

City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2011

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Olga Moriera from Path of Holiness 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
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor T. McMahon
Managing Director C. Geffken
Sergeant at Arms, Captain R. Schafer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor issued the following Proclamations:

- recognizing LGBT history month, accepted by Reading Pride Celebration
- recognizing Ernest Schlegel for his commitment to diversity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President announced that three (3) citizens were registered to address Council on non-agenda topics. He inquired if any member of Council objected to suspending the public speaking rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected, the rule was suspended. He reminded the citizens about the remaining public speaking rules.

Matt Healy, General Manager of Allied Waste Services, described the errors and omissions of the four (4) bids submitted for trash collection services. He stated that those errors and omissions should disqualify those bids from the City's consideration. He noted the importance for bids to meet all the City's specifications. He noted the value of this contract to the company and to the employees of the Company.

Captain Robert Schafer, Sergeant at Arms at Council meeting for the past two (2) years, stated that this is his last week of service with the Reading Police Department as he is retiring this Friday. He expressed his appreciation for his successful career with the City of Reading and he expressed his thanks to all the fantastic City employees who work hard to protect the quality of life for Reading residents. He also noted his positive experiences working with various community groups around the City.

Following a standing ovation, City Council members and Mayor McMahon expressed their appreciation to the long service of Captain Schafer with the Reading Police Department.

Ricardo Nieves, of Northmont Blvd, expressed his appreciation for the enactment of the LBGT legislation and noted his appreciation that the City enacted this legislation ahead of the State and Federal governments. He noted the importance of Council's foresight and including this important non-discrimination legislation in the Human Relations ordinance. He thanked Council, the Administration, and Council staff for working to keep him informed about the overflow situation of Bernhart's Creek during the recent flood.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Spencer called Council's attention to the minutes from September 12th Regular meeting of Council and the agenda for this meeting including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. He noted the need for the following additions and subtractions from the Agenda as follows:

- Addition to the Consent Agenda - Award Of Contract to EJB Paving at \$384,553.10 for various street paving projects.
- Introduction of four (4) ordinances:
 - Ordinance transferring funds within the Human Resources budget
 - Ordinance to add alleys and recycling to the Quality of Life ticket program
 - Ordinance amending the Housing Permit ordinance
 - Ordinance amending the City's Zoning ordinance
- Removal of the following resolutions from the Consent Agenda heading:
 - Resolution reallocating CDBG HOME funds from the Blighted Property Review Committee and reallocating them to Habitat to Humanity
 - Reallocating CHODO funds from the HOME program to NHS
- Removal of the following resolutions from the Resolution heading:
 - Removing the two (2) citizen appointments to the Rec Commission

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the September 12th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, as amended, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved

unanimously.

Consent Agenda Legislation

Award Of Contract – to EJB Paving at \$384,553.10 for various street paving projects.

Award of Contract – for the installation of pedestrian signals at 5th & Bingaman Sts
(Purchasing)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- Update on the sewer main break
- Resignation of Director of Administrative Services and announcing that the Managing Director will take on the acting Administrative Services Director role
- Rental Inspection billing to begin at the end of the week
- New Online Accident Reports on the Police Departments page on the City's website

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2011 Admissions Tax Collections
- 2011 Real Estate Transfer Tax
- 2012 Municipal Sewage Rate Calculation

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. Bill 45-2011 - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 1 Administration and Government, Section §1-186. Fiscal Provisions, Part 4 Bank and Investment Accounts (**Council Staff**) *Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting*

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 45-2011.

Bill No. 45-2011 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer,
President – 7**

Nays: None – 0

Bill No. 47-2011 - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 15 Parking Meters Section §15-502 Parking Meter Zones, Section §15-503 Saturdays, Sundays, holidays exempted, §15-504 time of parking limited by zone; hours of operation (**Law/Council Staff**)

Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 47-2011.

Council President Spencer described the changes to the parking meter zone ordinance.

Bill No. 47-2011 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner – 4

Nays: Acosta, Waltman, Spencer, President - 3

Bill 48-2011 - authorizing the Mayor or the Purchasing Coordinator, as his designee, to enter into an agreement with Municibid (online government auctions) to list various city property items for public sale online to the highest bidder (**Law**) *Introduced at the September 12 regular meeting*

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 48-2011.

Managing Director Geffken stated that the use of this PA firm will expand publicity of items placed up for sale by the City.

Mr. Younger stated that the City is able to use this approach due to its Home Rule Charter Authority.

Councilor Marmarou recounted the City's past practice of disposing of unwanted City property.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired if the Administration expects to receive an estimated amount of revenue. Managing Director Geffken stated that the revenue realized depends on the market and demand.

Council President Spencer inquired if Council will be reviewing a list of items to be placed for bid. Managing Director Geffken stated that a list of items for sale will be reviewed by City Council.

Bill No. 48-2011 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer, President – 7

Nays: None – 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Spencer read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance - amending the 2011 City of Reading Full Time Position Ordinance by creating one (1) Recycling Fleet Foreman, adding five (5) Equipment Operator II Positions and adding five (5) Equipment Operator I Positions (**Man Dir**)

B. Ordinance - transferring funds within the Human Resources budget

C. Ordinance - to add alleys and recycling to the Quality of Life ticket program

D. Ordinance - amending the Housing Permit ordinance

E. Ordinance - amending the City's Zoning ordinance

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 171–2011 - appointing Vaughn Spencer and Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz as Council representatives to the Recreation Commission (**Council Staff**)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Acosta, to adopt Resolution No. 171-2011.

Councilor Waltman noted the importance of successful implementation of the Rec Commission as it affects critical recreational programming for the City's youth.

Councilor Acosta described the process used to appoint citizens and noted the importance of selecting the proper candidates.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the long process to form the Commission and the importance of recreation as a community resource. She noted the great responsibility of the new Recreation Commission.

Council President Spencer noted the City and School District obtained assistance from the Executive Director of the Lancaster Recreation Commission Sue Landes who was able to impart her knowledge of Lancaster's 25 year old Recreation Commission.

Resolution No. 171-2011 was adopted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer,
President – 7**

Nays: None – 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou noted the upcoming meeting regarding the Caum Home.

Councilor Reed stated that DID has expanded their services to clean the Penn Street Bridge. She thanked them for their assistance to improve the image of the City.

Councilor Reed described the successful International Poetry and Cultural event that occurred downtown over the past weekend.

Councilor Reed highlighted the discussion on the City's desire to obtain a casino in Reading and the need for the City to make strides in making an economic development decisions.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described the two (2) fires that occurred in District 2 over the past weekend. She expressed thanks to the Police and Fire Department. She requested a strategic meeting regarding planning for the 1400 block of Muhlenberg Street, where one (1) of the fires occurred. She stated that the fire occurred in a neighborhood where only one (1) vacant and blighted property exists and asked that this home be demolished as quickly as possible.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Reading PRIDE organization for their work to encourage the enactment of the LGBT legislation.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced the October 6th Sunset event at the Pagoda starting at 6pm.

Councilor Sterner congratulated those honored with proclamations this evening and expressed his thanks to those who spoke during the Public Comment period.

Councilor Sterner expressed his congratulation to Captain Schafer on his retirement.

Councilor Sterner described his position on supporting the amendment to the Parking Meter Zones.

Council President Spencer noted the Police Department's quick apprehension of the perpetrator in a recent stabbing crime.

Council President Spencer noted the Sixth Ward reunion that occurred over the past weekend and various events that are occurring in neighborhoods around the City.

Council President Spencer congratulated Captain Schafer on his retirement and thanked him for his dedicated service.

Council President Spencer reviewed the Council meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk