



CITY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

Monday, May 24, 2021

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Agenda

Under the current COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency the public is prohibited from attending the Committee of the Whole meeting. This meeting can be viewed LIVE on the City's website while the meeting is taking place or at any time at <https://www.readingpa.gov/content/city-council-video>.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

<https://readingpa.zoom.us/j/92647415826?pwd=Nk5LNzkyZVBxL0tuK1BaMmovZGo5UT09>

Passcode: 896814

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,92647415826#,,,,*896814# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,92647415826#,,,,*896814# US (Chicago)

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799
or +1 669 900 9128 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

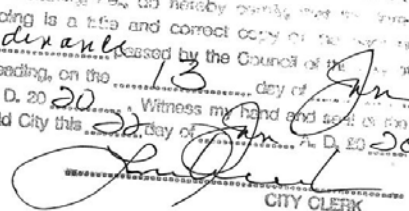
Webinar ID: 926 4741 5826

Passcode: 896814

- | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| I. | Charter Amendment requiring Council to employ its own Solicitor | 30 mins |
| | <i>Bill 9-2020 attached – see page 3</i> | |
| II. | “Partying” in Public Spaces | 30 mins |
| III. | Agenda Review | 30 mins |

Drafted by: City Clerk
Referred by: Charter Review Commission
Introduced on: December 9, 2019
Advertised on:

I, LINDA A. KELLENER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 13 day of Jan A. D. 2020. Witness my hand and seal of said City this 20 day of Jan. D. 2020



CITY CLERK

BILL NO. 9 2020

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2020 PRIMARY BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER TO ARTICLE II CITY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE CITY COUNCIL WITH THE ABILITY TO APPOINT THEIR OWN SOLICITOR

WHEREAS, The Charter currently requires that the City shall have one City Solicitor who serves both the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, having one Solicitor serving both parties often creates conflicts and requires Council to retain outside legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, a duly appointed Charter Review Commission has recommend that said Home Rule Charter Article II be amended by adding a new Section 226 allowing Council to retain their own independent legal counsel and renumbering the remaining sections as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2020 primary ballot:

Creating a new Home Rule Charter Section 226 – City Council Solicitor
“Shall Section 226 of the Reading City Charter be amended to provide City Council with the ability to appoint their own Solicitor, as fixed by the annual budget?”


Simple Explanation

A “YES” vote means the City of Reading Home Rule Charter would be amended to provide City Council with the ability to appoint an attorney to work solely for City Council, eliminating the current conflict of having one Solicitor serving both the Executive and Legislative branches of government, as authorized by the annual budget and position ordinance.

A "NO" vote would retain the current language designating one City Solicitor who works for both the Mayor and City Council."

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after it's adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted Jan 13, 2020



President of Council

Attest:



City Clerk


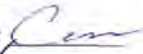
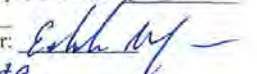
Submitted to Mayor: 
Date: 1/14/20
Received by the Mayor's Office: 
Date: 1/14/20
Approved by Mayor: 
Date: 1/22/2020
Vetoed by Mayor: _____
Date: _____

Exhibit A

ARTICLE II

§ 226. City Council Solicitor

City Council shall appoint a Council Solicitor who shall be a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and experienced in municipal law. The Council Solicitor shall serve as legal advisor to City Council. Council's Solicitor shall perform professional legal services for City Council. The primary responsibility of the position of Council Solicitor is to advise City Council on questions of law. City Council's Solicitor shall have his or her own legal secretary to assist in the preparation of all opinions, memorandums, and whatever other correspondence is required in the performance of the Council Solicitor's duties. Compensation shall be fixed as Council, by budgetary provisions, provides, and who, in all other respects, shall be considered employees of the City.