

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 26, 2015**

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Saul Hodges, First Century Worship Center.

All present pledged to the flag.

An executive session was held about a personnel matter during the Committee of the Whole meeting held in the Council Office.

**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  
Legal Specialist F. Lachet  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Managing Director C. Snyder

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

The mayoral proclamations were issued to:

- Maria Kantner for Civil Air Patrol
- Dino Iaccarino for Dino's Wings and Things, located on Centre Avenue

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta stated that there are two (2) 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.

**Peter Hart, of the 300 block of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, spoke in opposition to the relocation of the gas meters to the front facades of properties. He asked Council to consider applying regulations for the placement of gas meters that work within the PUC rule adopted in

September 2014. He described his own experience with UGI and their negative attitude when he objected to the relocation of his gas meter. He stated that communities that have historic districts or are eligible to become historic districts can place regulations on the location of gas meters and he noted that the majority of buildings within Reading fall within this category.

**Elizabeth Dalessio, the 600 block of South 6th Street**, stated that she spoke one year ago about the noise emanating from the Evergreen Power Plant which creates quality of life issues for the surrounding residential properties. She questioned why no one has responded to her complaint. She played a recording of the noise she experiences with the doors and windows closed and with the door open. She questioned why the City regulates paint colors and the use of vinyl siding in historic districts but they ignore the major quality of life problems created by this power plant.

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

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. He stated that there are no changes to the agenda.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, 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. Resolution 53-2015** – adopting a process to clear the zoning backlog for rental properties within the City

**B. Award of Contract** – for the PennDOT funded Penn Street lighting project to MBR Construction Services, Reading at the total amount of \$867,840.78

**C. Resolution 54-2015**– approving the appeal of the HARB Certificate of Appropriateness for 633 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Council President Acosta noted that the mayor was excused from this meeting.

The Managing Director distributed the Administrative Report to Council at the meeting. She highlighted the following topic:

- The expansion of the Fire Marshall's Smoke Detector program

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2015 Admissions Tax collection
- 2015 Transfer Tax collection

- 2015 Unemployment Compensation expenses

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

There were no reports issued at this meeting.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

**A. Bill No. 23-2015** – Amending the Chapter 212 Fee Schedule of the City Code, Section 123 Police Department Miscellaneous Fees regarding copies of police reports, call recording and background reports *Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting Advertised May 18th*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 23-2015.**

**Bill No. 23-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: – None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 24-2015** - authorizing the transfer of \$4,585,914.00 among debt service accounts based on refinancing bonds 2008 C & D with bond 2014; refinancing a portion of bonds 2008 and RRA 2003 lease revenue with bond 2015A; and refinancing pension obligation bond 2006 with bond 2015B *Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed to enact Bill No. 24-2015.**

**Bill No. 24-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: – None - 0**

**C. Bill No. 25-2015** – amending the City of Reading Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Section 5-806 Fiscal Provisions for consistency with the Purchasing Policies to and incorporate revisions recommended by the City's Act 47 Coordinator as attached *Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 25-2015.**

The Managing Director stated that these procedures are being followed and that they will now be memorialized within the Administrative Code.

**Bill No. 25-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**D. Bill No. 26-2015** - amending the 2015 fiscal year employee position ordinance by reclassifying the Human Relations Investigator from one (1) full time position to one (1) part time position ***Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 26-2015.**

The Managing Director stated that this adjustment was requested by the Human Relations Commission Executive Director.

**Bill No. 26-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**E. Bill No. 27-2015** – authorizing a budget transfer of \$35,918 from Salary to Temporary Wages in the Human Relations Budget to fund the PT Investigator position ***Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 27-2015.**

Council President Acosta explained that this is a housekeeping adjustment to provide funding for Bill 26-2015.

**Bill No. 27-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**F. Bill No. 28-2015** – authorizing a budget transfer of \$75,000.00 between the above two accounts. This transfer has zero effect on General Fund Budgeted Spending to demolish the four properties on East Laurel Street damaged by the recent fire ***Introduced at the May 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 28-2015.**

**Bill No. 28-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

There were no ordinances introduced at this meeting.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 55-2015** – appointing R. David Myers to the CRIZ Authority

**B. Resolution 56-2015** – appointing David Farrar to the Main Street Board

**C. Resolution 57-2015** – reappointing Elizabeth Stanley to the Charter Board

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution Nos. 55-57-2015.**

Councilor Marmarou noted the merits of those being appointed.

**Resolution Nos. 55-57-2015 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Waltman agreed with the need to revisit the regulation of the location of gas meters. He noted that this UGI project is shredding the City's streets and the relocation of the meters to the exterior of properties has increased the number of accidents and incidents where gas leaks have occurred.

The City Clerk stated that an ordinance to regulate the location of gas meters has been drafted and is being reviewed by the Law Department.

Council President Acosta agreed that this issue requires resolution as many times the meters are placed in locations that encroach on the public right of way.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the challenges dealing with the PUC. She reminded everyone that the PUC is a State agency that reports to the State government.

Council President Acosta and Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz were excused to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

Councilor Marmarou described his personal experience dealing with the relocation of the gas

meter at his home. He stated that his calls to the PUC went unreturned.

Councilor Marmarou noted the Night in the Heights scheduled for Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at 1700 Oak Lane.

Councilor Reed described the touching and inspiring services at Veteran's Grove in City Park and at Charles Evans Cemetery honoring Memorial Day. She urged County officials and citizens to attend.

Councilor Reed noted the Town Meeting scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm about the two year closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge. She stated that when the Buttonwood Street Bridge project is completed, the Penn Street Bridge project will begin, followed by the Bingaman Street Bridge project. The last project scheduled is a bridge repair project which will require the closure of the West Shore Bypass.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the maximization of the use of Mt Penn will begin through the strategic planning being conducted by the Pagoda Foundation.

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

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