

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

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Olga Moreira, of the Path of Holiness 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 Reed, District 5
Councilor Waltman, District 6
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
Managing Director C. Snyder
City Clerk L. Kelleher

Council President Acosta stated that Councilor Marmarou was excused from attending this session due to a conflicting appointment.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Council Commendation celebrating the 203rd anniversary of Columbian Independence

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that two (2) 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.

Maryann Ciarlone, of North 5th Street, stated that in 2008 Council adopted a resolution prohibiting forced entry at residential properties, unless the policy was approved by Council. She stated that she received word from Property Maintenance that they will be seeking an administrative search warrant if she refuses to allow the inspection at her rental properties. She stated that she submitted a Right to Know form to obtain a copy of this resolution and for

a copy of the forced entry policy.

Martha Guzman, of Oley St, 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 July 8th Regular Meeting of Council.

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

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract - Main Library Improvements Project to Perrotto Builders, Ltd., 426 Warren Street, Reading, PA 19601 for a total bid price of \$458,000.00. (Purchasing)
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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

There was no Administrative Report provided.

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
- The 2012 external audit has not yet been completed

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Bill No. 33-2013 - authorizing the Mayor to negotiate terms and to execute any and all documents, agreements and papers to convey certain Penn Street properties to the City of Reading. (Law) *Introduced at the 7-8 regular meeting AGENDA PAGE 16*

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to enact Bill No. 33-2013.

Bill No. 33-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

PENDING

Bill No. -2013 – 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) ***Introduced at the 6-24 regular meeting***

Council President Acosta read the following ordinance into the record:

A. Ordinance - amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances to include electronic filing, collections and collection costs (PMD/Law) *Advertised July 29, 2013 PAGE 17*

B. Ordinance - approving, adopting and enacting substantive changes to the existing city ordinances in conjunction with the adoption of the Code of the City of Reading (City Clerk/Law) **PAGES 38-53**

C. Ordinance - approving the codification of a complete body of legislation for the City of Reading, County of Berks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as revised, codified and consolidated into titles, chapters and sections by General Code, and consisting of Chapters 1 through 600, together with an Appendix, are hereby approved, adopted, ordained and enacted as a single ordinance of the City of Reading, which shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Code of the City of Reading,” hereinafter referred to as the “Code.” *Advertised on July 29, 2013*

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 59-2013 - amending Resolution 57-2013 by changing the effective date of Mr. Anewalt’s term on the Charter Board. (Council staff) AGENDA PAGE 54

Resolution No. 59-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

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

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Corcoran stated that Ms. Guzman decided not to address Council because he met with her to discuss her issue. Ms. Guzman owns a rental property that was inspected the year before the inspection fees were reduced. She questioned the need for her to pay this exorbitant fee and stated that she cannot afford to pay this inspection fee. Ms. Snyder stated that Ms. Guzman can go on a payment plan.

Councilor Reed noted the success of the Reading Pride celebration held in Centre Park on Sunday the 21st. She stated that the event, which celebrates Reading's expanded diversity, was well attended Blvd.

Councilor Reed noted the passing of Maryann Chelius-Smith, who was the force behind the creation of Reading Area Community College here in Reading. She stated that Ms. Chelius-Smith was a true visionary. She also noted the passing of Helen Thomas, a journalist who had a 55 year career.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the passing of Fran Drexler, a retired Reading police officer. She suggested that the City recognize the dedicated service of this officer.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Reading has two (2) sister cities: Reading, England and Reutlingen, Germany. She stated that officials from Reutlingen are coming to Reading this week and a celebration will be held at the Historical Society on Friday at 1 pm. She thanked former Mayor Tom McMahan for his continued work on this important program.

Councilor Waltman noted the need for closure around the violent murder in District 6 late last week. He stated that solving this murder will begin the community's healing process.

Council President Acosta recounted working with Ms. Chelius-Smith. He noted her fortitude and dedication to the Reading-Berks community.

Councilor Corcoran thanked Steve Harrity for eliminating the graffiti on the Lancaster Avenue Bridge and for arresting the "artist" that was continually placing graffiti on the bridge.

Council President Acosta reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk