

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, July 28, 2014**

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order. He announced that the purpose of the Executive Session on Monday, July 21st and Monday, July 28th were related to the lease of real property and personnel matters respectively. He also announced that on Thursday, July 25th Council met with local contractors to hear their concerns about the proposed PLA.

The invocation was given by Pastor Steve Elmarzouky, from the Islamic Center.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
Councilor Daubert, 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

Council President Acosta announced that the mayor was excused from tonight's meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there is one (1) citizen registered to address Council on agenda matters and there are three (3) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He stated that the Public Comment Rules require non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting; however, he inquired if any member of Council objected to suspending the rules requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected, the rule was suspended. He reminded those registered about the remaining public speaking rules.

Peter Rye, of Morgantown Road, stated that he is chair of the CRIZ Authority and that the 2013 CRIZ application was denied, in part, by the State because the City did not have a shovel ready project tied to the application. He noted the need for the City to have a strong

commitment to a development project when the next application is considered.

Mr. Rye stated that House Bill (HB) 1177, already approved by the State Senate will modify the current CRIZ Act by allowing four (4) additional Third Class Cities into the program, rather than two (2). He stated that it is believed that York and Erie will be the next cities added to the program and that as two (2) additional may also be included, Reading needs to prepare for the application period which is approximately one (1) month. He noted that the Penn Square properties should be the cornerstone of economic development in Reading.

Council President Acosta suggested that Mr. Rye prepare a CRIZ report that can be presented at a future Council meeting.

Robert Hickey, of South 6th Street, was not present.

Bonnie Hickey, of South 6th Street, was not present.

Maryanne Ciarlone, of South 6th Street, stated that she filed a Right to Know request on May 28th and she was issued notice of a 30 day extension; however, the 30 time period concluded but the information requested was not provided. She provided a copy of the request, which was delivered to the Solicitor.

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 from the July 14th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to make the following additions to the agenda:

- Addition of a Consent Agenda Resolution reappointing Gary Mogel as Acting Fire Chief
- Addition of an Ordinance for Introduction authorizing the execution of the 4th Addendum of the Water Lease
- Withdrawing the Award of Contract for the Wyomissing Park Streetlight Project from the Consent Agenda
- Withdrawing duplicate Ordinance E for Introduction

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

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract – for the Wyomissing Park Street Light Project (**Man Dir**) *Info to be distributed on Monday - WITHDRAWN*

B. Award of Contract –for the general contractor’s work on the Digester Project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., Green Lane, PA 18054, for a total price of \$4,664,000.00. (**Purchasing**)

C. Award of Contract – for the electrical contractor’s work on the Digester Project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to PSI Pumping Solutions, York Springs, PA 17372 for a total price of \$240,200 (**Purchasing**)

D. Award of Contract – for the disposal of municipal trash to Berks Transfer, Reading, PA 19605 for a total price of \$118,000.00. (**Purchasing**)

E. Award of Contract – for the installation and rental of bulk oxygen systems for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Sixth and Canal Street Pumping Station and the supply of oxygen for both locations for a one-year period. (**Purchasing**)

F. Resolution 85-2014 – reappointing Gary Mogel as Acting Fire Chief (**Man Dir**)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

None.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting, in summary:

- 2014 Admissions Tax Collection
- 2014 Real Estate Transfer Tax Collection
- Update on the Pension Audit

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Pending – Further Legal Review Required

Bill 41-2014 – creating the Reading Regional Water Authority (**City Council**) *Introduced at the April 14 regular meeting*

Ordinance – authorizing a project labor management agreement for building projects in the City

(Mayor's Office) Introduced at the May 12 regular meeting; Additional review required; PLA Work Group meeting scheduled for June 25th at 5:30 pm in the Penn Room

Council President Acosta stated that if there is no objection, Council will take the four (4) ordinances relating to stop signs as a group. No one objected.

A. Bill No. 50-2014 - establishing a four-way stop intersection at Crestmont Street and Fern Avenue **(Public Works) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting; Advertisement on July 21**

B. Bill No. 51-2014 - establishing a four-way stop intersection at Greenwich Street and North Second Street **(Public Works) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting; Advertisement on July 21**

C. Bill No. 52-2014 - establishing a three-way stop intersection at West Green Street and McKnight Street **(Public Works) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting; Advertisement on July 21**

D. Bill No. 53-2014 - establishing a three-way stop intersection at West Green Street and Weiser Street **(Public Works) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting; Advertisement on July 21**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill Nos. 50-53-2014.

Bill Nos. 50-53-2014 were enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

E. Bill No. 54-2014 - authorizing the transfer of \$25,000.00 from the Contracted Services line item in the Liquid Fuels Fund to the Maintenance of Roads and Bridges line item in the Public Works Budget **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 54-2014.

Bill No. 54-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

F. Bill No. 55-2014 – authorizing the execution of the attached Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Reading and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority to provide for an electronics disposal program. **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 55-2014

Bill No. 55-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

G. Bill No. 56-2014 – authorizing the amendment of the 2014 Position Ordinance by eliminating the ‘Shift Supervisor Service Utility’ position and blending the associated responsibilities into an existing ‘Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor’ position at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 56-2014

Bill No. 56-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

H. Bill No. 57-2014 – authorizing the amendment of the 2014 Position Ordinance, by decreasing the Developer positions from two (2) to one (1) and increasing the Network Administrator position from one (1) to two (2) **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 57-2014

Bill No. 57-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

I. Bill No. 58-2014 – amending the 2014 Budget by adding Fund 55 Retail Sewer Fund **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 14 regular meeting**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 58-2014

Bill No. 58-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

The following ordinances were read into the record:

A. Ordinance – amending the Code Book, Chapter 600 “Zoning”, Section 600-807 entitled “C-C Commercial Core District” by amending: (1) Subsection B “Allowed Uses” to include public parking garages and parking lots owned/or operated by the City of Reading or the Reading Parking Authority, and to prohibit non-public parking garages and parking lots; and (2) Subsection C “Additional Requirements in the C-C District” to prohibit non-public parking garages or parking lots open to the general public. **(Parking Authority/Council Staff)Public Hearing 8-12-14; Ordinance Advertisement 8-11 and 8-18-2014**

B. Ordinance – authorizing the budget transfer of \$25,000.00 from the Contracted Services line item in the Liquid Fuels Fund to the Maintenance of Roads and Bridges line item **(Pub Works) WITHDRAWN**

C. Ordinance – setting the annual salary of the Director of Public Works at \$95,000 **(Man Dir)**

D. Ordinance –amending the 2014 Position Ordinance by eliminating the “Treasury Manager” position and replacing it with an “Assistant Municipal Operations Manager – Treasury Coordinator” position in the Department of Administrative Services, Citizens Service Center Division. **(Man Dir)**

E. Ordinance – amending the salary range for the Public Works Director **(Man Dir)**

F. Ordinance – authorizing the execution of the 4th Addendum to the Water Lease Agreement **(Council Staff)**

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 86-2014 – directing the mayor to execute the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Reading and the Foundation for the Reading Pagoda **(Council Staff/Pagoda Foundation)**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution 86-2014.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Managing Director for the work she did to get this issue resolved. She also thanked the mayor for being on board with the language in the document. She stated that the approval of the agreement will allow the Pagoda Foundation

to move forward. She noted that the Pagoda is becoming a regional asset that is recognized by many people and organizations.

Councilor Waltman agreed and noted that the Pagoda is the exclamation point that sits atop of the gorgeous mountain that frames Reading

Council President Acosta stated that this matter was resolved through the tireless work of many parties, including Lee Olsen. He noted his hope that the City will use this agreement to frame other agreements with organizations that operate from City owned properties.

The Managing Director noted that she is using this agreement as a model. She stated that she is beginning to discuss such an agreement with the boxing organization that runs at the Baer Park Field House. The City Clerk reminded the group that the Elections Office has been wanting to use the Field House as a polling place for years.

Resolution 86-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None – 0

PENDING – Council Receipt and Review of PFM analysis

Resolution 87-2014 - designating Our City Reading, Inc. as the City's redevelopment partner for certain properties located on Penn Street and authorizing the mayor to make applications for certain federal grants and loans **(Man Dir)**

Council President Acosta stated that this resolution will remain pending for the following two weeks, as various Councilors requested additional time to review the analysis prepared by PFM.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou announced the CHCC National Night Out planned for August 5th from 6-8 pm at the College Manor Pool

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the upcoming events at the Pagoda.

Councilor Reed congratulated those who organized the Reading Pride event held in Centre Park. She stated that the event is very well attended and well organized.

Councilor Reed noted the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Maine Anchor located within City Park on Sunday, August 3rd at 11 a.m. She described the event and the original dedication ceremony.

Council President Acosta described the Columbian Independence Day celebration that occurred over the past weekend.

Council President Acosta thanked Council for placing their trust in him and Councilor Waltman to negotiate an amendment to the water lease deal with RAWA. He stated that RAWA will vote on the amendment at their meeting this Thursday. He noted that the water issue is now closed and concluded for Council. He stated that Council is not willing or ready to reopen discussions on a long term deal or an RFP for the water system. He stated that although PFM and the DCED continue to press for the monetization of the system, Council is unwilling to take the necessary steps.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk