

**City of Reading City Council
Special Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021
Immediately following the COW Meeting
3rd Floor Conference Room
Virtual Meeting**

Council Vice President Sihelnik called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. She announced that the purpose of this meeting is to consider amendments to parking regulations and fines and agreements with the Reading Parking Authority. She noted that the Council President is excused due to an illness.

Due to the COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency, the City was forced to change their meeting format to prohibit the public's ability to physically attend the meeting and for public comment to be provided in writing, by telephone or by connecting with the virtual meeting app by registering with the City Clerk in advance of the meeting. The meeting link can be found on the agenda posted on the website. While the City Clerk is present in City Hall, all other attendees are participating remotely by phone or electronically through a computer application.

ATTENDANCE

Councilor Sihelnik, District 1 - electronically
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2 - electronically
Councilor Ventura, District 3 – via dial in
Councilor Marmarou, District 4 – via dial in
Councilor Reed, District 5 - electronically
Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz, District 6 - electronically
Managing Director A. Amoros – electronically
Asst. Solicitor A. LaMano – electronically
City Clerk L. Kelleher
City Auditor M. Rodriguez – electronically
Mayor E. Moran – via dial in

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City Clerk stated that there is one (1) member of the public registered to speak. Councilor Reed read the public speaking regulations adopted by Council.

Brad Waples, Jr., no address provided, agreed with increasing the parking fines to a higher level and he suggested phasing them in. He noted his disagreement with the parking meter rates charged by the Parking Authority and stated that they are on a Manhattan level. He stated that while he recognizes the need to provide a new funding stream for Public Works

efforts to replace DID, he questioned the level of service provided by the Parking Authority.

AGENDA

Council Vice President Sihelnik called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting. She inquired if any Council members objected to the ordinances and resolutions listed on the agenda. There was no response. **The agenda was approved by acclamation.**

Ordinances for Final Passage

A. Bill 98-2020 – amending the City Code Section 564-105 Vehicle Nuisances, by increasing the Penalty Fees for the improper storage of trucks, trailers and mobile homes ***Introduced at the December 14 regular meeting; Tabled at the December 28th regular meeting; Corrected version attached***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 98-2020.

Bill No. 98-2020 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura –
6

Nays: None - 0

B. Bill 99-2020 – amending the City of Reading Code Section 576-503 allowing parking meter enforcement on Saturdays ***Introduced at the December 14 regular meeting; Tabled at the December 28th regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 99-2020.

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz noted that Saturday enforcement in the parking meter zones will impact the residential and mixed use properties and those that reside in those properties within the zone.

Bill No. 99-2020 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura –
6

Nays: None - 0

C. Bill 100-2020 – amending the City Code Section 576-419 re the issuance of daily parking permits ***Introduced at the December 14 regular meeting; Tabled at the December 28th regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 100-2020.

Bill No. 100-2020 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik– 5

Nays: Ventura - 1

D. Bill 101-2020 – amending the City Code Section 576-411 re the use of loading zones and the addition of a parking meter fee to use loading zones located in the Parking Zones established in the City Code Section 576-502 *Introduced at the December 14 regular meeting; Tabled at the December 28th regular meeting*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 101-2020.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to amend Bill No. 101-2021 by adding a 60 day evaluation period.

The amendment to Bill 101-2021 was NOT adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sihelnik – 3

Nays: Cepeda-Freytiz, Marmarou, Ventura - 3

Bill No. 101-2020 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik – 5

Nays: Ventura - 1

L. Bill 102-2020 – amending the City Code Section 576-416 increasing and reducing parking fines and penalties as attached *Introduced at the December 14 regular meeting; Tabled at the December 28th regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 102-2020.

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, to amend Bill No. 102-2021 by adopting the 3rd tier of fines for those marked as hazardous violations from the chart provided by the Parking Authority, which increases the fines further by an additional \$15.

The amendment to Bill 102-2021 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik – 5
Nays: Ventura - 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to amend Bill No. 102-2021 by adopting the 3rd tier of fines overall from the chart provided by the Parking Authority, which increases the fines further by an additional \$15.

The amendment to Bill 102-2021 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura – 6
Nays: None - 0

The Assistant Solicitor opined that due to the increase of the fines, the ordinance would need to be reintroduced at the January 11th Regular Meeting and re-advertised.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 102-2020.

Bill No. 102-2020 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura - 6
Nays: None - 0

Resolutions

A. Resolution 181-2020 – authorizing the execution of the amendment to the Parking Authority Cooperation MOU *Tabled at the December 14 & 28 regular meeting; Version from RPA Solicitor sent 1-28-20*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to table Resolution No. 181-2020, due to the need for revisions required by the amendment of the parking fines.

Bill No. 181-2020 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura - 6
Nays: None - 0

B. Resolution 182-2020 – authorizing the execution of the Facilities Agreement MOU with the Parking Authority reserving spaces for City employees *Tabled at the December 14 & 28 regular*

meeting; Version from RPA Solicitor sent 1-28-20

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to adopt Resolution 183-2020.

Resolution No. 183-2020 was adopted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura –
6**

Nays: None - 0

Council Vice President Sihelnik noted the recent tragedy that occurred on the local trail system and she expressed sympathy to those involved. Councilor Reed encouraged anyone with information about this crime to contact Berks Crime Watch.

Councilor Marmarou noted the need for improved coordination between the Parking Authority and the Police Department. He expressed the belief that those making complaints are often shuttled back and forth between the two organizations.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the tragic fire that occurred over the weekend in the 1200 block of Chestnut Street. She thanked the Fire Department for their swift and professional response.

The meeting adjourned, on a motion by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz and a second by Councilor Reed, at approximately 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk