



CITY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

Monday, October 12, 2009

Council Office

5:00 pm

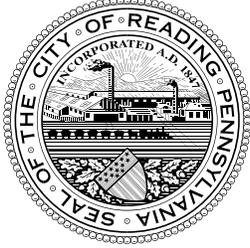
Agenda

I. Budget Discussions

5:00 p.m.

II. Agenda Review

6:00 pm



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
September 28, 2009
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Sterner, S. Marmarou, S. Fuhs, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, V. Spencer, J. Waltman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, R. Hottenstein, C. Jones

Mr. Spencer called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered executive session at 5:01 pm to discuss the possible sale of land.

Ms. Baez arrived at this time.

Council exited executive session at 5:35 pm.

II. UPDATE – WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

Deb Hoag and Tony Votsay arrived at this time.

Council entered executive session at 5:43 pm.

Council exited executive session at 6:15 pm.

Mr. Votsay described Industry Day which will be held on Tuesday, September 29 at the fire training center. This is an opportunity for the project team, City representatives and local contractors interested in the project. This will give the contractors an opportunity to collaborate to bid and work on the project.

Mayor McMahon arrived at this time.

Mr. Votsay also noted that feedback on the project will be received from contractors.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

Council reviewed this evening's agenda including the following:

Amendment to the Human Relations Commission Ordinance

Mr. Spencer reviewed the issue. He questioned if the Administration supported the passage of this ordinance. Mayor McMahon stated that they do.

Mr. Spencer questioned if the City can cover the costs associated with lawsuits. Mayor McMahon stated that he did not realize there would be cost implications.

Mr. Spencer noted that since there is no federal or state mandates in these areas, there would be no reimbursement for costs. He stated that the City must provide funding. Mayor McMahon stated that he was not informed on the cost issue.

Mr. Spencer questioned if the Administration had reviewed the memo from Ms. Butler outlining the cost issue. Mayor McMahon and Mr. Hottenstein stated that they did not read the memo.

Mr. Spencer explained the possible cost implications and suggested that more time be allowed for discussion. He suggested that this ordinance be tabled this evening.

Mr. Fuhs noted his concern with the inclusion of transgender and identity expression. He stated that these issues are self identified and that he would support their inclusion only if a physician statement noting that the individual was in therapy or in the process of surgery could be obtained.

Mr. Spencer questioned if the body was ready for action on this ordinance.

Mayor McMahon questioned the difference between these rights and the rights of others. Mr. Spencer stated that there would be costs to the City.

Mr. Spencer noted that there could also be compliance issues as this will require additional rest room facility and dressing room options. Mayor McMahon noted that Reading is not the first City to face this issue.

Mr. Waltman noted that cost should not be a factor in protecting the rights of people.

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if the passage of this ordinance would require these additional facilities in all public facilities within the City. Mr. Younger stated that it would.

Mr. Fuhs noted that this issue should be addressed in more detail. Ms. Kelleher stated that during discussions with Ms. Butler it was noted that these facilities need not be added but that one rest facility in each building be designated for this use.

Mr. Fuhs again voiced his belief that the transgender issue is self identified and is a conscience choice, not a condition present at birth. He questioned the compliance of other facilities within the City. Mr. Hottenstein stated that this would apply only to City Hall. Mr. Younger stated that it would apply to all facilities within the City.

Mr. Sterner stated that he does not support taking action this evening if the ordinance affects all facilities within the City.

Mr. Waltman suggested that this be sent back to committee for further review and possible refinement.

Mayor McMahon again noted that other cities have addressed this issue. He questioned Reading's hesitance to take action. Ms. Kelleher noted the large amount of research done by Ms. Butler.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that the application of the ordinance will be the key.

Mayor McMahon suggested meeting with Mr. Glassman and Ms. Butler on the amendment before its passage.

The body stated that it will table this item for further clarification.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the library situation needs discussion. She noted that creative thinking is needed to ensure the branches remain open.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC
City Clerk