

**City of Reading City Council  
Regular Business Meeting  
Monday, January 13, 2014**

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Danny Moore, Holy Trinity Church of God.

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  
Managing Director C. Snyder  
Mayor V. Spencer

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

City Council issued Certificates of Recognition to Reading Senior High School outstanding fall athletes. The certificates will be mailed to the school.

Acting Chief Mogel and 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Conrad from the EMS Division issued a Reading Hospital Scholarship to BLS EMT Mike Quintinsky

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta reviewed the public speaking regulations and stated that one (1) individual is registered to address Council this evening on non-agenda matters.

**William Bangs, of Pennsylvania Ave, Muhlenberg**, was not present.

The public comment period was closed.

## **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 December 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council and December 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. He noted the need to add a Resolution to the Consent Agenda that authorizes the hiring of eight (8) probationary police officers and to remove the Award of Contract for Hill Road for separate consideration.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the December 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council and the December 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**A. Resolution 1-2014** - authorizing the Bank Accounts for the City of Reading for the 2014 Calendar Year as attached in Exhibit A **(Controller)**

**B. Resolution 2-2014** - amending Resolution 80-2013, designating the Keystone Communities Enterprise Zone by specifically including the words "commercial properties **(Bus Analyst/CD)**

**C. Resolution 3-2014** - authorizing the disposition of the 2006 Financial Interest Statements from the City Clerk's Office **(Council Staff)**

**D. Award of Contract** - for the Police Policy and Procedures Manual to Police Accreditation Consultants, LLC, Gilbertsville, PA 19525 for a total price of \$57,600 **(Purchasing)**

**F. Resolution 4-2014** - to ratify the award of a Dam Condition Assessment Consulting Contract to URS Corporation ("URS") for a contract price not-to-exceed \$61,541. **(Man Dir)**

**G. Resolution 5-2014** - authorizing the hiring of Santiago Hernandez-Bernaid, Eric Koller, Peter Clauss, Francisco Contreras, Steve Valdez, Ryan Crampsie, Joshua Sheller, Anne Pletcher as probationary police officers **(Police)**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor stated that Acting Public Works Director Ralph Johnson will be making a report on snow removal, in place of his report.

Mr. Johnson explained that the Public Works Department has rubber blades attached to the plows, rather than metal blades. He explained that the rubber blades are used to avoid damaging the manholes located in the streets. He stated that when snow is packed onto the street rubber blades are not as effective in moving the packed snow.

Mr. Johnson stated that due to attrition in the Public Works Department some of the newer plow drivers are still learning the job. He explained the use of the labor pool during a snow event. He noted that he is talking with other organizations about pooling labor for snow removal.

Mr. Johnson stated that residents who have called questioning the use of salt on streets were correct when they questioned why salt was not falling from the chute on the truck. He explained that the salt purchased has a higher than normal moisture content, which makes it clog in the chutes on the trucks.

Mr. Johnson described the problems with the snow event last Friday during morning rush hour and the problems created when people dig out and throw the snow back into the streets.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that in various city neighborhoods, people have nowhere to go with the snow when they shovel their sidewalks or dig out their vehicles.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting. The report provided an overview of the Pension Boards, welcomed newly elected officials and defined the plan for the report at the next Council meeting.

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

Kevin Devera and Lori Knockstead, from the Stadium Commission, distributed a report on the volunteer hours accumulated by the Stadium Commission members. Mr. Devera stated that the former chair, Greg Geiger, who passed away suddenly in the spring began a push towards increasing the volunteer efforts from the Commission members. This effort will continue. He also described the Commission's work to assist the Fightin Phils and baseball charities.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz and Councilor Reed thanked the Commission for their volunteerism and efforts to this important city asset.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

None.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

The following ordinances were read into the record:

**A. Ordinance** - authorizing the transfer of \$250,000.00 from the General Fund (01) to the AGENCY Fund (31). The City has been awarded \$250,000.00 through PA RACP funding for the construction portion of the Main Library Improvement Project. This request provides interim

funding (bridge loan) to cover the \$250,000.00 award as it is spent on construction (**Controller**)

**B. Ordinance** – correcting an error in the Per Capita Tax Ordinance (**Bus Analyst**)

**C. Ordinance** - authorizing the mayor to execute an easement between the City of Reading and UGI Utilities, Inc., thereby conveying unto UGI Utilities, Inc. a non-exclusive, perpetual easement in gross upon that portion of premises known as TAX PARCEL # 531702762194 as shown on drawing number D-4900213 sheet 1 (SEE ATTACHED) (**Law**)

**D. Ordinance** - amending §5-209 of the Administrative Code, Public Participation (**Council Staff/Law**)

**E. Ordinance** - amending the Administrative Code Section 5-204 C Special Meetings, D. Emergency Meetings and G. regarding postponement of meetings to provide clarification (**Council Staff/Law**)

**F. Ordinance** – amending the Administrative Code Section 5-809 Department Of Police, Section B 2 to provide clarification. (**Council Staff/Law**)

**G. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer of \$850,000.00 from the General Fund to the Trash/Recycle Fund to alleviate cash flow issues resulting from the distribution of the receivables from RAWA to the City on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month as per current (April 9, 2013) MOU (**Controller**).

**H. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer of \$550,000.00 from the General Fund to the Trash/Recycle Fund to alleviate cash flow issues resulting from the distribution of the receivables from RAWA to the City on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month as per current (April 9, 2013) MOU (**Controller**).

**I. Ordinance** – modifying the 2014 Position Ordinance, transferring one Clerical Position from the Department of Community Development, Property Maintenance Division, to the Department of Administrative Services, Citizens Services Center Division and amending the respective budgets accordingly (**Bus Analyst**)

**J. Ordinance** – authorizing the temporary easement on city-owned land in Perry/Richmond Townships to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (**Law**) ***TO BE DISTRIBUTED on MONDAY***

**K. Ordinance** – authorizing the sale of city-owned land in Perry/Richmond Townships to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (**Law**) ***TO BE DISTRIBUTED on MONDAY***

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 6-2014** – appointing a Vice President of Council (**Council Staff**)

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to nominate Councilor Reed as Council Vice President.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that Councilor Reed brings years of valuable experience to this position and that she can responsively handle this position and assist in leading Council. She noted that in addition to regularly attending Council sessions, Councilor Reed also regularly attends additional meetings such as the Act 47 Implementation meetings held on Thursday afternoons.

Councilor Reed expressed the belief that her nomination will not be approved by the majority of Council. She stated that this fact saddens her. She noted that the Council President's efforts to build consensus about the selection process has been ripped apart.

**Resolution No. 6-2014 to appoint Councilor Reed as Vice President of Council was NOT adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Acosta, President - 3**

**Nays: Daubert, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman - 4**

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to nominate Council Daubert as Council Vice President.**

Councilor Daubert stated that he will accept the nomination as he was elected to bring about change and to move the body of Council forward.

Councilor Sterner expressed the belief that Councilor Daubert can handle the duties of the Vice President but that it is unfair to thrust him into this position at his first official meeting.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz recalled that a similar situation happened when Councilor Fuhs was nominated as Vice President at his first official Council meeting when similar dynamics were in play.

Councilor Waltman questioned if the issue at hand was based on choosing a leader or a lack of leadership. He expressed the belief that the issue at hand is not being conducted effectively and that this is not good government. He questioned the pressure being placed on the newly elected District 1 Councilor and questioned the behavior that is occurring. He expressed concern for the City leadership moving forward.

Council President Acosta recalled that two (2) years ago when he applied to be appointed to be Council President, he was subjected to similar behavior.

**Resolution No. 6-2014 to appoint Councilor Daubert as Vice President of Council was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Acosta, President – 4**

**Nays: Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman - 3**

**B. Resolution 7-2014** – reappointing Otis Smith to the Recreation Commission (**Council Staff**)

**C. Resolution 8-2014** – appointing James Washington to the Recreation Commission (**Council Staff**)

**D. Resolution 9-2014** - appointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz and Chris Daubert as Council representatives to the Recreation Commission (**Council Staff**)

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolutions 7, 8 and 9-2014.**

Councilor Reed noted the importance of the Rec Commission and she thanked Councilor Daubert for accepting this position.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz explained the need to make these appointments quickly as without the appointments the Commission would be unable to reorganize at their meeting scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she looks forward to working with Councilor Daubert.

**Resolution Nos. 7, 8 and 9-2014 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: - 0**

**E. Award of Contract** - for the Hill Road/Egelman's Park Project to Bertolet Construction, 100 South Church Road, Wernersville, PA 19565 with a total submitted bid of \$115,621.00 (**Purchasing**)

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the Award of Contract for the Hill Road/Egelman's Park project.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that these repairs have been needed for years and she thanked the administration for moving them forward.

**The Award of Contract was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President – 7  
Nays: - 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Sterner described the Committee of the Whole meeting discussion about the Council Vice President. He noted that a sidebar meeting after the Committee of the Whole changed the matter. He stated that during the Committee of the Whole various parties were accused of playing politics, which he questioned due to the sidebar conversations between the meetings.

Councilor Reed noted the passing of 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Fire Chief “Moose” Wentzel.

Councilor Daubert thanked the Councilors for welcoming him and helping his transition on to the body of Council.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated leadership comes in all ways and that she was willing to step away from the Vice President role so Councilor Reed could have the opportunity and she also stepped away after Councilor Reed’s nomination was rejected. She noted the need for the body of Council to work together and lead together so the City’s problems can be solved. She asked all to renew their commitment.

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

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