

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2013**

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

Council President Acosta asked all to stand for a moment of silence in memory of community leader Frank Gilyard who passed away suddenly last week.

The invocation was given by Rabbi Lipsker, Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County.

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
Managing Director C. Snyder
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor V. Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing Martin Luther King Jr Day, accepted by Bill Thompson, member Reading Chapter NAACP Executive Board
- Recognition of Berks Catholic 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 remaining public speaking rules.

Noahleen Betts, of North 10th Street, announced the upcoming Miss Teen Reading PA scholarship pageant for young woman between the ages of 13 and 19 who are City residents and attend City Schools. She stated that the pageant is scheduled for March 30th at the Wyndom.

Union Dominicana announced the upcoming celebration of Dominican Independence Day.

Ed Terrell, of Lackawana Street, described the upcoming events for the African Coalition of Reading (ACOR).

Mary Ann Ciarlone, of N. 5th Street, expressed her belief in the maintenance of properties and noted that there are 18 vacant properties in the area where the CORE property at 737 N 4th Street is located. She stated that employees in Property Maintenance told her that vacant properties are not required to be registered. She expressed the belief that the property maintenance process is off point and that the CORE program is a component of the City's housing problem.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes for the January 14th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda for this meeting. He noted the need to amend the agenda to add the following legislation:

- Consent Agenda – add an Award of Contract for the cleaning of the digesters at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Introduction of New Ordinances – amendment to the Position Ordinance to add 30 Firefighters if the SAFER Grant is accepted
- Resolutions – remove Resolution D re Main Street

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the January 14th Regular Meeting and the agenda for this, as amended, including the legislation listed under the amended Consent Agenda Heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 7A-2013 – authorizing the bank accounts of the City of Reading for 2013 (**Admin Services/Council Staff**)

B. Resolution 8 thru 11-2013 – authorizing promotions of Sergeant Andrew J. Winters, promoted to Lieutenant, Officer Lance R. Lillis, promoted to Sergeant, Officer Wendell A. Buck, promoted to Sergeant, Officer Keith M. Frantz, promoted to Sergeant, in the Police Department (**Police/Council Staff**)

C. Award of Contract – to Spectraserve for the digester cleaning at the wastewater treatment plant at a bid price of \$880,000 (Purchasing)

Police Promotion Ceremony

Sergeant Andrew J. Winters, promoted to Lieutenant

Officer Lance R. Lillis, promoted to Sergeant

Officer Wendell A. Buck, promoted to Sergeant

Officer Keith M. Frantz, promoted to Sergeant

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read his report to Council. He stated that he will attempt to, in the future, have the report prepared and attached to the agenda packet. He also noted the staff transition in his office. In summary:

- The State of the City report will be given on January 31st at 6 pm in Council Chambers
- The Mayor's staff arranged a community meeting in 15-6 in assistance with Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Moore
- The City will begin using the CitiStat performance management system
- An RFP will be issued for waste to energy, a concept proposed by DTE at the January 2nd Committee of the Whole

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired about the Mayor's Group progress on legislation for improved gun control. Mayor Spencer stated that the group is working on three gun control initiatives at the federal level.

Councilor Marmarou noted the delinquent revenues generated through the Business Privilege Tax and Housing Amnesty programs. He suggested expanding the Amnesty program into other areas.

Councilor Reed inquired about the meeting in 15-5 and suggested that the Mayor's staff inform the District Councilor and Council President when community meetings are being organized and not play politics. She also described her work to improve the playground behind the Bethel AME Church in partnership with the church. Mayor Spencer noted the need to consider the seclusion of this area. Councilor Reed stated that she is discussing this issue with the church.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- Update on the 2012 Admissions Tax collection
- Update on the 2012 Real Estate Transfer Tax collection

Councilor Marmarou inquired about the location of West Perry Street. The City Auditor stated that West Perry Street is located in the vicinity of the former Dana property.

REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS

The Library Board's presentation was rescheduled for February 11th.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Bill No. 1-2013 - requesting authorization to transfer \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Liquid Fuels Fund (**Controller**)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 1-2013.

Bill No. 1-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

B. Bill No. 2-2013 - 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**)

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 2-2013.

Bill No. 2-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

C. Bill No. 3-2013 – requesting authorization to transfer \$1 million from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund (**Controller**)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No 3-2013.

Bill No. 3-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

D. Bill No. 4-2013 - 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**)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No 4-2013.

Managing Director Snyder stated that this and several other Main Street related pieces of legislation are up for a vote this evening. The approval of these pieces of legislation will enable the Administration to submit the Main Street application to the DCED.

Councilor Corcoran and Waltman thanked the Administration for moving this issue forward.

Council President Acosta provided a briefing on the presentation that occurred in the Committee of the Whole meeting that preceded this regular business meeting.

Bill No. 4-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

E. Bill No. 5-2013 - 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**)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No 5-2013.

Bill No. 5-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

F. Bill No. 6-2013 - 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**)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to table Bill No 6-2013.

Bill No. 6-2013 was tabled by the following vote:

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – amending the Diversity Board ordinance (**Council Staff/HR**)

B. Ordinance – authorizing the execution of the Sewer Agreement with Laureldale (**Man Dir**)

C. Ordinance – amending the 2013 Position Ordinance by adding 30 firefighter positions, to comply with the SAFER Grant if it is accepted. (**Man Dir/Council Staff**)

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 12-2013 – authorizing the submission of the Main St grant application (**CD**)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No 12-2013.

Resolution No. 12-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Acosta, President - 7

Nays: None -0

B. Resolution 13-2013 – authorizing DID to administer the Main Street program (DID/Law)

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adopt Resolution No 13-2013.

Resolution No. 12-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

C. Resolution 14-2013 – authorizing DID to be the Executive Director of the Main Street program (DID/Law)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution No 14-2013.

Resolution No. 14-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council Members expressed sympathy to the Gilyard family for the passing of Frank, a community leader.

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