

City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, August 11, 2014

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order. He announced that the purpose of the Executive Session on Monday, August 11th was related to litigation and personnel matters respectively.

The invocation was given by District 1 Councilor Chris Daubert.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta

Councilor Daubert, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2 – via telephone

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

Managing Director Snyder

Mayor Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there are five (5) 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.

Nancy Berry, of Pershing Blvd, stated that she resides in Hummingbird Hill condominiums which has 83 units. She stated that there is a growing number of white tailed deer in the area between the condominium parcel and the State Police barracks parcel. She noted that the proliferation of deer causes property damage and disrupts pedestrian activities. She stated

that she spoke with the State Game Commission and they will not relocate the deer. Instead she suggested a managed hunt to reduce the population. She also expressed the belief that either having the Fire Department do a controlled burn to eliminate the underbrush on the parcel between the aforementioned parcels or trimming back the underbrush would also reduce the activities of the deer. She questioned the ownership of this parcel. She asked for the City's permission to hold a hunt this fall, coordinated with the State Game Commission.

Betty Croft, of Pershing Blvd., stated that she did not wish to address Council.

Doris Willard, of Pershing Blvd., was not present.

Sorangel Fontenaz, of Exeter, stated that she is a retired vice-principal for the Reading School District. She spoke in support of the proposed Dr. Theodore Villasna Charter School for math and science to be located at North 8th and Walnut Streets. She stated that this school would not compete with the Reading School District, but instead work with the District and its students.

Brian McMahon, of the Local Steamfitters Union, distributed his business card and information on the Steamfitters apprentice program. He invited Council on a tour of the facility. He explained the program and the application process.

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 21st Special Meeting and the July 28th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted that Council will be addressing the Resolutions on the agenda after the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the July 21st Special Meeting and the July 28th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution – authorizing the placement of a memorial plaque at the lower baseball field at Schlegel Park in the name of Lee and Donna Maniaci, as per the Naming Policy application reviewed and recommended by the Director of Public Works. **(Man Dir)**

B. Award of Contract - for the renovation of the Recycling Center Baler Facility on Hill Road to Balton Construction, Inc, 2117 Portland Avenue, Reading, PA 19609 who is the lowest bidder for a total price of \$102,732.00. **(Purchasing)**

RESOLUTIONS

A. 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)**

Mr. Marmarou moved, seconded by Mr. Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 87-2014.

The Managing Director explained that the adoption of this resolution will allow the administration to negotiate with the named developer for the Penn Square properties. She highlighted the changes requested by City Council as follows:

- Require only market rate housing, if housing is considered above the ground floor level
- Allows the inclusion of additional developers
- Requires a preliminary marketing plan
- Adds timelines with a reversion clause

Resolution 87-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6

Nays: Waltman - 1

B. Resolution 88-2014 – appointing Ralph Johnson as Public Works Director **(Man Dir)**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 88- 2014.

Councilor Daubert stated that Mr. Johnson is very responsive to the variety of issues that come before him and he is well suited for the position.

Council President Acosta stated that Mr. Johnson is a true professional and the City is fortunate to have someone of his caliber for the position.

Resolution 88-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The mayor read the report distributed to Council at the meeting, in summary:

- Retirement of Larry Murin from the mayor's staff and the addition of Frank Denbowski

- Report on his meeting with a constituent
- The start of the repaving of Cotton Street

Councilor Daubert inquired about the time of the “Let’s Work Together” event. The mayor stated that the time of the event will be distributed.

Council President Acosta inquired about the time of the NAACP event. The mayor suggested contacting NAACP Chair Bill Thompson.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

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

- 2014 Cable Franchise Fee collection
- 2014 Traffic Fines Motor Code collection

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 held June 25 and July 24*

PENDING AUG 12 PUBLIC HEARING

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)***Introduced at the July 28 regular meeting; Public Hearing 8-12-14; Ordinance Advertisement 8-11 and 8-18-2014*

A. Bill No. 59-2014 – setting the annual salary of the Director of Public Works at \$95,000 **(Man Dir)** *Introduced at the July 28 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 59-2014.

Bill No. 59-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

B. Bill No. 60-2014 –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 (CSC) Division. **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 28 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 60-2014.

The Managing Director stated that this change will provide additional flexibility for the CSC.

Bill No. 60-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

C. Bill No. 61-2014 – amending the salary range for the Public Works Director **(Man Dir) Introduced at the July 28 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 61-2014.

Councilor Sterner inquired about the range established for the Public Works Director. The City Clerk stated that the range is \$85,000-\$100,000.

Bill No. 61-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

D. Bill No. 62-2014 – amending the Water Authority Lease Agreement **(Council) Introduced at the July 28 regular meeting**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 62-2014.

Bill No. 62-2014 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 - repealing Bill 46-2014 to dissolve the Water Authority **(Council)**

B. Ordinance – increasing the number of Water Authority board members from five (5) to seven (7) **(Council)**

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Reed described the Anti-Drug Event held last Saturday at First Energy Stadium.

Councilor Marmarou stated that the National Night Out event hosted by the CHCC and College Manor Pool was well attended. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for participating.

Council President Acosta noted the successful event at the Berks History Center, hosted by Eli Vasquez.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk