

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting October 27, 2014**

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Eileen Smith Levan, Nativity Lutheran Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

Council President Acosta stated that the executive session prior to the start of this meeting was held to update Council on litigation matters.

**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**

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the following Fire Personnel:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Thomas Kemery
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Scot Landis
- Lt. Michael Glore

City Council presented commendations to the following:

- recognizing the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carpenter Technology, accepted by William Wulfsohn, President, Dave Strobel – Senior Vice President, Global Operations and CEO and William Rudolf Jr, Corporate Communications Director
- recognizing Reading Truck Body, accepted by Brian Nadel, President and CEO, Jenifer Bowden, CFO and Beth Johnson, Director of Marketing

Carpenter Technology presented Council with a specially made trophy made in celebration of Carpenter's anniversary. The trophy will be displayed in City Hall's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor showcase.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta stated that there are eight (8) citizens registered to address Council on agenda matters and two (2) citizens of non-agenda matters. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected the rule was suspended.

Councilor Daubert read the public speaking rules that were adopted by Council.

**Jose Vargus, of Madison Avenue**, stated, with Council President Acosta translating, that he did some remodeling work at his home, which is in the Centre Park Historic District. He stated that the remodeling project consisted of repairs to the damaged wood and painting. He stated that the materials he used mirror the materials currently in place at other neighboring properties. He expressed the belief that the process is discriminatory as it has not been equally applied to other properties that have used the same materials he used. He requested fair and equal treatment.

**Ernest Schlegel, of Pear Street**, expressed the belief that the article in the newspaper about the press conference on Ballot Question #7 was incorrect, as the mayor did not call the press conference, Food and Water Watch called the conference. He stated that the article also overstated his reaction to the conference and that he merely asked that the press conference be held off site to allow RAWA to retain neutrality. He stated that some Councilors have a problem with the Mayor sending out a press release about the conference. He also expressed the belief that the mayor is not incorrect by advocating for Question #7 and that it is no different than advocating on a BCTV program.

**George Stichter, of Moss Street**, expressed the belief that the QoL program goes too far with fines and fees and the fines and fees created the local Tea Party and the Tea Party is here to stay. He expressed the belief that the program is bogus and difficult for citizens to pay. He stated that the City cannot take his properties. He stated that the City has until February 13<sup>th</sup> to address this and other problems. He stated that he is throwing his bill in the recycling can when he leaves the room and he told everyone to go to hell.

**Jack Zimmer, of ABC Construction**, expressed opposition to the proposed Project Labor Agreement (PLA) and he suggested that Council consider introducing the Open Contracting Ordinance. He asked the City Clerk to distribute the copies provided to her. He expressed the belief that the Open Contracting Ordinance creates a fair and level playing field for all contractors and labor groups.

**Eric Unger, of Vision Mechanical**, expressed opposition to the PLA. He stated that the PLA would negatively impact the 35 plumbers who are employed at Vision and who are licensed to work in Reading. He described the many projects Vision completed within Reading

including the Miller Center and the projects for the Reading School District. He stated that under the PLA his employees would not be permitted to work on these projects. He expressed the belief that the PLA is not economic development friendly and it is bad for the local work force.

**Patrick Dolan, of Dolan Construction,** stated that he is a business owner and a City resident and he listed some of the projects his business completed within the City. He stated that his company has 35 employees. He asked Council to consider the Open Contracting Ordinance as it ensures an open and fair process for all organizations. He stated that he is not opposed to labor organizations and that he only seeks a level playing field. He stated that the PLA will drive construction costs up; however, the Open Contracting Ordinance will drive costs down. He stated that the City cannot afford development projects with increased costs. He expressed the belief that the PLA will not drive economic development in Reading and it will harm those who are truly the local work force. He noted that union labor only represents 20% of the local work force. He encouraged Council to review and consider both ordinances carefully before making a decision.

**Alan Shuman, of Shuman Development Group,** stated that he opposes the PLA. He expressed the belief that the proposed PLA should not be enacted unless the terms are modified to increase fairness. He expressed the belief that the ordinance as drafted is unusable and will expose the City to litigation. He stated that as drafted, the ordinance will require projects underway and projects that are ready to begin to stop and be re-bid, which will jeopardize the funding sources already in place. He also noted that the ordinance eliminates local control as it provides authority to regional and state trade boards. He stated that the Mayor, Managing Director and Public Works Director should not be provided with the power to negotiate PLA's as those in the stated positions generally do not have the ability to negotiate those terms, with the exception of the current Managing Director.

**Mary Jane Smith, of Perkiomen Avenue,** stated that she is again concerned that the proposed development of the Penn Square Properties includes a residential component. She expressed the belief that residential development does not belong in these commercial spaces. She expressed doubt that the funding sources for this project will not require low income housing as it did in the Goggleworks Apartments and in Ricktown. She expressed the belief that there is enough opportunity for housing in other areas of the City and that the state and federal funds should be used elsewhere. She noted that this is a one time opportunity that should not be blundered. She also expressed concern with the proposed live/work housing in these buildings. She stated that these commercial spaces were not intended for residential use.

**Renee Dietrich, of Wyomissing,** stated that she is the President of the Library Board. She thanked Council for considering a dedicated milage rate that will provide the Library with an

increased contribution, as is done with the Shade Tree Commission. She stated that the intended uses for the funding has been outlined in the packets distributed to Council. She stated that \$100K of this new funding will permit the Library to reinstate operating hours. She stated that the Library is also a District Library and that the hours the Library is currently open are less that required of a District Library. She noted that the Library has been awarded a waiver to operate at a lesser number of hours. She outlined the broad range of services the Library provides to the public. She asked Council to approve the dedicated milage rate which would provide an annual allocation of approximately \$250K.

**Paul Hoh, of Hampden Blvd**, stated that he is also a member of the Library Board. He stated that when he was Council President between 1996 and 2002, the City allocated \$1M to the Library. He stated that while he understands why the allocation was reduced to \$100K, he recognizes the need for the City to increase this allocation as an investment in the future.

## **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 October 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to add the following legislation to the agenda:

1. Addition of two Ordinances for Introduction
  - a. The new Act 47 Recovery Plan Ordinance
  - b. The Project Labor Agreement Ordinance
2. Addition of four resolutions making appointments and reappointments to the Water Authority, the Housing Authority and the Planning Commission
3. Addition of a Consent Agenda resolution authorizing the application for PennVest Funds for the WWTP project.
4. Addition of a Consent Agenda resolution approving the merger plan for Berks EIT and the Tax Collection Committee
5. Councilor Waltman and Councilor Reed requested that the Open Contracting Ordinance be added for introduction. There was no objection.

The Managing Director also asked Council to move the ordinance and resolution regarding the Firefighters Museum out of the pending boxes for a vote.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the October 13<sup>th</sup> 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 repair of the wall at the Pagoda to E. R. Stuebner, 227 Blair Avenue, Reading, PA 19601 in the amount of \$139,918.00. **(Purchasing Mgr)**

**B. Award of Contract** – for the purchase of rock salt American Rock Salt Co., LLC, P. O. Box 190, Mt. Morris, NY, 14510, at a bid price of \$72.51 per ton for delivered salt and \$69.01 for picked-up salt **(Purchasing Mgr)**

**C. Award of Contract** –to qualify multiple vendors for the provision of bond underwriting services to the City of Reading. The vendors to be qualified include:

- PNC Capital Markets
- Janney Montgomery Scott LLC
- RBC Capital Markets
- Loop Capital Markets
- Robert W. Baird & Co.
- NW Capital Markets Inc.
- Wells Fargo Securities

**D. Award of Contract** –authorizing the merger plan between the TCC and BEIT Bureau **(Law)**

**E. Resolution 108-2014** - approving the merger plan for Berks EIT and the Tax Collection Committee **(Law)**

**F. Resolution 118-2014** - authorizing the application for PennVest Funds for the WWTP project. **(Pub. Works)**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

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

- Upgrade in the City's bond rating by Moody
- Update on the digester rehabilitation project at the WWTP
- Update on the 18 fire prevention and safety presentations
- Update on graffiti abatement

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2014 Admissions Tax collection update
- 2014 Real Estate Tax collection update
- Update on the 2011,, 2012 and 2013 State Pension Audit

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

None.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

### *Pending – Further Legal Review Required*

**Bill No. 63-2014** – 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*

### *Pending – Budget and Tax Ordinances*

- A. Ordinance** – 2015 Real Estate Tax Rate
- B. Ordinance** – 2015 Commuter Tax Rate
- C. Ordinance – 2015 Position Ordinance
- D. Ordinance** – 2015 Resident Earned Income
- E. Ordinance** – 2015 General Fund Budget **(Law/Council Staff)**
- F. Ordinance** – 2015 Capital Budget **(Law/Council Staff)**

**A. Bill No. 71-2014** – authorizing the execution the Lease Agreement for the Reading Area Firefighters Museum **(Man Dir/Law)** *Introduced at the September 8 regular Meeting; Tabled at the Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting*

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 71-2014.

Councilor Daubert stated that he is pleased that this issue is moving forward.

Councilor Reed agreed noting that the museum is a City treasure. She conveyed hope that the group will utilize sound fundraising and marketing efforts.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Managing Director for placing structured

agreements for groups that utilize City properties.

Councilor Waltman noted the long history of Reading's Fire Department and the need to link the Museum with other organizations such as the DID and the Main Street Boards.

**Bill No. 71-2014 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**B. Bill No. 78-2014** – amending City Code Section 23-1201. Purpose; Membership by decreasing the number of Main Street Board Members to seven (7) and providing clarification regarding the liaison to the Board **(Council Staff/Main St Bd) Introduced at the October 13 regular meeting**

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 78-2014.**

Council President Acosta stated that this housekeeping issue will reduce the quorum issues for the Main Street Board.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed and noted the importance of Council's responsibility to update the City's Administrative Code.

**Bill No. 78-2014 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**C. Bill No. 79-2014** – amending the Personnel Code, Section 70-703 Payroll Time Sheet to match the current process used for the submission and processing of employee time sheets **(Council Staff) Introduced at the October 13 regular meeting**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 79-2014.**

**Bill No. 79-2014 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**D. Bill No. 80-2014** – authorizing the restriction of parking and the installation/maintenance of appropriate No Parking signs in accordance with the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) Application No. 42617 at 118 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, aka the Jet Set Restaurant LLC. **(Man Dir) Introduced at the October 13 regular meeting; Advertised on 10-**

20-14

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 80-2014.

Bill No. 80-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: - 0

**E. Bill No. 81-2014** – authorizing the restriction of parking and the installation/maintenance of No Parking signs in accordance with the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) Application # 61019 originally dated July 25, 2014. The purpose of this parking restriction is to ensure the proposed driveway has an adequate sight distance for vehicles entering the highway as shown in the application made by Domenico and Lucia Brutto for the business located at 290 Morgantown Road aka Mimmo’s Restaurant. **(Man Dir) Introduced at the October 13 regular meeting; Advertised on 10-20-14**

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 81-2014.

Bill No. 81-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: - 0

**F. Bill No. 82-2014** – naming Our City Reading as the developer for the Penn Square Properties Project and authorizing the execution of the developers agreement **(Man Dir) Introduced at the October 13 regular meeting**

Councilor Marmarou moved to enact Bill No. 82-2014.

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to table Bill No. 82-2014.

Councilor Daubert seconded the motion to enact Bill No. 82-2014

The mayor and Councilor Marmarou questioned if a motion to table was allowable.

Council President Acosta consulted with the Solicitor who reviewed the Robert’s Rules regulations the City Clerk located on her computer. The Solicitor ruled that a motion to table was un-debatable and was allowable.

**The motion to table Bill No. 82-2014 was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Waltman, Acosta, President - 4**

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

Council President Acosta explained that he voted to table the ordinance to allow Councilors with questions to obtain answers from the administration.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

The following ordinances were read into the record:

**A. Ordinance** – restricting parking and maintaining the requisite No Parking signs, for a distance of 44 feet, across from the entrance to 1007 Bern Street. The purpose is to improve the turning radius for large trucks entering and leaving the business at that location **(Man Dir)**  
***Advertisement scheduled for 11-3-14***

**B. Ordinance** – authorizing the execution of a settlement agreement to pay the legal charges associated with the water agreement to Stevens and Lee **(Adm Serv. Dir)**

**C. Ordinance** – restricting parking and maintaining the requisite No Parking signs, for a distance of approximately 20 feet, adjacent to 1426 Perkiomen Avenue. The purpose is to improve visibility for drivers exiting the parking lot of the Southeast Branch of the Reading Public Library. **(Man Dir)**  
***Advertisement scheduled for 11-3-14***

**D. Ordinance** – approving an appropriations transfer of \$650,000 from the Contracted Services line item in the 2014 Public Buildings budget to the Street Lighting budget Traffic Engineering budget to provide for street lighting for the remainder of 2014. **(Man Dir)**

**E. Ordinance** – amending the 2014 Fiscal Year Employee Position Ordinance, by decreasing the Network Administrator positions from two (2) to one (1) and creating one (1) position of Network Engineer **(Adm Services)**

**F. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer of \$130,000.00 from the Salary line of the Fire-Emergency Medical Division (EMS) to the Fire-Administration Division Salary line, to the Fire-Suppression Division Salary line and to the Fire-Suppression Division Clothing line **(Fire)**

**G. Ordinance** – authorizing the execution an Right of Way Grant/ Easement (attached as part of Exhibit “A”) to convey unto the UGI Utilities, Inc. an easement and uninterrupted right of access upon that portion of premises located at 14<sup>th</sup> & Green Streets, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, as shown on a certain diagram attached as part of Exhibit “A”. **(Law/Pub Works)**

**H. Ordinance** – authorizing the execution of the new Act 47 Recovery Plan **(PFM)**

**I. Ordinance** – amending the City Code by adding the Project Labor Agreement Ordinance **(Mayor)**

**J. Ordinance** – amending the City Code by adding the Open Contracting Ordinance  
(Council)

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 109-2014** – approving the Conditional Use permit for 321 N 8<sup>th</sup> Street with conditions (Council Staff)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 109-2014.

Resolution No. 109-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

**B. Resolution 110-2014** – denying the Conditional Use permit for 139 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street and ordering the de-conversion of the property to a two unit dwelling (Council Staff)

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 110-2014.

Resolution No. 110-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

**C. Resolution 111-2014** – denying the Conditional Use permit for 714 Franklin Street and ordering the de-conversion to a two unit dwelling (Council Staff)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 111-2014.

Resolution No. 111-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

**D. Resolution 112-2014** – appointing Donna Reed as the liaison to the Main Street Board and Jeffrey S. Waltman as the alternate (Council Staff)

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 112-2014.**

**Resolution No. 112-2014 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**E. Resolution 113-2014 – approving in part and denying in part the HARB COA appeal for 733 Madison Avenue (Council Staff)**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to adopt Resolution No. 113-2014.**

**Resolution No. 113-2014 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 6  
Nays: Reed - 1**

**F. Resolution 114-2014 – appointing Walter Pawling to the Housing Authority (Nominations)**

**G. Resolution 115-2014 – appointing Julissa Espinal to the Water Authority (Nominations)**

**I. Resolution 117-2014 – – appointing William Cinfici to the Planning Commission (Nominations)**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution Nos. 114, 115 and 117-2014.**

**Resolution Nos. 114, 115 and 117-2014 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

**H. Resolution 116-2014 – reappointing Rebecca Acosta to the Housing Authority (Nominations)**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 116-2014.**

**Resolution No. 116-2014 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 6**

**Nays: None - 0**

**Abstention – Acosta, President - 1**

**I. Resolution 100-2014** – authorizing the execution of the MOU for the Reading Area Firefighter Museum (**Man Dir/Law**) ***Tabled at the Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting; Pending further legal review required***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 100-2014.**

**Resolution No. 100-2014 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Reed noted the K9 event held at the airport yesterday. She noted that the K9 unit is a wonderful component of the Police Department. She described the high skill levels and dedication of the officers and their K9 partners. She thanked those who assist the City with funding to support this unit.

Councilor Daubert expressed disappointment with the tabling of the Penn Square Property ordinance. He expressed his belief that delaying the enactment of this ordinance is a mistake.

Councilor Sterner agreed with Councilor Daubert and he thanked those who spoke at tonight's meeting.

Councilor Sterner expressed his personal opinion about Ballot Question #7 regarding the need to obtain voter approval before the sale or lease of a public asset. He stated that he has no problem that the mayor advocated his support for the question, as everyone is entitled to express their beliefs. He stressed the need for voter education and he recommended that people vote no, as people have the ability to voice their opinions at public meetings. He stated that the administration and Council discussed the water lease at approximately 50 public meetings. He also expressed the belief that allowing this to move to the ballot will allow a small percentage of people to make this important decision, due to the low voter turnout.

Councilor Sterner questioned the legality of placing the question on the ballot as it usurps the powers and duties of the City's elected officials. He stated that various people believe that Council was attempting to privatize the water asset, when that was never discussed or

considered. He suggested that voters need to consider the pros and cons of all aspects of each of the seven (7) ballot questions and to vote no if they do not understand all aspects of the questions. He noted that the representative from Food and Water Watch expressed the belief that leasing the water asset is in fact privatization.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked those who supported the motion to table the Penn Square Property ordinance as that will provide her with time to obtain answers to questions about the proposal. She noted that some family issues prevented her from attending the meeting to discuss this issue.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed that voters should not vote for the ballot questions if they do not understand the pros and cons associated with each question. She expressed her belief that placing all seven (7) questions on one ballot will be overwhelming for the voter, as the issues are quite complex. She stated that some questions will dramatically change the course of City government.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the strategic planning sessions starting for the Pagoda Foundation, the Rec Commission and the Firefighter Museum. She noted the value of planning. The cost of the facilitator for the Pagoda Foundation was covered through a private donation. She also noted the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the William Penn Fire Tower.

The mayor stated that he found the positions of the business owners who spoke against the PLA this evening interesting and he stated that he will bring the supportive side at the next meeting.

The mayor also expressed disappointment about the tabling of the Penn Square Property ordinance. He expressed the belief that this is a delay tactic as there have been many meetings where questions were addressed. He noted that Councilor Waltman is the only Councilor who directly questioned Mr. Boscov. He expressed the belief that the tabling of the ordinance may cause repercussions.

Councilor Waltman stated that his position has not changed on the Penn Square Property ordinance. He stated that allowing two additional weeks of review will assist Council in making an informed decision. He expressed the belief that Council is being pigeonholed into making an unsound decision.

Councilor Waltman expressed the belief that placing seven (7) questions on a ballot is an injustice to the voters. He expressed his hope that voters reject the seven (7) questions. He also questioned the purpose behind Question 7 as selling or leasing the water asset was never discussed.

The Auditor noted the need for good voter turnout. He also noted that the average voter does indeed have the ability to understand the questions listed on the ballot.

Council President Acosta stated that he took offense at the mayor's comments as he did question Mr. Boscov directly. In fact he was left with the impression that some believed he was making a personal attack. He noted the need for Council to submit their additional questions. He stated that his vote to support the tabling was to allow Council with the ability to ask their final questions. He urged Council to submit their questions in writing.

Council President Acosta questioned the lack of public participation in the public meetings to discuss the City's budget.

Council President Acosta reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

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

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