

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

Council Vice President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Daubert.

All present pledged to the flag.

An executive session about the settlement of lawsuit relating to personnel was held during the Committee of the Whole session, preceding this meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilor Daubert, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

Councilor Sterner, District 3

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**

Council issued a commendation honoring Greek Independence Day.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Vice President Waltman stated that there are three (3) citizens 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 speaking regulations adopted by City Council.

**Mike Duggan, of North 12<sup>th</sup> Street**, distributed his remarks in writing along with photographs of properties in his neighborhood. He stated that 418 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street is a rental property, although the City and Assessment Office believe this property is owner occupied. He stated that he has never seen the property owner and that there are once again tenants occupying a basement apartment. He noted that he has repeatedly complained about this

property and requested that the City properly enforce its ordinances. He also noted the large amount of rubbish and furniture in the alleyway, noting that the pile is clearly visible from the public right of way; however, Property Maintenance walks by the pile without addressing it. He stated that this is a good block with a few eyesores. He asked the City to address these problem properties.

**Anthony Lavinga, of Franklin Street**, described his recent problems with the Shade Tree Commission. The Shade Tree Commission is requiring that he replace the tree that he obtained a permit to remove. He stated that he does not have the physical ability or money to replace the tree. He expressed the belief that he should not have to replace the tree. He asked for the City's assistance.

**Maryann Ciarlone, of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, expressed the belief that RAWA is not fair, open or transparent. She explained the problems she had after she purchased and rehabilitated a property on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street when she was ready to have the water service turned on. She stated that the water bills were mailed to the previous owner, rather than to her for several months, which resulted in numerous late and penalty fees which she believes are inappropriate. She also described the errant charges for trash collection.

Ms. Ciarlone read from a recent court order which requires RAWA to provide a proper grievance process for customers that is fair, speedy and covers a citizen's due process rights before late fees and penalties are applied. She stated that when she applied for an appeal, her request was denied. She asked Council to make RAWA uphold the court's order.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council Vice President Waltman called Council's attention to the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. There are no proposed changes to the agenda.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the agenda, 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** – to McCormick Taylor, Exton, PA for the River Road Extension Design Project. The total cost of the project will be \$1,011,619.62. However, the City will only be paying 20% of that fee (that equates to \$202,323.93). Federal funds will cover the rest of the 80% of the project as well as 100% of the construction phase.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor read the report to Council at the meeting. In summary:

- The issuance of the General Obligation Series A Bonds and the Federal Tax General Obligation Bonds will save the City \$2M over a two year period
- Announcement of the next Rain Barrel Workshop
- Implementation of the Pay and Display Kiosk at the State parking lot

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- Report on the 2015 Admissions Tax
- Report on the 2015 Real Estate Transfer Tax

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

There were no reports issued at this meeting.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Bill No. 13-2015** - 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. *Introduced at the February 23 regular meeting; Advertised March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>; Public Hearing held March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm*

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 13-2015.**

**Bill No. 13-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5**

**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 14-2015** – Amending Plumbing Code Of The City Of Reading, Section § 180-902 amendments to allow installation of pex or plastic water type piping in all structures, to the same extent that it is permitted under the 2009 International Plumbing Code as adopted by the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code *Introduced at the March 9 regular meeting; Advertisement on 3-16*

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 14-2015.**

Councilor Daubert stated that this amendment will create will a “win” for both the property owners and the police and potentially reduce the theft of copper piping from properties.

**Bill No. 14-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5**

**Nays: None – 0**

## **Pending until April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Bill No. -2015** – amending Chapter 339 Of The Reading City Code, Entitled “Licenses And Permits,” by creating a New Part 3 adding definitions, duties, penalties, exceptions, prohibited acts, licensing requirements and other related items regarding provision of immigration assistance services provided by Notary Public businesses and individuals; all under certain terms and conditions ***Introduced at the March 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting; Advertised on 3-10 and 3-16***

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 30-2015** – increasing the salary of Pamela Hoffman, Confidential Secretary, City of Reading Police Department, to \$21,000.00 per annum

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Resolution No. 30-2015.**

**Resolution No. 30-2015 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5**

**Nays: None - 0**

### **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Sterner thanked those speaking to Council this evening. He asked the administration to follow up on the issues raised by Mr. Duggan.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the recent common sense resolution of a Quality of Life issue in District 2.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described some of the planned events at the Pagoda and she encouraged residents to support the Royals as they play their 1000<sup>th</sup> game at the Santander Center.

Councilor Reed reminded those who travel through neighborhoods with schools to drive slowly and carefully during dismissal and arrival periods.

Council Vice President Waltman reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule, noting that no meetings are scheduled for next Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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