

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2014**

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Laddie Benton, Washington Presbyterian Church.

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 Snyder
Mayor Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A proclamation was issued to the East Reading Boxing Club, winner of several national titles in various weight classes and age groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He reminded those registered about the public speaking rules.

Ricardo Nieves, of Northmont Blvd., stated that he raised the fluoride issue when he served on the EAC. He stated that he intends to express his opinion to the EAC at their next meeting.

Karin Acuna, of Eckert Ave., was not present.

Nelson Badilla, of Cedar St., stated that when he resided in New York he was able to have pet chickens and he was dismayed to learn that having pet chickens is not permitted within Reading. He asked Council to reconsider this limitation.

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 August 25th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need for the following amendments:

- Withdrawal of Ordinance B relating to the bereavement policy under Introduction of New Ordinances
- Addition of an Award of Contract for a benefits broker on the Consent Agenda
- Addition of an Ordinance for Introduction relating to a Fire Budget amendment to allow for the purchase of new vehicles for the Deputy Fire Chiefs

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the August 25th 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. Resolution 93-2014 – authorizing the promotion of Office Jason A. Linderman to Sergeant (Police Chief)

B. Award of Contract - for the HVAC contractor's work on the WWTP Digester Project to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., Green Lane, PA 18054 for a total price of \$413,310. (Purchasing Mgr)

C. Award of Contract - for the Benefits Broker to EHD, 2001 State Hill Road, Suite 200, Wyomissing, PA 19610. (Purchasing Mgr)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- Payment in full of the 108 Loan for the Goggleworks Arts Center
- Clearance of the 78 HUD findings in the CD Department
- September 11th Memorial Service scheduled for 9:55 am in City Park at the Memorial Tree
- Implementation of MobileNow by the Parking Authority in the downtown

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2014 Unemployment Compensation
- Property Tax Collection for 2012 - 2014

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 meetings held June 25 and July 24*

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*

A. Bill No. 65-2014 – Amending the Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Section Re3117-0o5a-Ex A – Purchasing Policies, sub-section 8.06 and 8.07 relating to the Purchasing Coordinator (**Admin Services**) *Introduced at the August 25 regular meeting*

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 65-2014.

The Managing Director explained that this modification of the Purchasing Policies will eliminate the need for the Purchasing Manager to be included on all Selection Committees, which will eliminate some of the work overload for this position.

Bill No. 65-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

B. Bill No. 66-2014- repealing Bill 46-2014 to dissolve the Water Authority (**Council Staff**) *Introduced at the August 11 regular meeting*

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 66-2014.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she cannot support the repeal of this Bill because the issue isn't truly finished. She stated that the issue remains open until the mayor signs the lease agreement. She noted that the mayor's veto of the ordinance enacting the water lease deal was overridden by a unanimous vote. She noted that she respects the opinions of others regarding this matter.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz asked the Solicitor if the ordinance dissolving RAWA can be reintroduced at anytime. The Solicitor stated that the ordinance to dissolve RAWA can be reintroduced at any time in the same form.

Councilor Reed expressed the belief that the Council should be sure to dot their I's and cross their T's before repealing the dissolution of RAWA.

Council President Acosta explained that he and Councilor Waltman promised RAWA that they would repeal this ordinance after the lease deal was approved. He stated that the RAWA employees are expecting them to keep their word.

Bill No. 66-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 5

Nays: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed - 2

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

The following ordinances were read into the record:

A. Ordinance – authorizing the budget transfer of \$75,000 within the Public Works Department from Contracted Services to Highway Maintenance of Roads and Bridges for the purpose of making sidewalk repairs under the Oley Street Railroad Bridge. **(Man Dir)**

B. Ordinance - amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70 Personnel Code, Section 505 Bereavement Leave **(Law/Council Staff) WITHDRAWN**

C. Ordinance – authorizing the budget transfer of \$205,000 from the Contingency Fund to the Council Office and the Charter Board for legal services **(Council Staff)**

D. Ordinance – setting the salary of the Director of Fire and Rescue Services at \$82,000.00 per annum. **(Man Dir)**

E. Ordinance – authorizing the amendment to the Liberty Fire Museum Lease Agreement **(Man Dir/Law) To be distributed on Monday**

F. Ordinance – authorizing the transfer of \$70,000.00 from the Contingency Account to the

Fire Administration account, both within the General Fund. **(Adm Services)**

RESOLUTIONS

Pending approval of Salary Ordinance at the Sept 22nd meeting

Resolution - appointing William Stoudt Jr. as Fire Chief **(Man Dir)**

Resolution – authorizing the execution of the MOU for the Liberty Firefighter Museum **(Man Dir/Law)** *To be distributed on Monday*

A. Resolution – reappointing Robert Heebner to the Stadium Commission **(Nom & Appts)**

B. Resolution – reappointing Robert Reimer to the Shade Tree Commission **(Nom & Appts)**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolutions 94 and 95-2014.

Councilors Marmarou and Goodman-Hinnershitz spoke in support of those being reappointed.

Resolution No. 94-95-2014 were enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Daubert spoke in support of the Salsa event scheduled for this coming weekend on Penn Street. He encouraged all citizens to become involved in this family event.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz listed the upcoming activities at the Pagoda and she noted the press conference at the Santander Center last week announcing the installation of new high definition screens. She suggested that everyone wear the color purple for the start of the Royals hockey season to show their support for the team.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the clean-up planned for September 13th at Pendora Park and she congratulated the East Reading Boxing Club. She also noted the Berks County Recovery Walk scheduled for this weekend. The walk will begin at RACC and conclude at City Park.

Councilor Reed described the upcoming event for Bob Spitz at the Historical Society. She stated that Mr. Spitz wrote a biography book on the Beatles and many other famous people

and groups. She also noted the loss of Joan Rivers and expressed sympathy to her family.

Councilor Marmarou announced the September 14th CHCC meeting.

Council President Acosta stated that he and the mayor will be co-hosting the annual Puerto Rican celebration on Saturday, October 11th.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk