



# CITY COUNCIL

## Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, September 19, 2016  
Meeting Report

**Attendance:** S. Marmarou, J. Slifko,  
**Others Attending:** B. Rivera

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

### I. Interviews

#### Mark Pinkasavage (reappointment – Electrician’s Examining Board)

Ms. Rivera stated that Mr. Pinkasavage had other commitments to tend to and questioned if his interview may start promptly on time. Mr. Marmarou concurred.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if meeting attendance would be difficult for Mr. Pinkasavage to which Mr. Pinkasavage responded that he would not have any issues with attendance. Mr. Pinkasavage stated that, if reappointed, this would be his third term on the Board of which he’s attended roughly 90 percent of all board meetings.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if there were any significant issues the Board considered during his terms.

Mr. Pinkasavage stated that he believes the Board has effective governance over who takes the tests required to become a licensed electrician; however, he feels that the difficulty is making sure that everyone who does electrical work is licensed to do so. He stated that the Electrical Inspector is overwhelmingly busy and he does quite a fine job but there are always a few that fall through the cracks and perform electrical work without being licensed.

Mr. Slifko arrived at this time.

Mr. Slifko questioned if there is a way to address the influx of unlicensed individual performing electrical work.

Mr. Pinkasavage stated that he's unsure as he gets many phone calls by friends and acquaintances that will tell him there are individuals that are coming in from out of state performing electrical work without licenses. He stated that he reports this information to Mr. Waldman who, in his opinion, does as much as he can to investigate these reports but unfortunately his workload is quite heavy.

Mr. Marmarou suggested that the information by the Board get forwarded to the legal staff who may be able to alleviate some of the problem.

Mr. Pinkasavage stated that he will bring this to the attention of board members at the next meeting.

Mr. Slifko questioned what requirements are needed to take the test in order to become a licensed electrician.

Mr. Pinkasavage explained the process stating that an individual has to have a defined number of hours documented in schooling and or performing electrical work under a Master Electrician before they can take the test.

Mr. Slifko questioned if the board has authority to "police" those circumstances where there is unlicensed work being performed. Mr. Pinkasavage responded that unfortunately the board does not have that authority and all that can be done is to alert the inspector of these situations.

**The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Mark Pinkasavage to the Electrician's Examining Board.**

**Josephina Encarnacion (Appointment – RAWA)**

Mr. Marmarou stated that this was not on the agenda but was brought forward by the Mayor. He questioned if being on the board is something she has been contemplating for some time.

Ms. Encarnacion stated that she was approached about submitting her application for this Board some time back but she did not pursue it until now because she was focused on getting acclimated with her duties at City Hall in the positions she currently holds. She stated that she now feels comfortable enough to devote time to being on the Board and is very interested in doing so.

Mr. Slifko questioned what Ms. Encarnacion feels is the purpose of this Board. Ms. Encarnacion stated that the Board's main responsibilities are to supply its citizens with quality water and to oversee the checks and balances of the operation; making certain ordinances are abided by.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why the interest in serving on this Board. Ms. Encarnacion stated that she had served on the Housing Authority and had experience as a board member. She stated that she also served on the Service Access Management (SAM) Board in which she held chair on that Board. She stated that her interest in serving on RAWA is as a consumer and a citizen of Reading. She stated that she understands the frustration that consumers feel when they review their bill and do not understand the fees associated with their service. She is hoping to assist in addressing those concerns in ways that will maintain revenues without being detrimental to consumers.

Mr. Slifko commended Ms. Encarnacion on her expectations of being a RAWA Board member and stated that some of the procedures used by RAWA are vexing to him. There was some discussion on how he was billed according to the size of his water pipes which he didn't quite understand regardless of the explanation given. Mr. Slifko also mentioned the Masano issue that was in the newspaper stating that the dealership was being charged to the tune of \$9,000 per month for a building that was not in use.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the meeting dates would interfere with Ms. Encarnacion's employment in City Hall.

Ms. Encarnacion stated that this should not be an issue as the meeting dates and times are set to change in the near future and will be more accommodating to her work schedule.

Mr. Marmarou questioned what Ms. Encarnacion feels that RAWA does well. Ms. Encarnacion responded that from the perspective of a citizen serviced by RAWA, she has always had water service and if she's had issues with her bill, she has always been satisfied with how those issue have been resolved. She stated that she feels RAWA has taken a more proactive approach in recent months by itemizing their consumers billing statements in an effort to make them more consumer friendly. She stated that this has led to consumers being more engaged and wanting to know more about how they are billed. She stated that another area where RAWA has done well is in creating an online feature where consumers, especially the millennials, can pay their bills online and view their accounts in the same manner.

Mr. Slifko agreed and expressed the belief that a great part in why consumers are more engaged is due to all the media attention surrounding RAWA in recent months.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he doesn't understand why RAWA went through all the trouble of building such a beautiful building and not allowing consumers to pay their bills at that location. He stated that he did receive an explanation from RAWA to this inquiry but doesn't agree with it.

Mr. Slifko questioned if Ms. Encarnacion perceives it may be a conflict of interest to serve on this Board while being an employee of the City of Reading.

Ms. Encarnacion stated that she is of the belief that it would not negatively affect either position as one is very separate from the other and she will exercise independent judgement with each. She stated that if she would be appointed to serve on this Board, she feels her responsibilities are to bring integrity, good character, and knowledge in all decisions made by the Board as a member.

**The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Josephina Encarnacion to the Reading Area Water Authority.**

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
*Bea Rivera,*  
Legislative Aide