

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2013**

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Caroline Hetrick, from Holy Spirit Church.

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
Managing Director C. Snyder
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor V. Spencer
Public Works Director C. Jones
WWTP Manager R. Johnson

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A Mayoral Proclamation was issued to Emily Weidner from Walk Bike Berks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that four (4) 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 to require 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.

Barry Fisher, of 225 Court Street, was not present.

Patrick Miley, of Union Street, was not present.

Caroline Youngs, of North 2nd Street, stated that she moved to Reading in 1996 and purchased a home for herself and then purchased additional homes for her children. She stated that she had the trash removed from all properties through the trash contractors her worked for over the years. She stated that she was unsure when the regulations changed that required her to notify the City that she had a contract with a private hauler. She stated that she has had Ed Holland collect her trash at all properties since 2005. She distributed copies of collection notices for trash, recycling and property taxes before the start of the meeting. She stated that the total amount due is approximately \$24,000. She described her education and the difficulty she currently has in finding employment.

Laura Dempster, of Chapel Terrace, was not present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, and the minutes for the April 8th Regular Meeting of Council. He stated that the Award of Contract will be considered separately under the Resolution heading.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the April 8th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda as amended, including the legislation under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 34-2013 - authorizing the Mayor to execute a PY2006 (32nd CD year January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006) CDBG Action Plan Amendment to change the Berks County Redevelopment Authority's demolition of deteriorated buildings activity's National Objective from low and moderate income housing to removal of slum and blight on a spot basis (CD Dept)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read the report distributed to Council at the meeting. In summary:

- Plans for the 2nd meeting with City employees to dispel rumors about some unannounced moves
- Successful community meeting at St John the Baptist Church, located on South 7th Street, on April 16th
- Noted the availability of weekly meetings with citizens from 1-2 pm on Tuesdays in the Mayor's Office

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2013 Admissions Tax Collection
- 2013 Real Estate Transfer Tax Collection

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Bill No. 22-2013 - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 1 Administration, Part 5 Boards Departments Commissions Committees and Councils, Section E Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) by adjusting membership and amending the purpose (Man Dir/Council Staff/Open Government Committee) Introduced at the April 8 regular meeting

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 22-2013.

Managing Director Snyder stated that the CAB acts as a communications vehicle between the City and residents and residents and the City for a variety of issues. She stated that the original board of 21 is now reduced to 11. Meetings are to begin in early May.

Bill No. 22-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

B. Bill No. 23-2013 – amending the Fire Pension Plan (Law) Introduced at the April 8 regular meeting ; Reviewed at the April 15 Finance Committee meeting

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 23-2013.

Managing Director Snyder stated that the remaining ordinances are all amendments to the employees pension ordinances, as required by new IRS regulations.

Bill No. 23-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None -0

C. Bill No. 24-2013 – amending the Police Pension Plan (Law) Introduced at the April 8 regular meeting ; Reviewed at the April 15 Finance Committee meeting

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 24-2013.

Bill No. 24-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

**D. Bill No. 25-2013 – amending the Officers and Employees Pension Plan (Law)
Introduced at the April 8 regular meeting ; Reviewed at the April 15 Finance Committee
meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 25-2013.

Bill No. 25-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

**E. Bill No. 26-2013 – amending the New Officers and Employees Pension Plan (Law)
Introduced at the April 8 regular meeting ; Reviewed at the April 15 Finance Committee
meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 26-2013.

Bill No. 26-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

**A. Award of Contract – to R K & K, 3501 Concord Road, Suite 100, York, PA 17402, for
a total submitted price of approximately \$5,350,000.00 base price for the Design of the
WWTP (Purchasing)**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the
Award of Contract.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz asked that the Administration provide a briefing about this contract to provide clarity to the public.

Managing Director Snyder described the process used to select the contractor for the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. She stated that the recommendation is based on the scoring of bids based on qualifications of the bidding companies and their price.

Mr. Johnson stated that the design falls under the scope of the Consent Decree to upgrade the facility, following the Act 537 Study. He stated that the original plant was built in the late 1800s and various improvements and upgrades occurred since then. He stated that some treatment components installed in the 1920s upgrade will be replaced.

Councilor Waltman noted that this is the second time the plant was designed.

Councilor Sterner agreed and noted that this new design will reduce the cost of the upgrade, as it will retrofit some components along with adding new components.

Mr. Jones agreed and noted that Hazen Sawyer, who is the project manager participated in reviewing the bids but did not vote.

The Award of Contract was approved by the following vote:

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

President - 7

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Corcoran congratulated Walk Bike Berks and thanked residents who participated at the community meeting at St. John the Baptist Church. He stated that an update meeting on the repair of the streetlight system in Wyomissing Park is being planned.

Councilor Marmarou noted the success of the annual Great American Cleanup and thanked College Heights Community Council for their work to clean up Hampden Park.

Councilor Reed described the cleanup at the Windsor and Ritter Playground area. She stated that cleanup will continue on Tuesday in areas around the perimeter of the playground.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that while the Great American Cleanup is successful and draws hundreds of volunteers, residents and visitors must respect Reading's neighborhoods and dispose of trash and litter properly.

Councilor Sterner agreed noting that in the past residents took careful care of their properties.

Council President Acosta stated that the issue described by Ms. Youngs during Public Comment should be a reminder to all not to ignore collection calls and letters but to respond and to attempt to make payment arrangements.

Council President Acosta noted the senselessness of the recent bombing at the Boston Marathon. He stated that the City sends their prayers and positive thoughts to all involved.

Councilor Acosta reviewed the meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk