

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
August 10, 2015**

Council Vice President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. John Francis, Christ Episcopal Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting held before the start of this meeting included an executive session on litigation.

ATTENDANCE

Councilor Daubery, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2 (via telephone)

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

- There were no proclamations or presentations at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Vice President Waltman stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to address Council; one (1) on non-agenda matters and two (2) on 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.

Peter Sutliff, of North 5th Street, stated that he is a former chair of the HARB and a resident of a historic district. He thanked Council for introducing the amendment to the Historic District Ordinance to include gas meters and improving the regulations for historic districts.

He expressed the belief that the PUC's ruling does not provide ample consideration to properties within historic districts.

Vince Rosado, of North 13th Street, read the Preamble of the US Constitution and expressed his understanding of the Constitutional right of Freedom of Speech. He suggested that Council stop enacting legislation without listening to the voice of the people. He expressed the belief that Council members should pass annual budgets that do not contain self interests. He suggested that those who cannot put their self interests aside should resign.

Stefan Kosikowski, of South 11th Street, expressed concern with the process that will be used by the Democratic and Republican parties to select candidates for the Council President seat for the November General election. He asked Council to attempt to make sure that the City Committees influence the selection process, as only the City electorate will be voting for that position. He expressed the belief that some members of the County Democratic Committee have no respect for the City or those who reside there.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council Vice President Waltman called Council's attention to the minutes of the July 27^h meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting. He stated that the administration has requested the addition of a consent agenda resolution regarding the funding for the Skyline Drive paving project and he suggested adding a resolution appointing a Council Vice President.

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the agenda as amended, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, as amended and the minutes as listed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract - none

B. Resolution 72-2015 - respectfully requesting that the Pennsylvania DEP work with U.S. EPA officials to develop a plan to reduce carbon pollution from Pennsylvania's power plants to exceed its Clean Power Plan target, and that maximizes the potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency

C. Resolution 73-2015 - authorizing (1) City designation of matching funds for Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for Skyline Drive improvements and (2) designation of signatory for grant administrative report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- Update on fires within the City over the last three (3) weeks

- Update on the MS4
- Update on the completion of the digesters at the WWTP
- Rebid of the Liquid and Solids portion of the WWTP project on August 20th
- Passing of William “Gus” Giddens

Council Vice President Waltman asked all present for a moment of silence for Mr. Giddens and his family.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

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

- Report on the capital spending at the WWTP will occur at the August 17th Finance Committee meeting
- Report on the receipt of \$42,770 from the State Snow/Ice Grant
- Update on the 2014 external Audit

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Pending Additional Review Required

Bill No. 31-2015 – Amending Chapter 5 Administrative Code of the City Code Part § 5-303 entitled “Severance” by addressing accrued vacation time for Department Directors ***Introduced at the June 8 regular meeting***

Bill No. 32-2015 – 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 ***Introduced at the June 8 regular meeting***

Pending Required Notice and Public Hearing

Ordinance – authorizing the extension of the Downtown Improvement District (DID) for a five year period and authorizing the execution of the agreement between DID and the City ***Introduced at the July 27 regular meeting; Advertisement scheduled for August 3rd***

A. Bill No. 41-2015 – amending City Code Chapter 576 “Vehicles And Traffic,” Part 5 “Parking Meters” to add kiosks as an acceptable type of parking meter, to add electronic payment as an acceptable form of payment for parking and to authorize the Reading Parking Authority, by resolution, to lower the maximum rates established by the City of Reading and establish the periods of time for parking ***Introduced at the July 27 regular meeting; Advertised August 3rd***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 41-2015.

Councilor Daubert stated that this ordinance does not expand the enforcement area. The ordinance only modernizes the methods used to make parking payments.

Bill No. 41-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

B. Bill No. 42-2015 – amending Chapter 212 Part 144. Vehicles and traffic by adding a maximum per hour parking rate ***Introduced at the July 27 regular meeting; Advertised August 3rd***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 42-2015.

Council Vice President Waltman explained that the maximum charge can be \$2 per hour which is the rate charged at the State Lot located at 7th and Penn Streets. He noted that the amendment provides flexibility to the Parking Authority Board and improves the management of parking.

Councilor Reed noted that the Executive Director of the Parking Authority has promised that the meter rate will not raise above \$1.50 per hour until studies are completed and considered by the Parking Authority Board.

Bill No. 42-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Nays: – None - 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council Vice President Waltman read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – amending the Fee Schedule, City Code Chapter 212, Section 123 Police Department, by reducing the cost of a certified police report to that mandated by the State ***Advertisement scheduled for Aug 17th***

B. Ordinance – amending the Fee Schedule, City Code Chapter 212, Section 140, Streets and Sidewalks Pavement Restoration, Premature Degradation and Steel Plate Fees ***Advertisement scheduled for Aug 17th***

C. Ordinance – amending the City Code, Chapter 295, Historical and Conservation Districts by adding regulations relating to the installation of gas meters within historic districts ***Advertisement scheduled for Aug 17th***

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 74-2015 – reappointing Elsayed Elmarzouky to the Police Civil Service Board

B. Resolution 75-2015 – appointing Pamela Johnson to the Police Civil Service Board

C. Resolution 76-2015 – appointing Zelda Yoder to the Human Relations Commission

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution Nos. 74-76-2015.

Councilor Marmarou noted the skills of those being appointed and reappointed.

Resolution Nos. 74-76-2015 were adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

Council Vice President Waltman asked the Solicitor to handle the adoption of Resolution 77-2015.

D. Resolution 77-2015 – appointment of the Council President

The Solicitor opened nominations for Council President.

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to nominate Jeffrey Waltman.

The Solicitor inquired if there were other nominations. No other nominations were made and the Solicitor closed nominations.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 77-2015, appointing Jeffrey Waltman as Council President.

Councilor Reed expressed support for the appointment of Council Vice President Waltman to this new position due to his proved leadership and experience. She expressed the belief that Council Vice President Waltman has the ability to lead Council through this rough period.

Councilor Daubert agreed and noted that he appreciates what Council Vice President Waltman contributes to Council.

Councilor Sterner echoed the previous comments and noted the Council Vice President's

strong leadership.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stressed the importance of Council maintaining the highest ethical standards. She expressed her belief in the skill and leadership of Council Vice President Waltman.

Council Vice President Waltman thanked his colleagues for their support during these trying times. He stated that although the City and certain individuals are experiencing trying times, Council needs to move forward and continue its work.

Resolution No. 77-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

D. Resolution 78-2015 – appointment of a Council Vice President

Council President Waltman opened the floor for nominations.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to nominate Donna Reed as Council Vice President.

Council President Waltman asked if there were other nominations. As no further nominations were made, the nominations were closed.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that Councilor Reed has the experience, skill and leadership required to fill this position. She also noted her good working relationship with members of Council.

Councilor Sterner expressed his belief in the leadership of Councilor Reed.

Council President Waltman agreed that Councilor Reed has the necessary skills and he also noted their agreement to hold each other accountable.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 78-2015, appointing Donna Reed as Council Vice President.

Resolution No. 78-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Reed noted the trying times that various some public officials are dealing with. She expressed her sympathy to the Acosta family and she expressed hope that the law will prevail over this and related matters.

Councilor Daubert noted that the City is greater than any one person and that the City is not defined by the actions of one person.

Council President Waltman expressed the belief that all humans make mistakes. He suggested that we assist those who make mistakes rather than walking away from them. He suggested refraining from judgment and continue to build on the positive.

Council 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