

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 23, 2015**

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Robert Brookins, Holy Trinity Church of God.

All present pledged to the flag.

There was no executive session held during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Acosta

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

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

Council President Acosta announced that Councilors Daubert, Sterner and Waltman are all excused from the meeting this evening.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

The City Clerk administered the oath of office promoting Paramedic/Firefighter Trent Zulick to the rank of Lieutenant in the Fire Prevention Division.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta 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. He reminded the citizen of the public speaking regulations that were adopted by the body of Council.

**Pastor Maria Vializ, of Spruce Street**, stated that through her ministry she works to promote and improve Reading through creating various programs and events. She stated that some events require the closure of some streets. She stated that she is aware of the regulations associated with events and she requested that the required \$100 fee be waived, as the events

are volunteer based.

**David Vializ, of Spruce Street**, stated that the programs he and Pastor Vializ offer will build a better Reading and he also requested that the City waive the required \$100 fee.

## **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. He noted that the agenda memo listed for Bill No. 9, under Ordinances for Final Passage will be replaced and the agenda heading will be revised to that in Bill A under Introduction of New Ordinances.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the agenda, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**A. Resolution 21-2015** – respectfully requesting that the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission adopt regulations permitting Counties and Municipalities to use digital media to retain permanent records, to draft regulations that are similar to those approved by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), eliminate the requirement for Counties and Municipalities to use both microfilm and digital media for document retention, and update the regulations pertaining the retention of certain permanent records (**Council Staff**)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

There was no Administrative Report at this meeting.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- Report on the 2015 Admissions Tax collection
- Report on the 2015 Real Estate Transfer Tax collection
- Report on the collection of the 2014 Cable Franchise Fee

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

There were no reports issued at this meeting.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

**Pending – Introduced at Tues, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Postponed Meeting  
Eligible for enactment on March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**A. Bill No. 8-2015** - authorizing the transfer of \$257,194 from Purchasing to Public Works for budgeted Motorola radio maintenance **(Controller)**

**B. Bill No. 9-2015** – authorizing an appropriations transfer within the Department Of Public Works, Division of Solid Waste & Recycling in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Budget Year 2015 **(Public Works)**

**C. Bill No. 10-2015** – amending the Position Ordinance by adding two part-time, seasonal Graffiti Abatement Technicians to the Recycling Fund, Fund 56 **(Business Analyst)**

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

**A. Ordinance**– amending the Recycling Budget (Fund 56) by transferring \$10,000 from the Portnoff Expense line item to the Contracted Services Line Item to fund contracted construction management services related to the Recycling baler project **(Bus Analyst)**

**B. Ordinance**– amending the salary range for the Police Chief to no less than \$80,000 and no more than \$125,000. **(Law)**

**C. Ordinance**– Amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27, §27-1204 C providing for Conditional Use applications and procedures eliminating the ability of the City and property owner to waive a decision made by City Council. **(Council Staff)**

**D. Ordinance**– authorizing the issuance of the City’s Series A and B of 2015 Bonds to complete the proposed refunding project for the 2008 GO Bonds **(Stevens & Lee)**

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution No. 22-2015**– appointing Craig Poole to the Main Street Board **(Nom & Appts)**

**B. Resolution No. 23-2015** – appointing Sean DeVine to the Historical Architectural Review Board **(Nom & Appts)**

**C. Resolution No. 24-2015** – appointing Pamela Cianciosi to the Code and License Appeals Board **(Nom & Appts)**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt**

**Resolution Nos. 22-24-2015.**

Councilor Marmarou noted the caliber of skills and experience brought forth by those being appointed this evening.

**Resolution Nos. 22-24-2015 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

**D. Resolution No. 25-2015** – denying the appeal of the Certificate of Appropriateness, as attached in the findings of fact, for the exterior property improvements at 1031 Madison Avenue **(Council Staff)**

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 25-2015.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that she attended this hearing via telephone and she had the opportunity to review the photographs submitted by both the applicant and the Historic Preservation Specialist.

**Resolution No. 25-2015 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the public works staff for their performance clearing the streets of snow. She stated that the condition of Reading's streets was much better than the streets in outlying municipalities.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to address the many potholes and poor utility cuts around the City as they create safety issues for pedestrians and vehicles.

Councilor Reed thanked the City's public service personnel who have had to brave the winter weather to perform their duties.

Council President Acosta agreed that the Public Works crews did an exemplary job clearing snow from the streets during this winter. He stated that when driving into Reading on Saturday afternoon, he found Reading's streets to be in better condition than those in outlying communities.

Council President Acosta noted the concern over the roadway conditions on the Bingaman

Street Bridge. He stated that the potholes have enlarged to a point where they could cause damage to tires and cause accidents. He also expressed concern that the road conditions of the bridge and the plan for this bridge to become the detour when the Penn Street Bridge is closed for repairs also causes great concern. He stated that the combination of road conditions and only having two lanes of traffic open will create impossible traffic issues. He questioned if repairs will be made to the Bingaman Street Bridge before the work on the Penn Street Bridge will begin.

The Managing Director stated that potholes are reported to PennDOT on a regular basis. However, she stated that she is unsure when and how PennDOT will address the weight limit issues on the Bingaman Street Bridge and open the bridge to four lanes of traffic. She also questioned if the schedule will be adjusted to repair the Bingaman Street Bridge prior to the Penn Street Bridge.

Councilor Reed explained that the repairs to the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge are expected to be completed this summer, after which the repairs are slated for the Buttonwood Street Bridge. The repairs to the Buttonwood Street Bridge are expected to take two years. She agreed that the closure of two lanes on the Bingaman Street Bridge has created additional stress on the existing roadway and she questioned the additional stress on the roadway when the bridge becomes a detour route.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that when the bridge repair projects were first explained to Council the condition of the Bingaman Street Bridge was not addressed. She suggested requesting an alteration in the repair schedule of the bridges and she noted the need for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles to have direct access to the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward and southwest Reading.

Council President Acosta described the poor condition of Hancock Street and East Wyomissing Boulevard. He inquired when repairs will occur.

Council President Acosta stated that the mayor and Council will be holding a ceremony for the Dominican Republic community on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in Council Chambers.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the meeting.**

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