

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2013**

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Danny Moore, Holy Trinity Church of God.

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
Councilor Waltman, District 6
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor V. Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued the following:

- Commendation recognizing the 80th anniversary of Berks Packing, accepted by Charles Boylan
- Recognition Certificates for Reading High School Berks Best fall athletes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that four 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 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 public speaking rules.

Ted Chase, of North 10th Street, was not present.

Andy Moore, of Jameson Street, made comments to the District 5 City Councilor and was called to order by the Council President and Solicitor, who advised him that public comment needs to be made to the body of Council not to individual Councilors or officials. Mr. Moore

apologized and stated that he would comment at another meeting after consulting with his speech writer.

Cecilia Zuber, of Douglass Street, stated that she owns a three unit, owner occupied rental property at 2nd and Douglass and asked Council to consider returning to the original inspection fees (escrowed with the \$100 per unit annual rental permit). She noted that the rent charged to tenants only covers the mortgage and the taxes. She also expressed the belief that Property Maintenance Inspectors go beyond health and safety issues and cite cosmetic issues as problems. She expressed the belief that her rental is in better shape than some owner occupied properties.

William Steinseick, of Lansdale, was not present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes for the December 17th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda for this meeting. He noted the need to amend the agenda to add the following legislation:

- Two resolutions to the Consent Agenda: one to authorize a \$16.5M RACP for the Double Tree Hotel at 8th and Penn Streets and one to authorize the hiring of five probationary police officers
- One resolution under the Resolution Section authorizing the Law Department to appeal the approval of a Student Home at 1611 N 15th St

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the December 17th Regular Meeting and the agenda, as amended for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the amended Consent Agenda Heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 1-2013 – authorizing the Mayor to execute a Medical Transportation Service Agreement with St. Joseph Regional Health Network d/b/a St. Joseph Medical Center (**Fire**)

B. Resolution 3-2013 – authorizing the disposition of the 2005 Financial Interest Statements (**Council Staff**)

C. Resolution 5-2013 – authorizing the submission of a \$16.5M RACP for the Double Tree Hotel project at 8th and Penn Streets (**RRA**)

D. Resolution 6-2013 – authorizing the hiring of five probationary police officers

(Police/Council Staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read his report to Council. He apologized for failing to prepare a written report due to the staff transition in his office. In summary:

- The Housing Fee Amnesty program, which started on December 15th has generated \$246,790 to date
- The Mayor's staff is performing a comprehensive review of the Solid Waste program and is developing a comprehensive yard waste program
- The Administration recently attended the Outlet Neighborhood Community Group meeting
- The rumors regarding Administrative staff secretly reading the content of all emails is untrue
- Suggested reviewing and amending all lease agreements with various entities and organizations, such as the Pagoda and various baseball fields

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need for standardization of lease agreement forms and the use of a template for the agreements. She stated that the Public Works Committee has been requesting this standardization for well over a year. She noted that the Pagoda Foundation does not have a lease agreement with the City but instead has a memorandum of understanding.

Councilor Corcoran stated that he looks forward to learning more about the yard waste program, as he identified this need last spring. He requested a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the email issue.

Council President Acosta agreed with the need for standardized lease agreements with organizations that use City facilities and an evaluation of how the facilities are used. He urged the Administration to enforce parking regulations on Reed Street, as the businesses that perform car repair work park vehicles on the street when they are waiting for service.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council. In summary:

- Update on the 2012 Real Estate Transfer Tax collection
- Update on the City's three pension boards

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

There were no ordinances for final passage at this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance - requesting authorization to transfer \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Liquid Fuels Fund (**Controller**)

B. Ordinance - amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Fee Schedule, to add a Bakery category for Health Permit Inspections (**Property Maintenance/Council Staff**)

C. Ordinance - requesting authorization to transfer \$1 million from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund (**Controller**)

D. Ordinance - amending Ordinance No. 95-2010, Codified as Section 1-599.61 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Reading, to declare that the Reading Downtown Improvement District Authority will exercise fiduciary and administrative oversight over the Reading Main Street Program; to designate the executive director of the Reading Downtown Improvement District as the Main Street Program Manager; and to authorize the amendment to the agreement of July 27, 2005 between the City of Reading and the Reading Downtown Improvement District Authority to effectuate the purposes of this Ordinance (**Law**)

E. Ordinance - amending Ordinance No. 41-2005, Codified as Sections 1-431 through 1-440 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Reading, to amend Section 1-433, titled "Rights of Authority" to add to the powers of the Reading Downtown Improvement District Authority the power of management and fiduciary and administrative oversight of the Reading Main Street Program; amending Section 1-435, titled "Management" to add responsibility for fiduciary and administrative oversight of the Reading Main Street Program to the responsibilities of the Reading Downtown Improvement District Authority Board; and amending Section 1-439, titled "Management Agreement," to authorize amendment of the agreement between the Reading Downtown Improvement District Authority and the City of Reading to effectuate the purposes of this Ordinance (**Law**)

F. Ordinance - amending an Ordinance of the City previously enacted on June 25, 2012, that authorized the incurrence of non-electoral debt through the issuance of a series of federally-taxable general obligation notes of the City in the aggregate principal amount of three million one hundred eleven thousand dollars (\$3,111,000) pursuant to the act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, known as the Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 PA.C.S., Chapters 80-82, as amended (the "Act"), to provide funds for certain projects of the City recited therein; providing that the dates set forth in said Ordinance for the payment of principal of and interest on said notes be modified; providing for certain other amendments to said Ordinance; authorizing and directing specified officers of this City to do, take and perform certain necessary and/or appropriate acts and things relating to such amended Ordinance; providing when this Ordinance shall become effective; providing for severability of provisions; and repealing all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances insofar as the same shall be inconsistent herewith (**Financial Solutions**)

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 3-2013 – approving the conditional use permit for 912 Amity St with conditions (Council Staff/Law)

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution 3-2013.

Resolution No. 3-2013 was NOT adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Waltman – 2

Nays: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 5

B. Resolution 4-2013 – appointing Deborah Hoag to the Reading Area Transportation Study Technical Committee (Council Staff)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution 4-2013.

Resolution No. 4-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou suggested addressing unregistered vehicles in areas more populated and denser than the College Heights area. He suggested using a common sense approach prior to issuing Quality of Life tickets to unregistered cars parked in driveways.

In response to Ms. Zuber's remarks in the Public Comment period, Councilor Corcoran noted that the rental inspection fees were dramatically reduced for 2013. He also suggested that Ms. Zuber report property maintenance violations at owner occupied properties to the Customer Service Center.

Councilor Corcoran thanked Berks Packing for their work to beautify the Bingaman Street triangle.

Councilor Reed reported that she has been working to re-establish the Community Group in the 15th Ward. She thanked Ms. Zuber for her work to keep her neighborhood tidy.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked all who assisted with the New Year's Eve celebration at the Pagoda. She noted the City's expense to support this event and thanked the businesses who provided sponsorship. She stated that the Pagoda is now open on weekends and stated that the next event at the Pagoda is the Groundhog's Day event. She stated that the

Pagoda has 30,000 visitors annually.

Councilor Waltman noted the length of tonight's Mayor's Report and stated that this report was the longest he heard since he came on City Council 12 years ago.

Councilor Sterner congratulated those who were honored this evening with commendations and recognition certificates and thanked those who commented during the public comment period.

Council President Acosta announced that the City will be represented at the Crime Summit scheduled for Friday, January 18th at the Crowne Plaza hotel. He stated that the meeting space was donated by Crowne Plaza management.

Council President Acosta read the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk