

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010**

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 Phillip Keevil representing First Presbyterian Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Spencer
Councilor Acosta, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Waltman, District 6
Mayor T. McMahon
Interim Managing Director C. Geffken
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Sergeant at Arms, Captain R. Schaeffer
Mayor's Assistant, F. Denbowski
Deputy City Clerk, S. Katzenmoyer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamation or presentations made at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Spencer announced that one (1) citizen is registered to address Council on agenda matters. He reminded the citizen of the public speaking rules.

Paul Skavrla, of South Third Street, expressed the belief that the quality of life ticketing ordinance is not citizen friendly but is unfair and may act as a deterrent for property owners. He expressed the belief that property owners should be given some leeway in performing property maintenance projects.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Spencer called Council's attention to the minutes from the June 11th Special meeting and the minutes from the June 15th regular meeting of Council. He stated that the agenda for this meeting requires one addition, as follows:

Resolution – authorizing the application for a \$9.5M H2O PA Grant for the Waste Water Treatment Plant

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Acosta, to approve the minutes from the June 11th special meeting and the minutes from June 15th regular meeting and the agenda, as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Interim Managing Director Geffken highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

1. Response to contract proposal from the IAFF Local 803 for the 2011-2015 contract period as per Act 111
2. Description of the purpose of the quality of life ticketing ordinance
3. Update of the implementation of the financial recovery plan
4. PILOT program scheduled for South of Penn neighborhoods for the solar trash compactors.

Councilor Waltman expressed his hope that the Administration will make the quality of life ticketing process a part of a comprehensive Codes Enforcement plan.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

1. 2010 Admissions Tax Collection
2. Update on Tax Exempt Properties within the City

REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Council President Spencer announced that the Environmental Advisory Council members Harriet Rauenzahn, David Beane, Esq. and Dr. Brian Jennings will be highlighting their annual report distributed earlier.

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that the EAC's main function is to educate the public and offer aid and advice to the City on environmental issues. She highlighted the EAC members and their support staff. She also stated that over the course of the past year the EAC has assisted with issues such as the Bushong Dam, Bernhart's Park, billboards, etc.

Attorney Beane noted the EAC's desire to seek Council's approval to develop a strategic plan in conjunction with the Berks Conservancy. He also noted the EAC's desire to obtain Council comment about their needs moving forward.

Dr. Jennings described the new initiative to educate Reading elementary school students and develop an appropriate curriculum with the help of Albright College students.

Councilor Waltman suggested that the EAC assess various recycling initiatives County-wide for large materials and various hazardous fluids.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the EAC for their work overall. She noted their invaluable assistance to the City on the Bernhart's issue. She also agreed with the need to assess various environmental and recycling programs along with issues pertaining to the City's storm water system.

Councilor Reed also thanked the EAC for their work on outreach and education. She suggested that the EAC improve their educational outreach regarding the various City owned dams.

Mayor McMahon invited the EAC to assist in developing the Angelica program. He thanked the EAC for their efforts. Ms. Rauenzahn asked Mayor McMahon to contact Council staff to make meeting arrangements pertaining to the Angelica program.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested the EAC conduct an outreach education on the dangers in swimming in rivers.

Council President Spencer thanked the EAC for their excellent work and outreach efforts.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 28-2010 - establishing a quality of life violation ticket process for violation of specifically identified City Code provisions by amending Chapter 5 – Code Enforcement of the City of Reading Codified Ordinances by adding a Part 14 (**Police**)

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill 28-2010.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed her belief in the quality of life ticketing ordinance and noted her hope that it will be implemented with a well rounded education and outreach process.

Councilor Reed expressed her in-part agreement with comments made by Mr. Skavrla and expressed her hope that the Administration would not use this ordinance in a

punitive manner, but in a way that will encourage the overall improvement with the maintenance of properties and enhancement of property values.

Bill 28-2010 was enacted by the following vote:

Yea: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President - 7.

Nay: None- 0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Spencer read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance -re-enacting residential tax abatements for the City of Reading as codified in Part 7 Subpart A of Chapter 24 of the City of Reading Codified Ordinances and amending the same (**Law**)

B. Ordinance – approving the enactment of the new City of Reading Zoning Ordinance. *Due to the size of the ordinance the summary is attached to the agenda. A full copy of the ordinance and the proposed map can be accessed on the City's website at www.readingpa.gov under the Info & Downloads tab*

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 67-2010 - confirming Carl E. Geffken as Director of Administrative Services in accordance with Article VI, Section 603 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter as amended (**Law**)

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to table Resolution No. 67-2010.

Resolution No. 67-2010 was tabled by the following vote:

Yea: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President - 7.

Nay: None- 0.

Council President Spencer stated that the resolution was tabled and will be considered on the evening the corresponding ordinance completes it's layover period.

B. Resolution 68-2010 That the Stipulation to Amend Decision of the City of Reading Zoning Hearing Board, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," in resolution of the matter of Reading Parking Authority, Appellant v. Zoning Hearing Board of the City of Reading, Appellee and Greater Berks Development Fund and the City of Reading, Interveners,

Berks County Court of Common Pleas Docket No. 09-13041 Civil Action – Land Use Appeal is approved (**Law**)

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adopt Resolution No. 68-2010.

Resolution No. 68-2010 was adopted by the following vote:

Yea: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President - 7.

Nay: None- 0.

C. Resolution 69-2010 – authorizing the application for a \$9.5M H2O PA Grant for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Interim Managing Director Geffken explained that the City is seeking H2O PA Grant assistance for components of the Waste Water Treatment Plant project.

Resolution No. 69-2010 was adopted by the following vote:

Yea: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President - 7.

Nay: None- 0.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou noted the improper installation of a stop sign on N. 13th at Richmond Street. He described the problems caused by the installation without the proper public notice. He also noted Councilor Acosta's lengthy attempt to obtain improved traffic control at 5th and Bingaman Streets.

Councilor Waltman noted the success of the Centre Park Garden Tour that occurred over the past weekend. He noted the great success overall of the Centre Park Historic District.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced the July 1st opening of The Last Airbender at the IMAX theater. She stated the film has various special effects and described the special discounted tickets.

Council President Spencer expressed his belief in the quality of life ticketing ordinance as he believes it will help improve property maintenance overall. He noted that one improperly maintained property can bring down an entire neighborhood.

Council President Spencer noted the community outreach program and efforts of John Gilmore and Chad Henne who are professional football players.

Council President Spencer announced the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Acosta, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Linda Kelleher CMC, City Clerk