
City of Reading City Council

**Regular Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2008**

A regular meeting of City Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council, called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Reverend Philip Kevil of the First Presbyterian Church

All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Spencer
Councilor S. Fuhs, District 1
Councilor M. Goodman–Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor D. Sterner, District 3
Councilor S. Marmarou, District 4
Councilor J. Waltman, District 6

Mayor T. McMahon
Acting Managing Director R. Hottenstein
Public Works Director C. Jones
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Sergeant at Arms Capt. R. Shaffer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued commendations:

- In recognition of Cancer Survivors month excepted by Barb Bieber from the American Cancer Society
- In recognition of the United Steel Workers Union, accepted by Dean Showers, President local 669

Mayor McMahon issued the following proclamation:

- In recognition of Julio Arroyo Jr. for saving a life of a fellow citizen
- In recognition of Comcast Cares Days accepted by Liz Sterner, representing Comcast
- In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Penn State Berks, accepted by Dr. Susan Speese

Mayor McMahon also issued a recognition to City Councilor Strat Marmarou for his initiative to create a coin commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Pagoda.

Mayor McMahon stated that the coins are sequentially numbered from one through one thousand. The first coin is being held at the Pagoda for historical purposes. Mayor McMahon presented coin number two to Councilor Marmarou.

Councilor President Spencer noted that he is also a cancer survivor after experiencing prostate cancer last year. He stressed the need for pre-screening for early detection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Spencer announced that one individual was registered to address Council on Non-Agenda matters. He inquired if any of the Councilors objected to suspending the rule that would allow comment on

Non-Agenda items at this time. As no one objected, the rule requiring citizens addressing non-agenda matters to speak at the end of the business meeting was suspended. Council President Spencer reminded the citizen of the remaining public speaking rules.

Mike Lauter, representing the Centre Park Historic District, thanked City Council for the commendations celebrating the City's Historic Districts and the importance of preservation. He also thanked the HARB Board for honoring the façade project at his home. He expressed thanks to the contractors involved and to community development staff. He noted a special a thanks to Councilor Waltman for his continuing support for preservation.

Mr. Lauter announced that the Centre Park Historic District was recently recognized by This Old House Magazine. He sated that the Centre Park Historic District was listed among the 8 best places to buy an old house

THE AGENDA AND THE MINUTES

Council President Spencer called Council's attention to the Agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the May 27th and June 9th Regular Meetings of Council. He noted the need to add an award of contract for the Pagoda renovations and to remove the Resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperation agreement and voluntary payment agreement for the Goggle Works Apartments. This Resolution would be handled under the Resolution section.

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the Agenda as amended and approve the minutes from the May 27th and June 9th Regular Meetings of Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Hottenstein highlighted the report distributed to Council covering the following:

- The launch of the inner city boxing program at a press conference on July 9th at 1:30 pm at the Baer Park Fieldhouse
- A report on the EMS billing for 2007 and 2008
- A recap of the smoking ban signed into law by the State Legislators and approved by Governor Rendell
- Receipt of the Recycling Grant, which allows the construction of a consolidated facility for recyclable materials and continuing outreach activities.

Councilor Fuhs inquired if the City will be charged for the faulty mailing of recycling materials. Mr. Hottenstein replied that the contractor responsible for the mailing. Re-mailing and reproduction of the materials will occur at the contractor's expense.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the City's leadership in adopting an outdoor smoking ban. She noted the State's program to promote smoking cessation.

Councilor Waltman noted the City's long history with boxing and gave kudos to Commerce Bank for assisting with the program that will provide children with a healthy activity.

AUDITORS REPORT

City Auditor Dave Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Update on the Admissions Fee/ Tax collections
- Update on the Real Estate Transfer Tax collections
- Highlights on the 6/14 Budget Summit

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill 45–2008 – amending the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PARC) ordinance by adding participation from the United Way, Olivet–PAL and the YMCA and by adding removal provisions.

Councilor Goodman–Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill 45–2008.

Councilor Goodman–Hinnershitz noted the importance of bringing key parties to the table to assist the City with Park and Recreation Programs.

Councilor Waltman suggested that this new Board take a broader scope to seek out additional recreational opportunities and recreation partnerships. He also asked that the Board consider a part–time work program for high school aged youth.

Council President Spencer noted the importance of putting all recreation stake holders at the table to plan and provide resources for recreation opportunities.

Bill 45–2008 was enacted by the following vote:

Yea – Fuhs, Goodman–Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President – 6

Nays – 0

Bill 46–2008 - amending the City Of Reading Codified Ordinances Section 15–812 Boot Installation by reducing the number of unsettled parking violations from ten (10) to five (5).

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to enact Bill 46-2008.

Bill 46-2008 was enacted by the following vote:

Yea - Fuhs, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, -
5

Nays - Spencer, President 1

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Spencer read the following Ordinances into the record:

Ordinance - amending the FY 2006-2012 capital improvement plan for the City of Reading (Finance Department) *Referred to the Finance & Public Works Committee.*

Ordinance - amending the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance regarding rental properties and student housing (Councilor Marmarou).

RESOLUTIONS

Award of Contract - for a general construction contract to Dolan Construction Reading Pa, low bidder at a submitted bid price of \$745,700 and for mechanical and electrical construction contracts to MBR Construction Blandon Pa, low bidder at the submitted prices of \$174,000 and \$ 472,850 respectively. Total submitted bid price for renovations is \$1,392,550.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the Award of Contract for the Pagoda renovations.

Mayor McMahon noted the importance of the project to restore this important City landmark.

Councilor Goodman–Hinnershitz noted the need to take care of the many safety and preservation issues with the Pagoda. She noted the work to consider a foundation that can assist with future endeavors and provide for the long term care of this monument.

The Award of contract was approved by the following vote:

**Yea –Goodman–Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, –
Spencer, President – 5**

Nays – Fuhs – 1

Award of Contract - authorizing the Administration to enter into a professional services agreement with Hill International/Weston Solutions/Hazen and Sawyer for project management, construction management, and related services for the City of Reading waste water treatment plant upgrades project at a cost of \$7,825,025.

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to table the Award of Contract for project and construction management at the waster water treatment plant:.

The motion to table the Award of Contract for project and construction management was approved by the following vote:

Yea – Fuhs, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, – Spencer, President – 5

Nays – Goodman–Hinnershitz – 1

Resolution 65–2008 - approving the Conditional Use Application for the construction of a firehouse at 101 Lancaster Avenue. *Public Hearing held Thurs, May 29th*

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Fuhs, to adopt Resolution 65–2008.

Council President Spencer provided some background on the consolidation of the Oakies and Liberty Firehouses. He noted that this new location will not negatively affect the Fire Departments response to calls.

Bill 65–2008 was enacted by the following vote:

Yea – Fuhs, Goodman–Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President– 6

Nays – 0

Resolution 66–2008 - reappointing Steven McCracken to the Board of Ethics (**Administrative Oversight Committee**)

Resolution 67–2008 - reappointing Ed Kopicki to the Downtown Improvement District Authority (**Administrative Oversight Committee**)

The Administrative Oversight Committee moved to adopt Resolution 66 and 67–2008.

Council President Spencer noted the experience of both applicants and thanked them for volunteering to continue to serve the City’s Board’s and Authorities.

Councilor Marmarou agreed noting the extent of experience of both individuals for the issues handheld by these Boards and Authorities. Resolution 66 and 67-2008 were adopted by the following vote:

Yea – Fuhs, Goodman–Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution 64–2008– authorizing the execution of the attached Cooperation Agreement and Voluntary Payment Agreement between the City of Reading, County of Berks, Reading School District, and the City of Reading Housing Authority concerning taxes for land situated at 100 North Second Street and 110 North Second Street and 101 Pear Street, site of proposed Goggle Works Apartment Project. (Solicitor)

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Fuhs, to table Resolution 64–2008.

Resolution 64–2008 was tabled by the following vote:

Yea – Fuhs, Goodman–Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Spencer, President – 5

Nays – Waltman – 1

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Sterner announced the upcoming community meetings in District 3. He also congratulated those receiving commendations this evening. He noted the important work of the American Cancer Society and urged all citizens to participate in pre–screening for early cancer detection.

Councilor Goodman–Hinnershitz noted the difficulty citizens are having in response to the criminal incidents in District 2. She noted the great risks those who refuse to live within the laws present to all citizens.

Councilor Goodman–Hinnershitz announced the upcoming District 2 community group meetings. She also noted the rehabilitation of buildings of the one thousand block of Cotton Street.

Council President Spencer noted the State Legislature’s move to increase Penn Vest funding to \$2,000,000.

Councilor Waltman moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council.

Linda Kelleher
City Clerk