

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
August 24, 2015

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Danny Moore, lay pastor, Holy Trinity Church of God.

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

Council President Waltman
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
City Auditor D. Cituk
Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Managing Director C. Snyder
Mayor V. Spencer

Council President Waltman stated that Councilor Daubert was excused from the meeting to attend to a personal matter. He noted that the District 6 seat is currently vacant.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council recognized:

- I Lead Students for work to beautify Penn Street
- Members of the Girls Basketball team for their work to beautify Penn Street
- Lori Kaplan and Pier Ignozzi Shafer for their work to beautify Penn Street

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Waltman 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 Reed read the public participation regulations adopted by Council to those present.

Judy Nuss, of Wernersville Road, was not present.

Melissa Singleton, of Franklin Street, asked Council to consider increasing the salaries of the City's crossing guards. She noted that crossing guards in other municipalities are paid \$11 per hour, compared to the salary of \$7 per hour here in Reading.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Waltman called Council's attention to the minutes of the August 10th meeting, and to the agenda for this meeting.

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. Award of Contract – for Furnishing Bituminous Materials and Asphalt Cements for Pick-up to South Reading Blacktop, Division of Reading Materials, Birdsboro, PA, low bidder. The unit prices submitted for an estimated total bid price of \$128,475.00 for 2015. The total is based upon estimated usage. The actual expenditure may be greater or less than the estimate.

B. Resolution 79-2015 – approving the conditional use permit for 841-845 North 8th Street with conditions.

C. Award of Contract – to Spotts Brothers, Inc, Schuylkill Haven, at a total submitted bid price of \$308,468.50 for various improvements to the 11th and Pike Playground for the Departments of Public Works and Community Development. Spotts Brothers, Inc. is the low bidder to meet the specifications.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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

- Recent fires at the Evergreen Power Plant, 533 South 6th Street and 102 Neversink Road
- Receipt of a Mission Lifetime award for the EMS Division from the American Heart Association
- Update on the baler project

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- Report on the collection of the 2015 Admissions Tax
- Report on the collection of the 2015 Transfer Tax
- Report on the collection of the Traffic Fines and Motor Vehicle Codes fees
- Thanking the Reading Parking Authority for their financial contribution

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; Public Hearing Scheduled for Sept 8th***

A. Bill No. 43-2015 – – 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***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 43-2015.

Council President Waltman explained that this ordinance reduces the cost of the police report, as required by State statute.

Bill No. 43-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5

Nays: – None - 0

B. Bill No. 44-2015 – – 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***

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 44-2015.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to amend the fees

by half.

The amendment to Bill No. 44-2015 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5

Nays: – None - 0

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 44-2015 as amended.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of adding fees to address the steel plates used during street construction projects.

Bill No. 44-2015 as amended was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5

Nays: – None - 0

C. Bill No. 45-2015 – – 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*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 45-2015.

Bill No. 45-2015 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman - 5

Nays: – None - 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Waltman read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance –amending the City Code by reducing the cost of sidewalk sale permits in Chapter 212, Fee Schedule, Part 131 Sidewalk Sale and Sidewalk Café Permits

B. Ordinance – amending the City Code, Chapter 62, Part by aligning the police pension plan with the City’s Financial Recovery Plan and the 2012 collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Reed noted the challenges faced by the crossing guards while they work to protect our children. She pledged to attempt to address the disparity in salaries during the upcoming budget discussions.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need to address the salaries of the crossing guards noting the many hazards they face daily.

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