

**City of Reading City Council  
Regular Business Meeting  
Monday, March 12, 2012**

Council President Francis G. Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Managing Director Carl Geffken.

All present pledged to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Acosta  
Councilor Corcoran, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Sterner, District 3  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
Mayor V. Spencer  
Managing Director C. Geffken  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Legal Specialist T. Butler, Esquire  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Sgt at Arms Police Chief W. Heim

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

The City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of L & H Signs Inc, accepted by Christopher Heiny, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Council Commendation recognizing the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WEEU Radio, accepted by Jo Painter, General Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta announced that three (3) citizens were registered to address Council on agenda matters. He advised those registered to speak about the public speaking rules. He announced those registered to address Council on non-agenda matters will be asked to comment after the legislative business is concluded.

**Heath Crandle, of Meade Street**, noted various difficulties with residential life in Reading. He noted the inadequate manning of Police and Fire which makes it difficult for residents to get responses to calls for service. He questioned how knowing this the Mayor could request five (5) additional positions in his office. He suggested that the Mayor do more with less, like

everyone else. He also suggested that if additional funding is available, the Mayor should instead add Police and/or Fire personnel. He stated that although there has been comment from those who support the additional positions in the Mayor's Office, the average taxpayer does not support the proposed positions.

**Lourdes Torres, of South 5th Street**, suggested Council consider having a change of heart and approve the positions requested in the Mayor's office.

**Ernie Schlegel, of Pear Street**, stated that he supports the positions proposed; however he voiced concern with the remarks made about Council members being racist and bigots at the last two (2) meetings of Council. He also noted his surprise that those remarks came right after Council presented a commendation to the NAACP in celebration of Black History Month. He expressed the belief that City Council does not make decisions on appointments based on race.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes for the February 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of Council.

Councilor Waltman arrived at this time.

Council President Acosta noted the need to make the following agenda amendments:

- Add an Award of Contract to the Consent Agenda for the Police surveillance cameras
- Add an introduction of new ordinance setting the salary of the Managing Director
- Add an introduction of new ordinance amending the Certificate of Transfer ordinance

City Clerk Kelleher administered the Oath of Office to Lt. Michael Lessar Jr. promoting him to 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief, promoting 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief William Stoudt Jr. to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Stephen Serba to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief, and promoting 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Jeffrey Squibb to Acting Fire Chief.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the agenda as amended, including the legislation under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Regular Meeting of Council. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Resolution 26-2012** authorizing the Public Works Director and Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager to submit of the forms and documents to obtain financial assistance for the

costs associated with Wastewater Treatment Plant Mitigation as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **(Fire)**

**Resolution 27-2012** authorizing the Public Works Director and Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager to submit of the forms and documents to obtain financial assistance for the costs associated with Force Main Mitigation as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **(Fire)**

**Resolution 28-2012** authorizing the hearing process that will address the zoning backlog, by authorizing a hearing officer to hear properties with 1-3 units in high density residential zones, authorizing individual District Councilors to hold hearings for properties with 4-6 units in high density residential zones and authorizing the full body of Council to hold hearings for properties with 7 and more units and all properties in R1 and R2 zoning districts **(Council Staff)**

**Resolution 29-2012** authorizing the Mayor to execute the Federal-Aid Reimbursement Agreement for the Penn Street Crosswalk Project, PennDOT MPMS No. 76614 **(Law)**

**Resolution 30-2012** authorizing the Mayor to execute the Federal-Aid Reimbursement Agreement for the Penn Street Lighting Project, PennDOT MPMS No. 81360 **(Law)**

**Resolution 31-2012** promoting Police Officer Brian Rogers to the rank of Sergeant in the Reading Police Department, effective March 16, 2012 **(Police)**

**Resolution 32-2012** authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit an application for a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant for a rehabilitation project at the Keffer Park Playground **(Man Dir)**

**Resolution 33-2012** promoting Lieutenant Kent Born to 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief **(Fire)**

**Resolution 34-2012** promoting Lieutenant Michael Lessar Jr to 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief **(Fire)**

**Resolution 35-2012** promoting 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief William Stoudt Jr to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief **(Fire)**

**Resolution 36-2012** promoting 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Stephen Serba to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief **(Fire)**

**Resolution 37-2012** promoting 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Jeffrey Squibb to Acting Fire Chief

**Award of Contract** – for surveillance cameras to Let's Think Wireless

**City Clerk Kelleher administered the oath of office to the following firefighters:**

- promoting Lieutenant Michael Lessar Jr to 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief
- promoting 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief William Stoudt Jr to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief
- promoting 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Stephen Serba to 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief
- promoting 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Jeffrey Squibb to Acting Fire Chief

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mayor Spencer read the report distributed to Council with the agenda highlighting the following:

- His completion of the three (3) day NIMS Training
- Two (2) ribbon cuttings at recent Micro-Loan recipients
- Roll out of the iPads by the Property Maintenance Division
- Congratulations to the promoted firefighters
- Thanks to Managing Director Geffken for his dedicated service to the City
- Asking Council to reconsider overriding his veto of Bill 14-2012

Councilor Waltman inquired about the repair of Walnut Street where the sewer break occurred. He noted the long disruption for area residents. He stated that originally the repairs were projected to be made in two (2) months. He stated the street has been closed for an extended period of time. Public Works Director Jones described the utility work that has been completed and the current work to repair the paving curb and sidewalks. He described the coordination with the utility companies.

Councilor Waltman suggested strong communication with residents regarding the projection.

Councilor Sterner inquired why the reduction from \$50K to \$25K is such a large detriment to the Administration's when other cities require Council approval for spending at either \$25K or \$10K. Mayor Spencer stated that this is detrimental to the Administration's ability to handle day-to-day business.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- Collection of Magisterial District Justice summary offenses

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**Bill No. 22-2012** - amending the 2012 solid waste budget, reallocating certain advertising,

contracted services and postage funds to the 2012 vehicles budget (**Bus Analyst**) *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor moved Marmarou, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 22-2012.**

**Bill No. 22-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 23-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to acquire, by condemnation or otherwise, a fee or easement interest, as deemed necessary or prudent by the mayor, in the parcels of land indentified as property identification numbers 18530651852796 and 18530616947572 (the “properties”) located along the west shore of the Schuylkill River between the Sixth and Canal Pump Station and Fritz Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (“WWTP”) for the purpose of constructing and maintaining such sanitary sewer facilities required for the efficient transportation of sewage to the WWTP (**Man Dir**) *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 23-2012.**

**Bill No. 23-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 24-2012** - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 1 Administrative Code, Part 2, §1-221. Categories of Employment by including compensated interns as temporary employees (**Law**) *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 24-2012.**

**Bill No. 24-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Acosta, President - 5**

**Nays: Reed, Waltman - 2**

**Bill No. 25-2012** - establishing a four-way stop intersection at St. Bernardine Street and Greenway Terrace in the City of Reading, Pennsylvania **(Law)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to enact Bill No. 25-2012.**

Council President Acosta and Councilor Corcoran agreed that this stop sign is quite necessary at this intersection.

**Bill No. 25-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 26-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to acquire the properties from the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau's current repository list as attached as Exhibit "A" **(Law)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 26-2012.**

**Bill No. 26-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 27-2012** - amending Bill No. 7-2012 and Codified Ordinances §1-115 - Meetings to be Public providing additional language relating to the use of electronic recording devices at meetings **(Council Staff/Law)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 27-2012.**

**Bill No. 27-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta  
President - 6  
Nays: Waltman- 1**

**Bill No. 28-2012** – refinancing the 2005 Bonds with a General Obligation Note, Series of 2012, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed two million six hundred fifty five thousand dollars (\$2,655,000) **(Financial Solutions)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 28-2012.**

Managing Director Geffken stated that this refinancing will yield the City a net savings of \$104K or 5% over the three (3) to four (4) year term of the bond.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for accurate documentation of finance transactions and obligations.

**Bill No. 28-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 29-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to attempt to acquire ownership of the premises known as 405A South 7th Street, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, from the Berks County Sheriff's Judicial Sale **(Law)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 29-2012.**

**Bill No. 29-2012 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None- 0**

**Bill No. 30-2012** – amending Bill No. 66-2011 the Position Ordinance by adding all Part Time, Temporary, and Seasonal employee positions **(Law)** *Introduced at the February 27 regular meeting*

**Councilor Waltman moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 30-2012.**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to amend Bill No. 30-2012 by eliminating the Communications Specialist.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the communications function can be handled by other staff members. Councilor Sterner agreed.

Councilor Waltman expressed his belief in the need for the Communications Specialist to sell the City's story properly.

Councilor Corcoran stated that he would support the amendment and the remaining positions due to the Mayor's statement that he would hold these employee's accountable.

Mayor's Spencer noted the need for all four (4) positions to support the Mayor's office and his vision. He believed that the old approach of staffing in the Mayor's office is not sufficient to get his transition plan implemented.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that existing City staff can undertake the required communication tasks.

Councilor Waltman expressed his belief in the need to allow the Mayor to project the City's story to the world. He expressed the belief that this is a good investment.

**The amendment to Bill No. 30-2012 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**

**President - 6**

**Nays: Reed - 1**

**Council President Acosta stated that Council now needs to consider Bill No. 30-2012, as amended.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the addition of other positions in other areas. She also noted the need for the Mayor's positions to work within their job descriptions and not move into inappropriate areas. She stated that she hesitates in approving these positions as some in the Mayor's office, in the past took on tasks that went beyond the scope of their position.

Councilor Goodman-Hinenrshitz inquired who would be performing the duties of the Managing Director after Managing Director Geffken resigns on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Spencer stated that he will be taking on the duties of the Managing Director.

Mayor Spencer stated that he takes exception to Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz's remarks and promise to handle the positions properly. He noted that Council needs to trust him as he makes his own personal decisions.

Councilor Corcoran questioned the status of Controller Chris Zale. Mayor Spencer stated that Mr. Zale is the Acting Administrative Services Director as recommended by Managing Director Geffken.

Councilor Reed stated that she fails to see how supporting these positions will benefit the City's core services. She suggested that the Police, Fire and Public Works Department each request for additional positions. She promised as Finance Chair to increase the size of the Police, Fire and Public Works Department.

Mayor Spencer noted that these specific positions for his office were funded with money realized through unfilled positions. He stated that there is no guarantee that they will continue in 2013.

Councilor Waltman stated that Council should not prevent the Mayor from hiring staff to achieve his goals.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to revisit the Transition Plan as many of the suggestions made by the Transition Committees never made it into the plan. She also noted that Council's job is to monitor the Administration.

Council President Acosta noted the need for all to move on with this compromise.

**Bill No. 30-2012, as amended, was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**

**President - 6**

**Nays: Reed - 1**

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to override the veto of Bill No. 14-2012.**

Mayor Spencer expressed the belief that the override of this veto will be disruptive to the day-to-day Administrative Services.

**The override of the veto of Bill No. 14-2012, was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner - 5**

**Nays: Waltman, Acosta, President - 2**

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to reconsider the vote on Bill No. 18-2012.**

**The motion to reconsider the vote on Bill No. 18-2012, was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 6**

**Nays: Reed- 1**

**Councilor Waltman moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to amend Bill No. 18-2012 by removing the allocation for the Communication Specialist and moving the \$45K allocation for that position into the Contingency fund.**

**The amendment to Bill No. 18-2012, was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None- 0**

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to enact Bill No. 18-2012, as amended.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that while this ordinance funds the Mayor's positions, there are other positions that may need budget amendments. Managing Director Geffken stated that the other amendments should be sufficiently funded by Departmental budgets.

City Auditor Cituk noted that two (2) members of Council staff will be receiving increases. He inquired if these increases will be effective as of the next pay period or retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Managing Director Geffken stated that the increases will be retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

**Ordinance** - amending the 2012 City of Reading general fund budget by authorizing the transfer of funds from the mailroom division to the Citizens Service Center (CSC)  
(Controller)

**Ordinance** - amending the Lease Agreement between the City of Reading and the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA/Law)

**Ordinance** – amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 3 Bicycles Part 1 Bicycle Regulations Section 3-106 Operation and Parking (Police/Council Staff)

**Ordinance** - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 15 Motor Vehicles and Traffic Part 10 Regulation of Pedalcycles and Non-Motorized Vehicles Section 15-1001 Riding and Parking of Pedalcycles on Sidewalks along Certain Streets Prohibited as attached (Police/Council Staff)

**Ordinance** - amending Chapter 10, Health and Safety, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by eliminating Dry Cleaning Establishments from the regular inspection of the premises of Commercial and Residential Common Laundries under the Health Code of the City of Reading (Law)

**Ordinance** - authorizing the Mayor to execute the third addendum to the lease and operating agreement between the City of Reading, Pennsylvania and the Reading Area Water Authority, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and such other documents necessitated thereby, including, without limitation, (1) a deed conveying to the Reading Area Water Authority an approximately one hundred twenty (120) acre parcel of land located in Ontelaunee Township owned by the City and (2) a deed conveying to the Reading Area Water Authority an approximately two and thirty-nine one hundredths (2.39) acre parcel of land owned by the City and located at 1801 Moss Street in the City of Reading (Man Dir)

**Ordinance** - amending the 2012 City of Reading general fund budget by authorizing the transfer of debt service savings produced by refinancing 2005 notes and 2008 bonds to spending contingency (Controller)

**Ordinance** - amending Chapter 5, Code Enforcement of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding Alleys and Recycling Storage to existing Quality of Life Violations and amending language in the current Fines and Penalties Section (Law/Codes)

**Ordinance** - rescinding Ordinance 59-2010 in its entirety (Council Staff/Law)

**Ordinance** – amending the City of Reading Fee Schedule in relation to Commercial Laundry Fees (**Law**)

**Ordinance** – amending Chapter 4 Buildings Part 3 Certificate of Transfer as attached in Exhibit A (**Bus Analyst**)

**Ordinance** – setting the salary of the Managing Director at \$95,550

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 38–2012** - reappointing Chad Spohn to the Plumbing Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 39-2012** - appointing Melvyn Jacobson to the Citizens Advisory Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 40–2012** – reappointing Jeff George to the HVAC Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 41–2012** - reappointing James Wong to the Board of Health (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 42–2012** - appointing Kent Wrobel to the Citizens Advisory Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 43–2012** - appointing Timothy Pelter to the Electricians Examining Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 44–2012** - reappointing Aaron Booth to the Historical Architectural Review Board (**Nom & Appts**)

**Resolution 45–2012** - appointing David Hollinger to the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals (**Nom & Appts**)

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Marmarou, to adopt Resolutions 38-2012 – 45-2012.**

Councilor Marmarou noted the quality and qualifications of those applying of those applying and reapplying to fill these Board positions.

**Resolution 38-2012 – 45-2012 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**

**President - 7**  
**Nays: None- 0**

**Resolution 46-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to execute a FFY 2012 (38th CD year - January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012) Action Plan amendment to revise 2010 activities and to allocate unassigned Home Funds totaling \$278,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the conduct of homeowner rehabilitation and/or acquisition and rehabilitation in the City of Reading. These activities will be eligible under Home Program regulations and final rule at 24 cfr 92 (CD)

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Corcoran, to adopt Resolutions 46-2012.**

City Clerk Kelleher stated that with these funds Habitat for Humanity will be rehabilitating a minimum of four (4) blighted properties on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Resolution 46-2012 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**  
**President - 7**  
**Nays: None- 0**

**Resolution 47-2012** - authorizing the Bank Accounts for the City of Reading for the 2012 Calendar Year as attached in Exhibit A (Controller)

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Goodman-Hinnershitz to adopt Resolutions 47-2012.**

Councilor Waltman suggested that the Finance Committee review the top five (5) bank statements as a good check and balance. Councilor Reed requested the assistance of City Auditor Cituk.

**Resolution 47-2012 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**  
**President - 7**  
**Nays: None- 0**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

Council President Acosta stated that citizens registered to address Council under General Matters will be given three (3) minutes to comment.

**Anthony Johnson, of North 9th Street,** expressed his belief that the discontinuation of the

Merchant Parking Permit on North 9<sup>th</sup> Street is unfair for merchants and their customers. He expressed the belief that the parking meter rates are too high and discourage customers from coming to visit businesses.

Council President Acosta stated that fourteen (14) business owners associated with the Merchant's Association of 9<sup>th</sup> Street submitted a note that states:

With great respect and consideration to all members of this honorable Council, the Merchant's Associations asks that you honor our request to continue the Parking Permit Program. We thank you in advance for your help and support in helping us renew our Parking permits.

**Cresnac Ducheine, of Wyomissing,** was not present.

**Victor Cabrera, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street,** was not present.

**Victoria Morasco, of Penn Street,** was not present.

**Carlos Zayas, of South 11<sup>th</sup> Street,** was not present.

**Al Dunn, of South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street,** was not present.

**Alvin Booth, of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street,** stated that voters put Council members on the team but the voters selected the Mayor as the coach. He expressed the belief that at the next election the players on the team will be replaced.

**Gary Joseph, of North 13<sup>th</sup> Street,** was not present.

**Al Carranza, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street,** asked Council to reconsider the Merchant Parking Permit.

**Paul Prince, of East High Street, Pottstown, representing John Palumbo,** distributed a handout that tells Mr. Palumbo's story regarding his application to become the City's Mechanical Inspector. He noted his three (3) unsuccessful application attempts although he is a qualified candidate. He asked Council to reconsider this situation.

**Natasha Peguero, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street,** requested that Council reconsider the continuation of the Merchant Parking Permits as those who use the permits are willing to pay a larger annual fee.

**Latasha Peguro, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street,** was not present.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the volunteers for their activity to clean up Mount Penn over the past weekend.

Councilor Reed thanked Managing Director Geffken for all he brought to the City. She noted his dedication and experience have served the City well.

Councilor Sterner thanked the merchants for expressing their opinions about the Merchant Parking Permit. He stated that this issue will be discussed further by Council.

Councilor Waltman also expressed his thanks to Managing Director Geffken.

Council President Acosta thanked Managing Director Geffken for his leadership and dedication. He also thanked those who commented at the Council meeting tonight.

Council President Acosta reviewed the Council meeting schedule.

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*