

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2011**

Jeffrey Waltman, Vice President of Council, called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Frank Gilyard of the Bethel AME Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

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

City Auditor D. Cituk

City Solicitor C. Younger

City Clerk L. Kelleher

Managing Director C. Geffken

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing America Recycles Day, accepted by Geoff Zolna, Solid Waste Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President of Council Waltman announced that three (3) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. 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. Vice President Waltman reminded the citizens about the remaining public speaking rules.

Nicole Jimenez, of Cotton Street, spoke about the proposed Community Garden project at Second and Franklin Street. He described the organizations past projects and their maintenance of those projects. He described the groups focus on the City's gateways and other prominent areas.

Juan Zabala, North Front Street, suggested that City Council consider enacting a noise exemption ordinance in the City's commercial core to encourage Economic Development. He

stated that similar ordinances are used in Harrisburg and Allentown.

MaryAnn Ciarlone, of North 5th Street, noted her support of the Democratic process in the country's election system. She expressed the belief that her comments written in the minutes from the last meeting are incomplete. She also stated that she has reviewed the draft Housing Permit ordinance and has several questions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Vice President of Council Waltman called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and to the minutes from Special Meeting of October 31st and the Regular Council Meeting from October 24th. He announced that Bill No. 60-2011 which amends the Act 47 Recovery Plan is withdrawn.

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the October 31st Special Meeting and the October 24th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda Legislation

Resolution 192-2011 – promoting Damond Kloc to the rank of Captain (**Police**)

Resolution 193-2011 – promoting Jeffrey Parr to the rank of Lieutenant (**Police**)

Resolution 195-2011 – promoting Cheryl Geisinger to the rank of Sergeant (**Police**)

Award of Contract – to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., 179 Micron Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020 for the 42 Inch Force Main Piping and Meters Upgrade for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$2,943,000 (**Purchasing**)

Award of Contract – for approving Force Main Emergency Bypass Construction Contract to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., 179 Micron Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020 for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$1,843,000.00 (**Purchasing**)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor McMahon read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Expressing congratulations to Mayor-elect Vaughn D. Spencer
- Announcing the storm debris collection area set-up at Schlegel Park Pool
- Noting the refinement of the proposed 2012 Budget which totals \$73M and has no Real Estate Tax increase and has an Earned Income Tax decrease

- Congratulations to the Reading Police Department for receiving the Webber Seagey Award

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed thanks to the Public Works Department for clearing the storm debris from City Park prior to the Veteran's Day celebration that took place in Veteran's Grove within City Park.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2011 Cable Franchise Fee Collection
- 2011 Traffic Fines
- 2011 Unemployment Compensation
- 2011 Snow/Ice Grant

Mayor McMahon left the meeting at this time.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 56-2011 - amending Chapter 5, Code Enforcement of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding Historic District Violations, Satellite Dishes in Historic Districts, requiring registration of trash hauler and requiring permits for temporary dumpsters (**Law**) *Introduced at the Sept 26 regular meeting; tabled at the October 10 and Oct 24 regular meetings*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 56-2011.

Bill No. 56-2011 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman – 6

Nays: None- 0

Bill No. 61-2011 – providing for a tax of up to a maximum of one and one tenth percent (1.1%) on all earned income and net profits generated in the City of Reading by non-residents of the City of Reading (**Mayor**) *Introduced at the October 3 special meeting*

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 61-2011.

Managing Director Geffken explained that the approval of this ordinance will reduce the Commuter Earned Income Tax by .2%

Bill No. 61-2011 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman – 6
Nays: None- 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Vice President of Council Waltman read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance - amending Chapter 20, Solid Waste, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by amending the language regarding storage by residential and multi-family units of four or fewer units (**Law**)

B. Ordinance - amending the Codified Ordinances, Chapter 1 Part 8, Department of Police, Sections 1-802 Sergeants and 1-803 Lieutenants by decreasing the Time-In-Grade Requirements for Promotional Eligibility (**Police**)

C. Ordinance - amending the 2011 City of Reading General Fund Budget by authorizing the transfer of funds from the Property Maintenance Division Salary Budget to the Property Maintenance Uniforms and Abatement Budgets (**Business Analyst**)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 194-2011 - authorizing submission of the FFY2012 Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and to amend the 2009 to 2013 Consolidated Plan designating the Ricktown neighborhood as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (**Community Development**)

Councilor Acosta moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to Resolution No. 194-2011.

Managing Director Geffken explained the application and review process. He stated that the City expects a reduction in the 2012 federal allocation and the proposed budget reflects that expected decrease.

Councilor Reed thanked the Administration and Council to work to find consensus on this budget. She stated that she will not support this resolution due to the allocation to a news media organization.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the discussion on all allocations made in this CDBG budget. She stated that some Councilors disagree with some allocations; however she reminded everyone that this action plan can be amended as we move through 2012

Resolution No. 194-2011 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Spencer,

President – 5
Nays: Reed – 1

Resolution 188-2011 – appointing George Seidel to the Blighted Property Review Committee (**Admin Oversight**)

Resolution 189-2011 – appointing Dan Gallagher to the Redistricting Committee (**Admin Oversight**)

Resolution 190-2011 – reappointing David Moodhart to the Shade Tree Commission (**Admin Oversight**)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to Resolution No. 188-2011 through 190-2011.

Councilor Marmarou expressed his belief in the qualifications of all applicants.

Resolution No. 188-2011 through 190-2011 were adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman – 6
Nays: None – 0

Resolution 191–2011- adopting the City of Reading Housing Strategy (**Council Staff**)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to Resolution No. 191-2011.

Vice President of Council Waltman invited Mr. John Kromer to the podium to comment on the strategy drafted by his team. Mr. Kromer described the goals and strategies reflected in the Housing Strategy and noted City staff’s work to implement the strategies beginning in 2011. He also noted the Strategy focuses on the Ricktown and Centre Park areas. He stated that even in this down economy he feels encouraged by the activities he is seeing around the City’s housing stock.

Resolution No. 191-2011 was ted by the following vote:

Yeas: Acosta, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman – 6
Nays: None – 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou noted the formation of the Northmont Community group. He also announced the passing of former City Police Officer Wallace Zuchowski and noted the lack of a Police honor guard at the funeral service.

Councilor Sterner congratulated the Police for receiving the Webber Seavey award. He thanked those who provided Public Comment this evening and noted the success of the City's Recycling program.

Councilor Sterner invited all citizens to attend the Holiday light display at Hillside playground beginning this Sunday, November 19th and 6pm. He stated that this is the playground associations 18th annual light display event.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the positive public/private partnership used to clean up the storm debris. She thanked those volunteers who decorated the baskets on Penn Street for the upcoming holiday season. She also noted the need for the City to develop further public/private partnerships to care for the City's many parks and playgrounds.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that Santa will make appearances at the Pagoda on weekends through the holiday season. She stated that Santa will be welcomed by the blinking Pagoda lights on Christmas Eve and she announced that a Fireworks display will once again take place at the Pagoda on New Years Eve.

Councilor Reed thanked Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz for coordinating the decorating of the Penn Street planters.

Councilor Reed congratulated Mayor-elect Vaughn Spencer.

Councilor Reed noted the passing of Ms. Arlene Rataczak and noted the Reading community's appreciation for Arlene's involvement in so many community activities.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk