

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2015

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Kathryn Phile, Nativity Lutheran Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting did not include an executive session.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Waltman
Councilor Daubert, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Slifko, District 6
City Auditor D. Cituk
Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Managing Director Snyder

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamations or commendations issued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Waltman stated that there is one (1) citizen registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He asked 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 participation regulations adopted by Council to those present.

Carl Ramich, of Wyomissing, stated that he represents the local steel workers union. He spoke in support of buying American made products rather than products made outside the United States. He noted that buying American made products supports job growth.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Waltman called Council's attention to the minutes of the October 12th meeting and to the agenda for this meeting. He announced the need to add a Resolution regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness for 233 Spring Street.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the agenda, as amended, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes as listed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract - for Engineering services for the 19th Ward Pump Station to AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$374,400 for Basic Services. In addition, the engineering services contract provides for adders and expenses for an additional amount of \$98,050. Total potential contract amount is \$472,450.

B. Resolution No. 92-2015 - authorizing the issuance of an Emergency Management Declaration to repair of the storm sewer system damaged in the July 31, 2015 storm.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

An administrative report was not prepared or presented.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The auditor's report was distributed at the meeting; in summary:

- Admissions Tax collection for 2015
- Real Estate Transfer Tax collection for 2015
- Decreasing Public Utility Realty Tax between 1997 (\$277,867) and 2015 (\$54,079) due to the change in the formula

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Pending

Bill No. 48-2015 - authorizing the extension of the Downtown Improvement District (DID) for a five year period and authorizing the execution of the agreement between DID and the City *Introduced at the July 27 regular meeting; Advertised on August 17th and 28th; Public Hearing Tuesday, September 8th; Tabled at the September 14 regular meeting; 2nd Public Hearing scheduled for Oct 21st at 5 pm*

Budget Related Ordinances Pending

Ordinance - providing for a commuter tax of up to a maximum of 1.3% on all earned income and net profits generated in the City of Reading for 2016 *Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting*

Ordinance – setting the property tax rate at .017489 on the dollar, or \$17.489 on each one thousand dollars for 2016 *Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting*

Ordinance – approving the 2016 General Fund Budget *Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting*

Ordinance – approving the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan *Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting*

Ordinance – approving the 2016 Position Ordinance *Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting*

A. Bill No. 56-2015 – vacating and removing from the 300 block of St. George Street from the City's Topographical Map - *Introduced at the September 28 regular meeting; 28 day layover period required; Advertisement Oct 5th, 12th and 19th*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 56-2015.

Bill No. 56-2015 was tabled by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

B. Bill No. 57-2015 – amending the City Code Chapter 600 Zoning, by adopting a new Section §600-818 providing for a Riparian Buffer Overlay District and amending §600-2202 Definitions *Introduced at the September 28 regular meeting; Advertisement Oct 5th and 12th; Public Hearing Oct 19th at 5 pm*

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 57-2015.

Bill No. 57-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

C. Bill No. 58-2015 – amending the City Code Chapter 600 Zoning by amending Part 8 Districts to add alternative energy systems as Accessory Uses, Part 10 Accessory Uses by renaming Section 1012 Wind Turbines to Alternative Energy Systems, and amending Section 2202 Definitions *Introduced at the September 28 regular meeting; Advertisement Oct 5th and 12th; Public Hearing Oct 19th at 5 pm*

Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 58-2015.

Councilor Slifko stated that this ordinance is not a mandate for the installation of alternative energy systems. The ordinance only provides the process should a property owner choose to take this approach.

Councilor Daubert voiced his enthusiastic support as alternative energy systems makes sound economic sense and supports climate change initiatives.

Bill No. 58-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

D. Bill No. 59-2015 - amending the City Code Chapter 576 – Vehicles and Traffic, Part 12 Parades, Special Events and Public Gatherings, Section 576-1205 Fees, Time Limit and Cost of Event by adding the DID and Parking Authority to the processes ***Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 59-2015.

Councilor Reed stated that this ordinance adds DID and the Parking Authority to the planning process for events that are held in the downtown.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of the planning process for larger events to protect the safety and welfare for those who attend the events and those who reside in the neighborhoods where the events occur.

Bill No. 59-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

E. Bill No. 60-2015 - amending the City Code, Chapter 564 Health and Safety, Part 105 Storage of Motor Vehicle Nuisances, by prohibiting commercial vehicles from parking on all public rights of way within the City of Reading ***Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting; Advertised on October 19th***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to table Bill No. 60-2015.

Bill No. 60-2015 was tabled by the following vote:

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

F. Bill No. 61-2015 – amending the City Code Chapter 453 Part 2 Sidewalk Vendors by replacing Vending Appeals Board with Code and License Appeals Board ***Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting; Advertised on October 19th***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 61-2015.

Bill No. 61-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

G. Bill No. 62-2015 – authorize the execution and delivery of the required documents in connection with the two PennVest loans for the Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade, including authorization for the issuance of two Guaranteed Revenue Notes of the City. The two loans are in the amount of \$84,586,034 for the Liquids Treatment Facilities Upgrade and \$37,214,485 for the Solids Treatment Facilities Upgrade ***Introduced at the October 12 regular meeting***

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 62-2015.

The Managing Director stated that this financing package that includes a 1% interest rate is a great deal for the Wastewater Treatment project. She stated that the interest rate is better than the current market rate of 4%. She also noted that PennVest usually awards loans at a much lower amount and that the amount for this project was increased as this represents a regional project.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the improvements to this plant will benefit many municipalities outside of Reading.

Bill No. 62-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Bill No. -2015 – authorizing the transfer of funds from Solid Waste Fund Balance Account to Recycling Legal Fees Account to pay for legal settlement with FYDA freightliner Pittsburgh, Inc. & Golden Equipment Co., Inc., per Council approved resolution no. 89-2015 on September 28, 2015

B. Bill No. -2015 –authorizing the transfer within the 2015 Department of Public Works, Division of Solid Waste & Recycling budget \$40,000.00 from General Plan Supplies General Plant Supplies and Minor Capital to Truck Maintenance for the purpose of covering funds for current and future invoices for truck maintenance for Recycling Department.

C. Bill No. -2015 – authorizing the transfer provides \$10,000 from Salaries to Community Promotions in the Mayor’s Office to Redesign Reading CDC for start-up funds for Penn Street Market from 2014

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 94-2015 – reappointing Steven Belinski to the Housing Authority

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adopt Resolution No. 94-2015.

Councilor Marmarou spoke about the skill and experience Mr. Belinski brings to this Authority.

Resolution 94-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

B. Resolution 93-2015 – approving the Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of windows at 233 Spring Street with conditions.

Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 94-2015.

Councilor Slifko stated that the decision represents a compromise that stays within the spirit and goals of historic preservation. He stated that the conditions allow the use of the windows that were purchased prior to the review of HARB and makes them look historically appropriate.

Councilor Rees agreed with this approach in this instance.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the compromise is a “win-win”.

Council President Waltman questioned why the contractor purchased the windows prior to making application to HARB and leaving the Church exposed.

Councilor Slifko stressed the need to obtain HARB approval prior to the purchase of any building materials for the exterior of a property.

Resolution 94-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk