

**City of Reading City Council  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday, September 30, 2014**

Council President Francis Acosta called the Special meeting to order.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Acosta  
Councilor Daubert, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Sterner, District 3  
Councilor Reed, District 5 – via telephone  
Councilor Waltman, District 6  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Solicitor C. Younger  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Managing Director C. Snyder

Budget binders were distributed to the members of Council, the Auditor and staff.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta opened the floor for public comment and no one came forward to speak; therefore, the public comment period was closed.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Introduction of New 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)**

The mayor arrived at this time.

The mayor stated that the budget submitted by the Charter required October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is \$89.9M, a 6.5% increase from the 2014 budget. He stated that prior to reductions the expenditures were \$93M. He stated that the increase was not caused by discretionary spending wish lists but required operational expenses. He noted that the 6.5% increase is composed of issues such as required contractual salary increases, increased MMO payments, capital improvements for the WWTP and dam repairs. He stated that the budget retains the capacity of public safety staffing and avoids any tax increases and layoffs.

The mayor noted the difficulty of keeping up with mandatory requirements such as MMO payments, health care costs, etc., and keeping tax rates down.

Councilor Marmarou arrived.

Councilor Daubert agreed that the City does not have a spending problem as the budget is based on critical operative costs rather than discretionary costs.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed that the City does not have a spending problem; however, the City does need policy changes to control expenditures in some areas.

Councilor Waltman stated that the budget includes the \$8M negotiated in the amended water lease agreement, which provides the administration with a starting point. He stressed the need to place strong consideration on the amendment to the Recovery Plan as that will impact the 2016 budget.

Council President Acosta stated that the first Budget Review session is scheduled on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm in the Penn Room. The Budget Review sessions are open to the public and he encouraged the public to attend.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adjourn the special meeting of Council.**

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