

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2013**

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Dewayne Messenger of All Soul's 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  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Solicitor C. Younger  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Mayor V. Spencer

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Council Recognition Certificates were issued to City of Reading students who won scholarships from the Reading Musical Foundation:

- Alexandra Vargas
- Isabelle Bender
- Giovanni Nieves
- Soleil Torres

**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.

**Christopher Duong, of Muhlenberg**, was not present.

**Jaquinna Jones, of Philadelphia**, was not present.

**Mary Jane Smith, of Perkiomen Ave**, expressed the belief that combining the trash and recycling billing with the water/sewer bill creates a budgeting problem for the majority of Reading residents who live on a tight budget. She suggested making the due date for this bill the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, rather than the last day of the month.

**James Fegley, of North 17th Street**, thanked Council and the Reading Police for their attention to the speeding problem on Hampden Blvd last Friday.

## **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 June 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to add a resolution to appoint Councilor Reed to the Rec Commission. He stated that Ms. Reed will be replacing him on the Rec Commission. He stated that he needs to resign due to the workload expected of the President of Council.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the June 10<sup>th</sup> 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 49-2013** - promoting David Ciabattoni from the rank of Paramedic/Firefighter to Lieutenant in the Fire Department, effective immediately (Fire/ Council Staff) (PAGE 13)

**B. Resolution 50-2013** – Authorizing an amendment to the CDBG Action Plan in the amount of \$55,000 for the purchase of protective fire equipment (CD & Fire) (PAGE 14)

**C. Resolution 51-2013** – authorizing an amendment to the CDBG Action Plan to expand the Community Policing area to the downtown Census Tract - Block Groups 1-5, 3-1, 3-2, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 8-1, 11-2, 11-3, 13-1, 13-2, 15-2, 16-2, 18-1, 19-1, 25-1, 25-3 to the program's service area (Police) (PAGE 17)

**D. Resolution 52-2013** – ratifying the FOP Lodge #9 Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective Jan 1, 2012 – Dec 31, 2016 (HR) (PAGE 19)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mayor Spencer read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering in summary:

- Meeting in Washington DC regarding HUD funding
- Meeting with local State legislators to discuss the state of the City
- Meeting with the DCED regarding the Main Street application and Main Street Grants

- His availability every Tuesday from 1-2 pm for meetings with citizens

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2013 Admissions Fee collection
- 2013 Real Estate Transfer Tax collection
- Liquid Fuels fund revenue

Councilor Waltman reminded Council of the need to meet with DCED officials regarding Act 47. Council President Acosta stated that the City Clerk is making those arrangements.

Councilor Waltman suggested that State legislators discuss the ramifications various acts will have on Third Class-sized cities before the acts are passed.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the solutions offered in the Act 47 Plan are merely band aids. She stated that larger issues such as the pension system are crippling cities across the Commonwealth.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired about the sale of the former firehouse property located in the 200 block of Penn Street. City Clerk Kelleher stated that the transaction was listed in the Sunday real estate transactions and the property was sold to Supportive Concepts. Concern that this property would become tax exempt was expressed.

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

None.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

**A. Bill No. 30-2013** - Authorizing the execution of a Lease Agreement between the City of Reading and WFMZ for the Lease of a Portion of the "WEEU Building" for the installation of a transmitter on the existing Tower (**Law**) *Note: Ineligible for enactment until the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting due to the Charter required 14 day lay over period (PAGE 73)*

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 30-2013.**

**Bill No. 30-2013 was adopted 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** - authorizing the amendment of the Park and Recreation Fees as recommended by the Rec Commission (Bus Analyst) (PAGE 79)

**B. Ordinance** - authorizing the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund Contingency account to a Charter Review Commission line item for support of the Charter Review Commission (Auditor) (PAGE 83)

**C. Ordinance** - vacating a portion of Moss Street, as described in Exhibit A and removing this portion of Moss St from the City's topographical map (Law) (PAGE 84)

**D Ordinance** - amending Chapter 1, Part 7 Fire Escrow Proceeds, of the Codified Ordinances by adding requirements regarding the rehabilitation or demolition of fire damaged properties and renumbering as required (Fire Escrow Work Group/Council Staff) (PAGE 86)

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 53-2013** - appointing Donna Reed to the Rec Commission, replacing Francis Acosta. (Council Staff)

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution 53-2013.**

**Resolution No. 53-2013 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

## COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou stated that 50 violations in four hours were issued during a speed enforcement detail last Friday evening on Hampden Blvd, in response to complaints from residents.

Councilor Corcoran expressed the belief that citizens can generate change in their neighborhoods by bringing neighborhood issues to Council's attention. He asked Mr. Lloyd to take Ms. Smith's suggestion to the RAWA Board.

Councilor Corcoran described the positive experience he had on his ride along with the Police Department on Saturday evening. He thanked Chief Heim and Officer Dinger for making these arrangements.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked tonight's speakers for bringing issues to Council's attention. She also thanked Public Works for addressing the high grass in an East Reading playground. She suggested avoiding this problem in the future by searching for alternatives with the Rec Commission.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz reminded citizens of the dangers and hazards associated with setting off fireworks over the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday, in neighborhoods and on Skyline Drive.

Councilor Reed commended Centre Park for a successful garden tour. She also noted the free 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert at First Energy Stadium.

Councilor Waltman congratulated Centre Park for hosting another successful garden tour. He also thanked property owners who participated. He agreed with Ms. Smith, that the average resident is maxed out due to the increase in water/sewer fees and the change from quarterly to monthly billing.

Council President Acosta noted the grand opening at the former Woodward Cafe and the success of the African American parade. He also stated that RAWA is working with residents by eliminating late fees until August 31, 2013, which will allow people with approximately three months to pay off the large bill that started the combination of trash and recycling billing with water/sewer billing. He stated that RAWA board meetings are open to the public.

Council President Acosta introduced his son Alex, who attended the meeting.

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

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