

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2015

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Danny Moore, 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 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 C. Snyder

Mayor V. Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Chief Stoudt issued Department of Fire and Rescue Services Awards to firefighters and EMS Technicians
- Council issued a Commendation recognizing the 2014 RHS Boys Soccer Team
- Council issued a Commendation recognizing Berks Dog Search, accepted by Susie Olson

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired 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 speaking rules that were adopted by Council.

George Stichter, of Moss Street, was not present.

Floyd Stahl, of North 11th Street, stated that 500 North Front Street was improperly placarded as Property Maintenance believed the someone was illegally residing at the property. However, after an inspection with police officers, they determined that no person resided there. He expressed the belief that Property Maintenance placarded the building to prevent him from purchasing the building. He requested an investigation into this issue.

Nate Rivera, of North 6th Street, expressed the belief that citizens are frustrated with the Parking Authority and the manner in which the Authority's employees treat citizens. He expressed the belief that as parking is a City asset, the City should retain some control over the asset. He expressed the belief that Authority employees treat citizens rudely and he provided some examples of situations he experienced. He expressed the belief that the City should not allow the Parking Authority to take the towing concession.

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 December 22nd Regular Meeting of Council. He stated that four Board, Authority and Commission appointment and reappointment resolutions will be added under the Resolution heading.

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the December 22nd 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. Award of Contract – to Herbein & Company for external auditing services for a one year period with the option to extend for four additional years **(Purchasing Mgr)**

B. Resolution 1-2015 - disposing the 2007 Financial Interest Statements **(Council Staff)**

C. Resolution 2-2015 - Authorizing the Bank Accounts for the City of Reading for the 2015 Calendar Year **(Controller)**

D. Resolution 3-2015 - authorizing the promotion of Sergeant Paul J. Riley to the rank of Lieutenant effective January 16, 2015. **(Police Chief)**

E. Resolution 4-2015 - authorizing the promotion of Officer Darrin C. Dougherty to the rank of Sergeant effective January 16, 2015. **(Police Chief)**

G. Resolution 5-2015 - authorizing conditional offers of employment to David Drago, Marcos Rodriguez-Muriel and Missael DeJesus as probationary patrol officers effective Monday, January

19, 2015. (Police Chief)

WITHDRAWN BY THE ADMINISTRATION

F. Award of Contract – for the 6th and Canal Long Term Improvements project – Phase II(Pub Works)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- The repairs to the Pagoda walls are complete
- The City is concluding negotiations to perform vehicle maintenance of the County DA's fleet
- A website through the software company Mind Mixer is being created to encourage citizen collaboration on the Comprehensive Plan
- The State of the City address will be given on January 28th from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Goggleworks and free lunch will be provided

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- Update on the Pension Board meetings and activities
- Update on the State Snow/Ice Grant for 2014
- Audit of the 2012-13 State Liquid Fuels Fund

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – authorizing the amendment of the RAWA Articles of Incorporation by adding two additional members to the Board of Directors and by defining the terms of the new members **(Council Staff/Law)**

B. Ordinance – repealing sections 219-101, 219-102, 219-103, 219-105 & 219-106 of the City Code, as required by House Bill 80-2014 adopted by the Pennsylvania Legislators and approved by the Governor in November 2014.**(Council Staff/Law)**

C. Ordinance – amending the Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Section 5-213 and § 5-302 regarding the regarding the use of outside legal counsel **(Council Staff/Law)**

D. Ordinance – amending the Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Section Re3117-0o5a-Ex A – Purchasing Policies regarding the regarding the use of outside legal counsel (**Council Staff/Law**)

E. Ordinance - amending Chapter 212, Fee Schedule, Section 104 Business Licenses-Annual License Tax and Section 114 Food Code, of the City of Reading Code of Ordinances to add Business License and Food Vendor Fees for Special Events (**Council Staff/Law**) *Advertisement scheduled for Jan 19th*

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 6-2015 –appointing Maria Rodriguez to RAWA (**Nom & Appts**)

B. Resolution No. 7-2015 –appointing Richard Wagner to the Human Relations Commission (**Nom & Appts**)

C. Resolution No. 8-2015 – reappointing Michael Kautter to the Fire/Building Code Board of Appeals (**Nom & Appts**)

D. Resolution No. 9-2015 –appointing William “Gus” Giddens to the Housing Authority (**Nom & Appts**)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution Nos. 6-9-2015.

Councilor Marmarou described the merits of those being appointed and reappointed.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of the interview process that occurs to make sure the candidates are well suited to the board they will be serving on.

Resolution Nos. 6-9-2015 were adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou stated that he was enthused by the Pro Policy rally held on Saturday at City Park; however, he wished that more police officers would have attended.

Councilor Waltman stated that he was excited about the awards issued to the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and the commendation to the RHS Boys Soccer team. He stated that Reading has much to offer.

Councilor Reed congratulated the EMS Technicians and fire fighters honored at the meeting. She also noted the success of the New Year's Eve celebration at the Pagoda.

In response to Mr. Rivera's comment on the rudeness of the Parking Authority employees, Mr. Spencer suggested that Mr. Rivera bring this issue to the attention of the Authority board. He also questioned why citizens do not stay for the entire meeting to hear responses to the issues they raise.

Councilor Sterner expressed the belief that there are many positive features in Reading; however, the majority continues to focus attention on the negatives. He stated that he is pleased that Council celebrates the many positives by honoring individuals and organizations at Council meetings.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the City embrace and assist the Pagoda Foundation with the New Year's Eve celebration. She noted that the businesses on Mount Penn recognize that Mount Penn is a component of the City's economic engine and that it is time for the City to recognize that fact.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described the various incidents within District 2 over the past weeks that required the attention of EMS, Public Works and the Police. She thanked these departments for their assistance and their support.

Council President Acosta noted that both the Pagoda Foundation and the Firefighters Museum are completing a strategic plan. He also noted the attendance and support of elected officials from the County, the State and the Federal levels at the Pro Police Rally. He stated that although it was cold and windy, the event successfully honored those who work to keep all citizens safe.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk