

City of Reading
City Council
Work Session
Monday, October 20, 2008

Council Members Present

Vaughn Spencer, President
Stephen Fuhs, District 1
Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitiz District 2
Dennis Sterner, District 3
Maria Baez, District 5
Jeffrey Waltman, District 6

Others Present

L. Kelleher
C. Younger
S. Katzenmoyer
R. Hottenstein
T. McMahon

Call to Order

President of Council Vaughn Spencer called the work session to order at 7:00 pm.

Managing Director's Report

Mr. Hottenstein highlighted his report distributed at the meeting including:

- Halloween schedule
- Lights on After School
- Council of Neighborhoods
- Greater Reading Literary Festival

Memo of Understanding – Waste Water Treatment Plant

The revised memo of understanding was reviewed. Mr. Hottenstein indicated that the Council member serving on the RFP committee would not have voting rights and that item would need to be revised in the memo.

Mr. Spencer informed Council that serving on these committees is very enlightening.

Ms. Goodman–Hinnershitz indicated that the discussions leading to this memo were very helpful. She noted that this would not be passed as a formal resolution but will be a working document.

Reorganization of Codes to Police

Mr. Hottenstein reported that this change is legal and within State and Federal law. He also reported that this does not violate any collective bargaining agreements. He noted that Council will be receiving a formal memo outlining this information.

Mr. Spencer noted that Council did not have legal concerns with the reorganization. City staff felt that the line between police and codes issues was being blurred.

Mr. Fuhs noted that organizational change is always unsettling and employees are fearful.

Ms. Goodman–Hinnershitz noted that this is a big transition and these issues are understandable.

Mr. Spencer noted his belief that codes will be better managed under police. He further noted that if managers are not performing well, they should be let go.

Mr. Hottenstein reported that this change has been discussed with department directors for over a year.

Mr. Spencer questioned if the Chief Clerk in Codes has been hired. Mr. Hottenstein noted that she has been hired at approximately \$42,000.

Updates

- Gang Prevention Survey

Mr. Hottenstein indicated that the survey results have not yet been released and are confidential.

Mayor McMahon noted that a press conference has been scheduled to announce the results. He noted that no details will be discussed.

- Budget Issues

Mr. Hottenstein reported that these projections were made based on recent trends.

Mr. Kanezo noted that the Recreation Day Camp revenue was eliminated due to this program not being offered in 2009.

Ms. Kelleher indicated that if Per Capita Tax were paid by all City residents, it would be an estimated \$250,000 per year and would reduce necessary cutbacks. Mr. Hottenstein noted that this Tax is difficult to collect. Tax resources are used to collect delinquent business, property and earned income taxes.

- Pagoda Coffee House Revenues/Expenses

A summary of the revenues and expenses was distributed and reviewed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated her belief that the Pagoda rental fee is

nominal and an increase should be considered.

- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Mr. Hottenstein reported that the 2008 budget income from PILOT has been exceeded. However, the projection in the 2009 budget is one half that collected in 2008.

Mr. Spencer questioned if staff monitors whether a PILOT is paid and the amount paid. Mr. Hottenstein noted that this is monitored.

Mr. Spencer noted that a letter should be sent yearly to all tax exempt properties requesting a PILOT.

Executive Session

Council entered executive session to discuss litigation issues.

The Work Session concluded at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk