

# ***CITY COUNCIL***

## ***Standards of Living Committee***

**Monday, July 18, 2016**  
**Council Office**  
**5:30 pm**

The Standards of Living Committee's responsibilities and topics include but are not limited to Housing Planning strategies, Building, Trades and Property Maintenance Inspection and Enforcement, Public Safety, Public Works, Police, Fire, Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Revitalization, Community Development, Customer Service, Graffiti Abatement, Community Group Organization and Support

**Committee Members:** Ms. Reed, Mr. Daubert and Mr. Marmarou

*Although Council committee meetings are open to the public, public comment is not permitted at Council Committee meetings. However, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe the meetings. Comment from citizens or professionals during the meeting may be solicited on agenda topics via invitation by the Committee Chair.*

*All electronic recording devices must be at the entry door in all meeting rooms and offices, as per Bill No. 27-2012*

- I. Reinstatement of requirement for local property manager for rental properties**
- II. Fire Department "Do Not Enter" List**
- III. Angelica Baseball Field Agreement w/ Alvernia (2007 & 2013 agreements attached in hard copy)**
- IV. Summit Chase Dr Lighting Project**
- V. Lease Agreement Update**
  - Fire Tower
  - Reading Redevelopment Authority
  - Blacktop Basketball

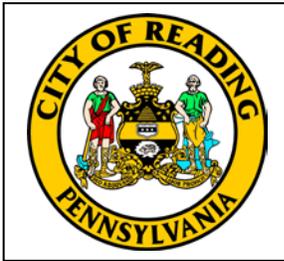
- Berks County Emergency Services area of City Hall

**Pending Topics**

- UGI Meters
- East Ends
- City Cleanliness

**Upcoming 2016 Topics**

**August** - ARL re TNR or Discounted Neutering



# *CITY COUNCIL*

## *Standards of Living Committee*

**Monday, June 20, 2016**  
**Meeting Report**

**Committee Members Attending:** S. Marmarou, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, T. Arentz, C. Peiffer, C. Schmehl, A. Palacios

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Ms. Reed.

### **I. Adoption of Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, SALDO and Official Map**

Mr. Peiffer reviewed the process thus far. He stated that after the administrative transition no changes were recommended. He stated that it will be brought to Council for action shortly.

Mr. Schmehl stated that the procedures have been met. He stated that Council can adopt the Comprehensive Plan via resolution at any time.

Mr. Schmehl stated that the SALDO was ready for action in 2010 when Ms. Mayfield left the City and it was never completed. He stated that there is a standing offer with his firm to assist the City complete the SALDO amendment.

Mr. Schmehl stated that if the Comprehensive Plan is adopted it will necessitate several changes to the Zoning Ordinance. He stated that URDC will be happy to consult with the City to complete the Zoning Amendment.

Mr. Johnson arrived at this time.

Mr. Schmehl stated that he worked on the Official Map with Mr. Jones in the past. He stated that the advantage to having an Official Map is that when properties that the City

wishes to acquire become available they have one year to acquire the property. He stated that this is essentially the right of first refusal and avoids lost opportunities. He stated that while he was drafting the Official Map the River Road project was very uncertain and so the Map contains only trail links. He stated that this has also not been adopted.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for Council to review the information again before action is taken. Mr. Schmehl agreed and stated that Council still has the opportunity to make amendments.

Ms. Reed stated that she met with Mr. Booth and Mr. Barcz about the site of the former bottling plant and the possible extension of the Riverfront Overlay to this area. Mr. Peiffer agreed to extend the overlay.

Ms. Reed suggested that this area also include residential development. She stated that she has not had follow up on this issue. Mr. Schmehl stated that this would be an additional option. Mr. Peiffer stated that Mr. Booth and Mr. Barcz are working on this.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the State's position. Mr. Schmehl stated that the State likes to see Plans approved when they provide the funding.

Mr. Johnson stated that he has given his input and is comfortable with the Plan.

Mr. Palacios stated that Mr. Steckman has additional recommendations.

Mr. Peiffer and Mr. Schmehl left the meeting at this time.

## **II. Parking Issues**

- Truck Parking

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if large truck parking was still an issue.

Ms. Reed stated that the truck parking issue at Glenside Elementary has been rectified.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there are still several trucks parking on Richmond St.

Mr. Johnson stated that large trucks are still parking on S 2<sup>nd</sup> St. They have simply moved one block where there are no signs. He stated that he will install signs in that block.

Mr. Johnson stated that the situation has improved but suggested that they continue to be reported.

Mr. Marmarou stated that when he calls the Police they are still using the 72 hour rule.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will follow up with the Police Traffic office and Patrol Captain.

- Loading and Pick Up Zones

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Krall need assistance with policies and procedures.

Mr. Johnson stated that most small businesses want short term parking. He stated that he and Mr. Krall are working on legislation to strengthen the Public Works policies. He stated that most installations will still be judgement based to balance the need of the neighborhood with the need of the business.

- Handicapped Spaces

Mr. Johnson stated that he is a bit behind installing signs. He stated that some personnel has been reassigned to assist to get caught up. He stated that some blocks have many handicapped spaces and this causes disputes with neighbors who feel that they have limited parking on their block. He stated that when signs are removed (via the Health Officer's orders) residents cause problems. Police will accompany Public Works when signs are removed.

Mr. Coleman arrived at this time.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the two spaces per block limit. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this was removed.

- Installing Painted Stall Lines

Mr. Johnson stated that this has not been done for at least five years but that he will begin painting.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if residents can assist. Mr. Johnson stated that they can assist if it is repainting existing lines. He stated that without an Operations Division Manager productivity is down.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if yellow curbs would also be painted. Mr. Johnson stated that they will and that he has several volunteers and interns working on this. He stated that RAWA will also be painting the curbing when they paint the hydrants.

Ms. Reed noted the need for the Penn Corridor banners to be removed from the poles on Penn St.

### **III. Street Lighting**

Mr. Johnson stated that the project on Summit Chase Drive requires 70% of property owners with trees to agree to the project before it can move forward. He stated that he believes they have almost 70% but that if they do not reach this number the project will need to be redesigned.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if this issue was discussed at the neighborhood meeting. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that tree removal and pruning was discussed as this is a solar lighting project. Mr. Johnson agreed but stated that the 70% issue was not known at that time.

Mr. Johnson stated that street light maintenance is currently out for bid. He stated that the current contractor did not have a contract and so is being contacted for emergency repairs only.

Ms. Reed stated that there is debris from the weekend weeding that needs to be removed from the median in the 500 block of Penn St. She requested that it be removed ASAP as there is a concert this Wednesday evening.

Mr. Johnson left the meeting at this time.

#### **IV. Quality of Life Ticketing Program Update**

Mr. Arentz distributed a chart showing the number of tickets issued in 2014 - 2016 to date and the corresponding revenue. He explained that tickets are payable in 60 days and there is always a bit of a lag. He stated that delinquent accounts are sent to a collection agency but that there are fewer that need to be turned over.

Ms. Reed questioned why so few tickets have been issued. Mr. Arentz explained that most tickets are for high grass/weeds and for not removing snow. He stated that there was only one large snow this past winter and that we are just entering the summer season now.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the property at Hampden and Perry has very high weeds and there is junk in the yard. He stated that this has been reported many times. Mr. Arentz stated that he is aware of this situation. He stated that it is problematic to address because the owner is deceased and there are legal issues. He stated that he has made this property a high priority.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how long this situation can continue. Mr. Arentz stated that the citation would be issued in the deceased's name and would become a legal issue.

Ms. Reed suggested cleaning the property and placing a lien to be paid by the estate. Mr. Arentz stated that the executor can order the City and its contractor off the property.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the neighbors are very frustrated.

Mr. Marmarou stated that a tree has fallen in the 1900 block of Palm St and that it is blocking the sidewalk. Mr. Arentz stated that he had not seen this complaint but that he will follow up.

Ms. Reed noted the need to continue the ticketing program. Mr. Arentz stated that the staff has been reassured that the program is continuing.

Mr. Marmarou stated that when he visited the Pagoda this past weekend the Jeep Club was there and that they had their jeeps parked in the handicapped spaces. He stated that the City police respond to the Pagoda.

Ms. Reed stated that the amount of trash in the downtown is stunning. Mr. Arentz questioned if it was blowing litter. Ms. Reed stated that it is not. She stated that she cleaned some up while weeding over the weekend. She stated that downtown businesses must be accountable for the exterior of their properties. Mr. Arentz agreed.

## **V. Outdoor Display and Sale of Mattresses**

Ms. Reed questioned if the letter was sent. Mr. Arentz stated that he is waiting for his superiors to approve sending the letter. Mr. Palacios approved sending the letters.

Ms. Reed suggested the letters be in English and Spanish and be a warning that as of an effective date they will be ticketed. Mr. Palacios agreed.

## **VI. Rental Housing Regulations Requirement for local property manager**

Ms. Reed questioned if the ordinance needed to be amended. Mr. Arentz stated that it does.

Mr. Coleman stated that this issue has not been addressed by the Administration.

Mr. Arentz left the meeting at this time.

## **V. Lease Agreement Updates**

- Fire Tower

Mr. Coleman stated that a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted. He stated that he is waiting to hear comments from Pagoda Skyline.

- Reading Redevelopment Authority

No report.

- Blacktop Basketball

No report.

- County Emergency Services

Mr. Coleman explained what this area is and where it is located within City Hall. He stated that this is being reviewed by the Administration.

- East Ends

Mr. Coleman stated that they have been served and he hopes to have this on the docket in time to have them removed before the end of this summer.

## **VI. Pending Topics**

- UGI

Mr. Coleman stated that UGI would like to discuss a monetary settlement. He stated that the judge is encouraging settlement.

Ms. Reed noted the need to include moving all the meters back inside as part of the settlement. She noted the need to keep fighting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC*  
Deputy City Clerk