



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

Wednesday, September 28, 2011
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

William Bender (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Bender is very involved in the community.

Ms. Reed questioned if Mr. Bender would have time to serve on this Board. Mr. Bender stated that this Board is important and he would make it a priority.

Ms. Reed thanked Mr. Bender for beautifying N 5th St.

Ms. Reed questioned if Mr. Bender had any suggestions to make Reading better. Mr. Bender stated that the City cannot tax itself out of this situation. He stated that after the article which appeared in yesterday's New York Times, people are ready to flee.

Ms. Reed expressed the belief that many of Reading's issues stem from housing. Mr. Bender stated that banks have red-lined mortgages for properties in Reading. There was a discussion about the decline of the City and the quality of life issues that are present.

Ms. Reed questioned how Mr. Bender works to increase quality of life. Mr. Bender stated that he reports problems to the City. He stated that he is disheartened when no action seems to be taken.

Ms. Reed noted the need for better enforcement of City regulations. Mr. Bender stated that better enforcement would assist but that the City also needs to work to bring the middle class back. He

noted the problems overcoming the notoriety given to Reading by the New York Times. He stated that this will be difficult to overcome.

Ms. Reed stated that business as usual no longer works. She stated that Reading has been on a decline since the mid 1980's. Mr. Bender described how his students do not want placements in Reading.

Ms. Reed stated that young people are leaving the area and are embarrassed to say they are from Reading.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of William Bender to the Citizens Advisory Board.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 9:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk