



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, October 20, 2014
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, F. Denbowski

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

There was discussion regarding the many missed trash removals in District 4 on Friday. Mr. Denbowski stated that he will follow up.

I. Interviews

Walter Pawling (appointment – Housing Authority)

Mr. Pawling described his background and history as a City employee.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Pawling was interested in serving on the Housing Authority. Mr. Pawling stated that he is a lifelong Reading resident and a concerned citizen. He stated that he would like to continue to serve the City and expressed the belief that he would be a valuable asset to the Housing Authority. He stated that he understands City issues.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Pawling had ever attended any Housing Authority meetings. Mr. Pawling stated that he has not.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Pawling was familiar with any other Housing Authority members. Mr. Pawling stated that he does not but that he knows Rev. Belinski lives in East Reading.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Pawling has an excellent background.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the Mayor supports this appointment. Mr. Denbowski stated that he does.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Walter Pawling to the Housing Authority.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Ms. Espinal was being considered for the Housing Authority when it was discovered that she cannot serve in this capacity as she is not a City resident. However, she does own property in the City so she will be considered to serve in a different capacity.

Julissa Espinal (appointment)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Espinal was interested in serving the City. Ms. Espinal stated that she enjoys helping people. She stated that she has owned her business in the City for ten years and that she is familiar with residents and with City issues. She stated that she tries to help as many people as she can and that she enjoys working with the community.

Mr. Sterner questioned Ms. Espinal's profession. Ms. Espinal stated that she owns a business at 13th & Oley Sts and that she is also a realtor. She explained that her primary focus is her business.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Ms. Espinal had a preference for placement. Ms. Espinal stated that she understands that there are limitations on her placement because she is not a City resident. She stated that she is willing to serve as the City sees fit.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the City needs people who are willing to work to improve the City. He stated that a placement determination will be made and Ms. Espinal will be contacted.

Ms. Espinal thanked the Committee for their consideration. She stated that she has invested in the City for many years. She expressed the belief that more people need to invest in Reading.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee will determine a placement for Ms. Espinal.

Rebecca Acosta (reappointment – Housing Authority)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Acosta was interested in continuing to serve. Ms. Acosta stated that the Housing Authority has been doing great things. She described the many renovation projects undertaken. She stated that additional units are accessible.

Mr. Sterner questioned if properties were upgraded routinely. Ms. Acosta stated that they are. She stated that there is generally a five year plan for upgrades. She described the apprenticeship program used at River Oak.

Ms. Acosta explained that the Housing Authority contributed financially to the Goggleworks Apartments project. She stated that the medical center at 8th & Penn is currently working with the Housing Authority to provide medical assistance to low income residents.

Ms. Acosta stated that she has a working background of Section 8 and other housing issues and she works to advocate for residents. She stated that the Authority has been working to detect fraud and has removed residents for not reporting a truthful income.

Ms. Acosta stated that the relationship with the Reading Police Department works well and there is a very low crime rate at Authority properties.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if HUD personnel were helpful. Ms. Acosta stated that they are. She stated that they hold an annual conference for Housing Authorities.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Ms. Acosta enjoyed serving. Ms. Acosta stated that she does enjoy serving and that she never misses meetings. She stated that there have been quorum issues recently. She stated that the Authority has an excellent staff and there are few complaints by residents.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Rebecca Acosta to the Housing Authority.

William Cinfici (appointment – Planning Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Cinfici was interested in serving. Mr. Cinfici stated that he is interested in urban planning. He stated that he often watches Planning Commission meetings on TV. He stated that he gained much experience in this area during his tenure on the Reading School Board during the renovations to their many buildings. He stated that he has worked with architects and the Planning Commission on these projects.

Mr. Marmarou questioned who currently serves on the Planning Commission. Ms. Katzenmoyer listed the current members. She stated that there is one City Planner who works with the Commission and that they meet the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Sterner noted Mr. Cinfici's background and expertise.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of William Cinfici to the Planning Commission.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC

