling for overtime.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Public Works staff has also completed:
 - 51 sites were cleaned up, which resulted in 250 bags of litter and 46 bulk items
 - 15 graffiti abatement projects were conducted at various sites
 - 10 dead animals were picked up
 - 6 volunteer cleanups were organized with 22 participants. 15 volunteer hours resulted in 41 bags of trash, 10 bags of yard waste, 10 televisions, and 10 tires collected.
- Public Works Solid Waste Manager met with Mayor Moran, Chief of Staff Felix Freytiz, the Clean City Coordinator, and the Downtown Coordinator to discuss the Adopt-A-Block program within the downtown area.
- Public Works awarded the electricity production contract to Direct Energy for 50% of the City of Reading electricity needs and 75% of natural gas needs. The remaining accounts are in the bidding process.
- Public Works Sustainability Manager participated in a Climate Action Workshop with VoiceUp Berks Youth Advisory Board on Sunday, September 11th. The Sustainability Manager provided education on how the climate has changed locally since the 1900s and participated in a discussion on youth priorities.
- Public Works is overseeing Mayor Moran's Paving Initiative. The latest update on the 2022 Paving Project, Contract No.1, is the completion of sections of McKnight Street during the week of September 12th. During the week of the 19th, areas of West Windsor Street will be paved, in addition to sections of Cedar Street and North Front Street

CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor introduced Christopher Turtell from Herbein & Co. who presented a report on the 2021 External Audit. Mr. Turtell stated that the audit resulted in a clean and favorable opinion. He noted that the City's financial reporting continues to improve. He stated that the \$6.4M surplus resulted from the excellent performance of the Real Estate Tax and Real Estate Transfer Tax revenues.

Mr. Turtell stated that only two (2) findings were identified – account

reconciliations/material adjustments (material weakness) and CDBG HOME program sub recipient monitoring (significant deficiency). The sub recipient monitoring for the HOME program is the only repeat finding in the 2021 audit. He noted that this is a significant improvement from prior audits. He thanked the Auditor and Finance staff, especially the Controller, for their work.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked Mr. Turtell and his team for their work to complete the audit, noting the Finance team's work to improve financial reporting.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the grim audit reports from years past and the City's improvement during the decade the City spent in the Act 47 process.

Councilor Reed thanked Mr. Turtell and his team from Herbein for their work.

The Auditor also thanked Mr. Turtell and the City Controller for their work.

The mayor left the meeting at this time.

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***

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

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 80-2022.

Bill No. 80-2022 was tabled by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that this bill will be placed in Pending Legislation until it is discussed again in November.

B. Bill 104-2022 – amending the Solid Waste Budget by transferring \$15,000 from Legal to Fuel to cover unforeseen fuel costs ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 104-2022.

The Auditor inquired about which “legal” line item this funding was being transferred from. The City Clerk stated that the transfer is located within the Solid Waste Budget.

Bill No. 104-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

**C. Bill 105-2022 – Reading FilmFEST –\$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation
*Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that she and Councilor Butler will need to abstain from this vote due to conflicts of interest.

Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 105-2022.

Bill No. 105-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura - 5

Nays: None – 0

Abstention - Butler, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 2

**D. Bill 106-2022 – Reading Science Center – ~~\$20,000~~ \$86,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation
*Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 106-2022.

Bill No. 106-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

Abstention – None - 0

**E. Bill 107-2022 – Opportunity House - \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation
*Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz stated that Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz will need to abstain from this vote due to a conflict of interest.

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 79-2022.

Bill No. 107-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6

Nays: None – 0

Abstention – Goodman-Hinnershitz - 1

**F. Bill 108-2022 – RIZE - \$100,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation
*Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 108-2022.

Bill No. 108-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz,
President - 6**

Nays: Reed – 1

Abstention – None - 0

G. Bill 109-2022 – making budget appropriations of the 2022 Retail Sewer and Storm Fund Budget for projected price increases and costs for retail sewer and storm operations by decreasing Contracted Services 550748-42160 in the amount of \$50,000 and increasing Vehicle Supplies 550748-45000 in the amount of \$50,000 ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 109-2022.

Bill No. 109-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

H. Bill 110-2022 – making budget appropriations of the 2022 Sewer Fund Budget to budget for projected price increases and costs for sewer operations by decreasing Contracted Services 54073-42160 in the amount of \$50,000 and increasing Vehicle Supplies 54073-45000 in the amount of \$50,000 ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 110-2022.

Bill No. 110-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

I. Bill 111-2022 – making budget appropriations of the 2022 Sewer Fund Budget to budget for projected price increases and costs for Pump Station Operations by decreasing Contracted Services 540743-42160 in the amount of \$150,000 and increasing Water Services 540743-41007 in the amount of \$150,000 ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 111-2022.

Bill No. 111-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

J. Bill 112-2022 – amending City Code Chapter 212 Fee Schedule Section 113, Fire Prevention, Fire Protection and Medical Transportation Section 36 Fire and Rescue Services; by including a fee for the unnecessary use of the medical alarm system ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Ventura moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 112-2022.

Bill No. 112-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

K. Bill 113-2022 – amending City Code Section 576-403, reducing the required distance for parking near a fire hydrant from 15 feet to 7 feet ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Ventura moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 113-2022.

Bill No. 113-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

L. Bill 114-2022 – amending the Position Ordinance by increasing the salary of the Pension Coordinator by \$6,067.36 to \$55,000.00 per annum, reimbursed by the three pension boards on a quarterly basis based upon the percentage of the number of employees participating in each fund compared to the total number of employees participating in all three funds recalculated on January 1 of each calendar year ***Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 114-2022.

Bill No. 114-2022 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 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
- B. Ordinance** – authorizing the conveyance of 513 S. 14 ½ to the Reading Parking Authority to create a parking lot and be responsible for its upkeep and maintenance, including substantial improvements to the retaining wall and surface area in order to make the property usable as a parking lot.
- C. Ordinance** – authorizing a Budget transfer in the amount of \$200,000 from Police Patrol for crossing guard services
- D. Ordinance** – 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
- E. Ordinance** – 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.
- F. Ordinance** – 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

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 147-2022 – appointing Dihmond Perez to the Youth Commission

B. Resolution 148-2022 – appointing Janetivis Aponte to the Youth Commission

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to adopt Resolutions 147 and 148-2022.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz and Council President Cepeda-Freytiz expressed the belief that the City is blessed to have these individuals step forward to serve on this commission. They noted that during the interview both described some of the challenges that youth encounter today and their willingness to work to resolve those challenges.

Councilor Butler stated that although he was unable to attend the interviews, the information both young women provided on their applications was impressive and shows their commitment to bringing positive change forward.

Resolutions 147 and 148-2022 were adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Reed announced that yesterday was the last service at Peace Lutheran Church located in Riverside. Its closure, like many others, was caused by a dwindling congregation. She thanked RACC for hosting the forum with US Education Secretary Cardona on September 15th she also thanked Secretary Cardona for his interaction with the students.

Councilor Reed inquired about how the issue described by Ms. Ciarlone during the public comment period will be handled. The Council Solicitor stated that he will follow up with the Legal Department about this issue.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Reading Rotary and RACC for their work on Pendera and Mineral Spring Park. She noted the success of the diversity event that occurred on Sunday in City Park. She announced the start of Oktoberfest this coming weekend at the Leiderkrantz. She announced the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, noting the location of the 1st Reading synagogue in the vicinity of N 8th and Walnut Streets.

Councilor Miller described his experience coming on to City Council and meeting with various organizations and individuals and attending events. He stated that he has been impressed with the partnerships across the organizations and events. He described the block party at Holy Cross, located on Centre Avenue.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked all who attended tonight's meeting in person and virtually and those who participated in the public comment period. She reminded the administration of the need to address the issue described by Providing Hope. She provided an

update on the Hispanic Heritage month events. She encouraged everyone to stop in at Tech Central and she described their job readiness training programs. She reminded everyone of the Violence Prevention meeting scheduled for this Thursday in City Hall's 3rd floor conference room at 5 pm. She described the upcoming events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Judy on Cherry Street.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz congratulated Councilor Ventura for her work to assemble a group of District 3 volunteers for the cleanup that occurred on Saturday the 24th. She reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk