

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, July 23, 2012**

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

The invocation was given by District 1 Councilor Randy Corcoran.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
Councilor Corcoran, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Waltman, District 6
Managing Director C. Snyder
Mayor V. Spencer
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Administrative Services Dir. M. Bembenick
Public Works Dir. C. Jones

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamations or commendations issued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that five citizens were registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the Council meeting. As no one objected, the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting was suspended. Council President Acosta reminded the citizens registered to speak about the remaining public speaking rules.

Ann Chapin, of Walnut St, expressed the belief that the fees to operate rental properties in Reading are too high, which makes it difficult for landlords to run a profitable business. She noted the difficulties landlords have raising the rent to cover these costs as the majority of tenants served are low income. She stated that many landlords are leaving their rental businesses in Reading and moving elsewhere. She noted that the increased fees have consequences.

Ed Terrell, of Lackawanna St., congratulated the Mayor for assembling his Administrative Team. He expressed the belief that the violence in the City needs to be addressed and ended. He also suggested drafting legislation to address a person's ability to freely purchase weapons and carry them and address poverty.

Maryann Ciarlone, of North 5^h Street, stated that the owners of rental properties in the Centre Park area have asked her to purchase or take properties they own. She stated that she is ready to take ownership of one property; however, she asked the City to waive the need for any inspection of the property.

Terry Shilling, of Brookline St., described the quality of life problems caused by the outdoor security lighting at the Family Wash Laundromat on Lancaster Avenue. She stated that to date she has complained to the Codes, Zoning and Council Office, and only District 1 Councilor has responded. She noted the need to resolve the issues with the lighting.

Shirley Kubacki, of Brookline Street, also complained about the outdoor security lighting at the Laundromat. She stated that these lights shine in residential windows at all hours and it is disrupting resident's ability to sleep. She also inquired about why residential properties receive Quality of Life tickets and businesses do not. She noted the unkempt condition of the Laundromat.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes for the July 9th Regular Meeting of Council. He stated that the Administration has asked Council to add an award of contract for the Charter Board's investigative officer to tonight's Consent Agenda

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to approve the minutes from the July 9th Regular Meeting of Council, this evening's agenda, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, as amended.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 96-2012 - authorizing conditional offers of employment to the following officers for the Reading Police Department, effective July 23, 2012: **(Police)**

Luiz D. Garcia
George A. Sims Jr.
Lance E. Lonsinger
Richard P. Carpenter
Santiago-DeJesus, Jesus

Victor M. Morrison
Jacob P. Stefani
Scott D. Errington Jr.
Luz Shade
Adam L. Babbitt
Shane Gessner
Andrew J. Seiler

B. Resolution 97-2012 – awarding a contract to T & M Associates for the Secondary Digester Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$208,000 (**Man Dir**)

C. Resolution 91-2012 - awarding of Contract for the 42-Inch Force Main – 6th And Canal Pump Station To Angelica Creek Project Contract in the amount of the Total Base Bid Price of \$9,738,500 (**Purchasing**)

D. Award of Contract – to employ Hartman Shurr, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing, PA to serve as the Charter Board’s investigative officer at a price of \$155 per hour.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer highlighted the report distributed to Council today as follows:

- Update of the heat wave alerts
- Update on the Home Run Derby and All Star Game at First Energy Stadium
- Update on the recent shootings which were stemmed by a separate confrontation

The Mayor also covered:

- Notice about his meeting this week with the Chamber and CD Director
- Receipt of the draft Market Value Analysis
- Update on the strategic planning by the CD Department

Councilor Reed inquired when the Market Rate Analysis would be presented to Council. The Mayor suggested that the City Clerk contact Redevelopment Authority Chair Tod Auman to schedule a presentation.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

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

- 2012 Admissions Tax Collection
- Comparison of 2010, 2011 and 2012 Real Estate Tax Collection
- 2012 Real Estate Tax Collection

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Report

David Bean, Esq., and Chair of the EAC delivered the annual report as required by the

enabling legislation. He stated that the EAC is carrying out their five core objectives. He also reported that the EAC went through the strategic planning process and has reviewed ordinances and made recommendations for improvements.

Mr. Beane stated that to date the EAC has completed the following:

- Participated in the drafting of a new floodplain ordinance
- Drafted a steep slope ordinance
- Drafted a rain barrel ordinance
- Reviewed and made recommendations for modifications to State Act 13

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC is considering alternative energy systems, riparian buffer regulations and participated on the Bernhart's Park work group. He noted that recent resignations have caused the EAC to slip to three members. He asked Council to assist in identifying new members. He thanked Ms. Hoag, Ms. Katzenmoyer and Harriet Rauenzahn for their support and assistance.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz congratulated the EAC on the impact they have made to date.

Council President Acosta also recognized the work of Ms. Katzenmoyer, Ms. Hoag and Mrs. Rauenzahn. He and Councilor Reed thanked the EAC for their continued work.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

There were no ordinances eligible for enactment at this meeting

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following into the record:

A. Ordinance - regulating the design, construction, installation and operation of rain barrels in the City of Reading (**EAC**)

B. Ordinance – accepting a PennVest loan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project (**Financial S&olutions**)

C. Ordinance – amending the Recreation Commission Agreement with the Reading School District (**Law**)

D. Ordinance – amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, by striking inconsistent appeal language relating to disruptive conduct reports and renumbering the remaining sections (**Law**)

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 98-2012 - authorization to enter into a cost sharing agreement for Walnut Street restoration- North 2nd Street to N. Front Street with the Reading Area Water Authority and UGI Utilities (**Law**)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution No. 98-2012.

Resolution No. 98-2012 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 6
Nays: None -0

B. Resolution 99-2012– approving the conditional use of 918 N 4th St (**Council Staff/Law**)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution No. 99-2012.

Resolution No. 99--2012 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 6
Nays: None -0

C. Resolution 100-2012 - declaration of official intent to reimburse general funds used to construct improvements to its sewer system with funds received from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (**Financial S&lutions**)

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 100-2012.

Resolution No. 100-2012 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 6
Nays: None -0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mr. Corcoran thanked those who addressed Council this evening. He also encouraged neighborhoods to remain vigilant and report criminal activity to the police. He described his successful experiences with watching Reading police respond to issues in District 1.

Councilor Reed updated Council on the activities around landscaping Penn Street and the Penn and North 2nd Street gateway. She stated that the group conducting the landscaping is seeking contributions to cover the cost of the project.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced the Sunset at the Pagoda activity scheduled for Thursday, August 2nd. She also described the Years for Tears project to rehabilitate one of the pavilions at Mineral Spring Park.

Mayor Spencer described the recent underground fire near Pear and Walnut Streets.

Councilor Waltman again inquired about the conclusion of the project in the 100 block of Walnut Street. He stated that this neighborhood has been under construction for over 1 ½ years and that the neighbors feel very shut off and shut out.

Council President Acosta noted the success of the recent fair at St. Peter's Church.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk