

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2015

Council President Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Public Works Director Ralph Johnson.

All present pledged to the flag.

An executive session was held about potential litigation during the Committee of the Whole meeting held in the Council Office.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
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
Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor V. Spencer

Council President Acosta announced that Councilor Daubert was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a work commitment.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The following were issued at the meeting:

- Council commendation recognizing the Reading Senior High School cast of "Rent"
- Council commendation recognizing Taylor Keegan's work on the Confluence Park project

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta 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. However, none of the three (3) citizens registered were present. As no one came forward to address Council on the invitation from the Council President, the public comment period was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes of the May 26th meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. He stated that Resolution B under the Resolution heading regarding a salary increase is being withdrawn by the administration and a new Resolution B is added to appoint Council alternates to the Rec Commission.

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, 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 – awarding the ADA Compliance Project to The Temple Group, Philadelphia at a cost of total cost \$520,390.00 (with \$100,000 reimbursed by the Berks County Planning Commission)

B. Resolution 58-2015 – Denying the appeal of the Certificate of Appropriateness, as attached in the findings of fact, for the installation of an air conditioning unit at 13-15 South 4th Street, for Maria Rodriguez

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- The start of the Midday Cafes in the downtown
- The start of the Penn Street Market
- The dedication of the new flag and pole at the Pagoda on Sunday, June 14th

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2015 Cable Franchise Fee collection
- Update on the completion of the 2014 external audit

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

There were no reports issued at this meeting.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

No ordinances were enacted at this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

The following ordinances were introduced at this meeting:

A. Ordinance – amending the City Code Chapter 295, Historical and Conservation Districts

by reducing the size of the HARB Board

B. Ordinance – amending the Charter Board Ordinance to provide an informal resolution of a complaint [as provided by the Rules of Administration and Procedure implemented by the Board]

C. Ordinance – Amending Chapter 5 Administrative Code of the City Code Part § 5-303 entitled “Severance” by addressing accrued vacation time for Department Directors

D. Ordinance – Amending Chapter 70 Personnel of the City Code by adding a new part § 70-716 entitled “Severance” for career employees and renumbering the section accordingly.

E. Ordinance – authorize the refunding of the Redevelopment Authority’s 2006 Lease Revenue Note and the execution by the City of a Guaranty of a new 2015 Lease Revenue Note. *(The final principal amount of the 2015 Note will be established upon receipt of the proposals from local banks for the purchase of the 2015 Note. Exhibit A to the Ordinance will be created and circulated at that time)*

F. Ordinance – amending the City Code Chapter 70 Personnel Part 701 G Salary Administration by modifying the approval process for salary increases

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 59-2015 – reappointing Edwin Stock to the Police Civil Service Board

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 59-2015.

Councilor Marmarou noted the merits of Mr. Stock.

Council President Acosta noted his deep respect for Mr. Stock as a person and as a professional.

Resolution No. 59-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None - 0

B. Resolution 60-2015– appointing Francis Acosta and Jeffrey Waltman as alternates to the Rec Commission

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 60-2015.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz explained the importance of having alternates to attend Rec Commission meetings when those appointed to the Commission are unable to attend. She noted the importance of Council representation on this Commission.

Resolution Nos. 60-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou announced that the College Heights Community Council is meeting on Sunday June 14th at Nativity Lutheran Church at 7 pm. He noted the success of the Night in the Heights event.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described the dedication of the new flag recently installed at the Pagoda. She noted the volunteer work and contribution of numerous individuals to make this a reality. She also described the importance of having a flag at the Pagoda. She specifically thanked Fromm Electric for contributing all the electrical work required to complete this project.

Councilor Reed described the gorgeous video of the Pagoda taken by professional photographer John Secoges using a drone. The video can be viewed on the Council Facebook page.

Councilor Waltman announced the Centre Park Garden Tour on June 20th. He stated that tickets are available in advance.

Council President Acosta thanked Commissioner Barnhardt, Alan Piper, Ryan Hunter, the City Clerk and St Mark's UCC for their work to organize the neighborhood meeting last week about the pending closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge.

Council President Acosta described the event held to honor the top 10 academic students in each grade at RHS.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk