

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2014**

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Daubert.

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
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Managing Director C. Snyder
Mayor V. Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council Commendation recognizing Raylon Corp, accepted by Howard Hafetz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there was no one registered to address Council this evening. 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 from the February 24th Regular Meeting of Council.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the February 24th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract - for the Keffer Park Playground Project to Purcell Construction,

Denver, PA for total price of \$167,500.00. **(Purchasing Mgr)**

B. Resolution 31-2014 – authorizing the disposition of Contracts dated 1973-2000 in the City Clerk's Office **(Council Staff)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- The EMS Deputy Chief purchased two refurbished ambulances, saving the City approximately \$165K
- The protective gear purchased with the FEMA grant was recently received
- Crime was down over the past two months; however car accidents caused by snow and ice were increased

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- Update on 2013 Unemployment Compensation
- Collection of the 2014 Liquid Fuels money

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Request from the Administration to table the following:

A. Bill No. 5-2014 - 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)** *Introduced at the Jan 13 regular meeting; Tabled at the Jan 27 and the Feb 10th regular meeting*

B. Bill No. 10-2014 – authorizing the temporary easement on city-owned land in Perry/Richmond Townships to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **(Law)** *Introduced at the Jan 13 regular meeting; Tabled at the Jan 27 and the Feb 10th regular meeting TO BE DISTRIBUTED on MONDAY*

C. Bill No. 11-2014 – authorizing the sale of city-owned land in Perry/Richmond Townships to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **(Law)** *Introduced at the Jan 13 regular meeting; Tabled at the Jan 27 and the Feb 10th regular meeting TO BE DISTRIBUTED on MONDAY*

A. Bill No. 20-2014 – amending City Code Section 496, Part 2 by creating a curbside waste collection program **(Law) Introduced at the Feb 10 regular meeting; Tabled at the Feb 24 regular meeting; Advertised 3-3-14**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 20-2014.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed her belief in the reasonable cost for this program. She explained that the “catch up” billing will begin in April/May and the cost for the program will decrease in January 2015. She noted the need for the Administration to use all available avenues to educate the public.

Council President Acosta stated that he will not support this ordinance as it does not properly address the problem and protect the City from future lawsuits.

Bill No. 20-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner - 4

Nays: Reed, Acosta, President - 2

B. Bill No. 21-2014 – amending City Code Chapter 212 by creating a curbside waste collection fee **(Law) Introduced at the Feb 10 regular meeting; Tabled at the Feb 24 regular meeting; Advertised 3-3-14**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 21-2014.

Bill No. 21-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner - 4

Nays: Reed, Acosta, President - 2

C. Bill No. 22-2014 – consolidating the telecom expenses in the amount of \$240,000 by transferring this amount from the Public Works budget to the telecom account within the IT Division budget. **(Adm Services) Introduced at the Feb 24 regular meeting**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 22-2014.

Bill No. 22-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

D. Bill No. 23-2014 – authorizing the transfer of no more than \$500,000 from the General Fund (Fund 01) to the Department of Community Development (Fund 32), pending the receipt of Federal Funds for the 2014 program year **(Bus Analyst) Introduced at the Feb 24 regular meeting**

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 23-2014.

Bill No. 23-2014 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

The following ordinance was read into the record:

A. Ordinance – Amending Section 600-501 of the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance is so as to provide the rezoning of a certain tract of land recorded at Deed Book Volume 3171, Page 0782-0786, in the Berks County Recorder of Deeds office commonly known as 15 Prospect Avenue, from R2 low density residential to CH Commercial Highway (Council Staff) **Public Hearing 4-1-14, Hearing Advertised 3-17 and 3-24; Ordinance advertised 4-4 for 4-14 vote**

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 32-2014 – appointing Francis Acosta as the Council representative to the Diversity Board **(Council)**

B. Resolution 33-2014 – appointing Chris Daubert as the District 1 Council representative to the Local Redevelopment Authority **(Council)**

C. Resolution 34-2014 – reappointing Francis Acosta and Donna Reed as the Council representatives to the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee **(Council)**

D. Resolution 35-2014 – appointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz as the Council representative to the Berks County Criminal Justice Advisory Board **(Council)**

E. Resolution 36-2014 – reappointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz as the Council representative to the Berks Community Action Program Board **(Council)**

F. Resolution 37-2014 – reappointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz as the Council representative to the Housing Board of Appeals **(Council)**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution Nos.32 and 37-2014.

Councilor Marmarou made remarks concerning the skills and abilities of these appointees.

Resolution Nos. 32-37-2014 were adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

G. Resolution 38-2014 –appointing Ernest Schlegel to the Water Authority (Nominations)

H. Resolution 39-2014 –appointing Gery Fisher to the Water Authority (Nominations)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution Nos. 38 and 39-2014.

Council President Acosta explained the method used to nominate these two appointees.

Councilor Marmarou made remarks concerning the skills and abilities of these appointees.

Resolution Nos. 38-39-2014 were adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou described the recent garage vandalism in the 1400-1500 blocks of Linden Street. He stressed the need for residents to report suspicious behavior to the police.

Councilor Sterner announced the Outlet Area Neighborhood meeting on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 pm at St Mark's Lutheran Church, located at North 10th and Windsor Streets.

Councilor Daubert stated that he has received complaints about large tractor trailer trucks parking in a South 2nd Street neighborhood. He asked the mayor to make the police department aware of this issue.

Councilor Reed stated that the recent melting of snow and ice in the parking lanes has soothed some parking issues in neighborhoods and asked all to avoid double parking at area

schools.

Council President Acosta noted the large amount of misinformation being circulated about the recent executive discussions on the Water Authority lease. He stated that when the issue is no longer a legal issue it will be well explained to the public.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk