

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 27, 2015**

Council Vice President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Chris Daubert.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting held before the start of this meeting did not include an executive session.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilor Daubery, 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  
Solicitor C. Younger  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Managing Director C. Snyder  
Mayor V. Spencer

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

The following were issued:

- Council commendation L'Officiel Family Hair Center, accepted by Gerald Sauppee
- Council commendation recognizing Recreation Month, accepted by Reading Recreation Commission Executive Director Daphne Klahr
- Council commendation for Dale Sweigart, President of the Hillside Playground Association
- Presentation of check to Rec Commission by Hillside Playground Assoc.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Vice President Waltman stated that there are five (5) 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 participation regulations adopted by Council to those

present.

**Ricardo Nieves, of Northmont Blvd,** was not present.

**Brenda Kasprewski, of Seiberts Court,** deferred to Justus James.

**Richard Kasprewski, of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street,** stated that AFSCME employees were originally told that Act 47 would benefit employees. He expressed the belief that there is no benefit to employees, as there have been wage freezes and positions cut resulting in underpaid and overworked employees, as remaining employees have had to absorb the duties of the eliminated positions. He also noted that in addition to pay freezes employees have had to also absorb increases in various expenses such as parking and health care fees. He stated that originally AFSCME was told that they need to feel the pain.

**Felix Freytiz, of Carroll Street,** stated that he is currently President of AFSCME 2763 and he asked the administration to respond to this question - When will the elimination of rank and file positions end?

**Justus James, of AFSCME,** stated that there are currently 56 rank and file positions unfilled, which impedes Public Work's ability to perform basic public services. He stated that management salary increases were generated from unfilled management positions. He inquired why AFSCME cannot use the savings from the 56 unfilled positions to provide salary increases to AFSCME employees.

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

Council Vice President Waltman called Council's attention to the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting. He stated that the Resolution making the appointment to RAWA is withdrawn.

**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** – for Construction Management and Project Management at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

**B. Resolution 64-2015** – authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit a Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant application to request funding (\$910,099.00) of the total project cost (\$1,820,197.00) for improvements to be made at the Schuylkill River Trail ***Tabled at July 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting***

**C. Resolution 66-2015**– authorizing the submission of a Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant application to request funding (\$1,051,500.00) of the total project cost (\$1,500,000.00) for improvements to be made at Skyline Drive. ***Tabled at July 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting***

**D. Resolution 69-2015** - providing CDBG HOME Funding for the Homes at Riverside at \$100,000 from available FY 2014 funding and moving \$100,000 of funds allocated to Habitat for Humanity to FY 2015.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

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

- The Fire Department did not respond to any working fires over the past few weeks; however, they did assist with working fires in two neighboring municipalities
- Smoke Detectors can be obtained from the Fire Marshall

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2015 Admissions Tax
- 2015 Franchise Fee collection
- 2015 Pension Audit showing 734 retirees in 2015, compared to 719 in 2014

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

None.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

### **Pending for Further Review**

**C. Bill No. 33-2015** – Amending Chapter 5 Administrative Code of the City Code Part § 5-303 entitled “Severance” by addressing accrued vacation time for Department Directors

**D. Bill No. 34-2015** – 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.

**A. Bill No. 37-2015** - re-enacting local firearms regulations, in part, located within Chapter 219 and repealed by Bill No. 2-2015 ***Introduced at the July 13 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 37-2015.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the reinstatement of these local regulations does not prohibit the use of a firearm for the “defense of person or property”. She stated that the local regulations speak to the haphazard use of firearms. The Solicitor affirmed.

**Bill No. 37-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, - 6**

**Nays: – None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 38-2015** - authorizing the transfer of \$4,417,085.00 from Fringe Benefits accounts ending in 4900 that include other Post Employment benefits to accounts ending in 4914 to identify both medical and prescription expense benefits associated with retired employees. This transfer has zero effect on All Funds Budgeted Spending ***Introduced at the July 13 regular meeting***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 38-2015.**

The Managing Director stated that this amendment will separate retiree health care costs from that of active employees which will aid in the ongoing analysis of these expenses.

**Bill No. 38-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 6**

**Nays: – None - 0**

**C. Bill No. 39-2015** - amending the City Code, Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Section 5-701 Duties of City Health Officer as attached ***Introduced at the July 13 regular meeting***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 39-2015.**

The Managing Director explained that these changes modernize the duties of the health officer so they are in compliance with current legislation.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz complimented City staff for recognizing the need to include hoarding in the health officers duties.

**Bill No. 39-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 6**

**Nays: – None - 0**

**D. Bill No. 40-2015** - amending the City of Reading Code of Ordinances, Chapter Street 508 Streets and Sidewalks, Part 7 Street Cut Permits, as attached in Exhibit A ***Introduced at the July 13 regular meeting; Advertised July 20<sup>th</sup>***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No.40-2015.**

The Managing Director stated that this amendment addresses, in part, gas meter relocation

and the concerns expressed by residents at the last meeting. She stated that this amendment is the first step in addressing this multifaceted issue.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need to observe how UGI performs the meter relocations in other municipalities.

Council Vice President Waltman announced that the citizen/staff group will meet again next Tuesday to continue working on this issue. He thanked City staff for their work on this complicated issue. He noted the need for the administration to take the lead on this issue.

**Bill No. 40-2015 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman – 6**

**Nays: – None - 0**

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz read the following ordinances into the record:

**A. Ordinance** - re-enacting local firearms regulations, in part, located within Chapter 219 and repealed by Bill No. 2-2015

**B. Ordinance** - authorizing the transfer of \$4,417,085.00 from Fringe Benefits accounts ending in 4900 that include other Post Employment benefits to accounts ending in 4914 to identify both medical and prescription expense benefits associated with retired employees.

This transfer has zero effect on All Funds Budgeted Spending

**C. Ordinance** - amending the City Code, Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Section 5-701 Duties of City Health Officer as attached

**D. Ordinance** - amending the City of Reading Code of Ordinances, Chapter Street 508 Streets and Sidewalks, Part 7 Street Cut Permits, as attached in Exhibit A.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 70-2015** – reappointing William Harst to the Zoning Hearing Board

**B. Resolution 71-2015** – reappointing Heminton Candelario-Urena to the Blighted Property Review Committee

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution Nos. 70 and 71-2015.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the skills of those being reappointed.

Councilor Reed stated that Mr. Urena has been a contributing member of the BPRC almost since its inception.

**Resolution Nos. 70 and 71-2015 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 6**

**Nays: None - 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Marmarou stated that the CHCC is holding a National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at College Manor pool.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of recreation to build a strong community. She congratulated the Reading Rec Commission and Ms. Klahr on their many successes. She noted the positive logo on the tee shirts "I make Reading look good". She stated that good recreation programs benefit kids who go on to be tomorrow's leaders.

Councilor Reed provided an update on the activities of Crime Watch and the Penn Street Posse.

Councilor Sterner thanked the Rec Commission for all they do to provide positive programming for all citizens. He noted that it is unfortunate that the Hillside Playground Association is ending. He stated that those in the Association did a great job for many years. He thanked those who stepped up to perform those services.

Councilor Reed described the great effort that include several people, along with the RHS Girls Basketball team this past Sunday on Penn Street.

Council Vice President Waltman congratulated Reading Pride for the great celebration in Centre Park two Sundays ago. He also thanked Public Works for their assistance in readying the Park for the Celebration.

Council Vice President Waltman announced the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

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

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