

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
May 23, 2016

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Jack Williams, First Century Worship Center Association.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting included an executive session on personnel matters and litigation.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Waltman
Councilor Daubert, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Twyman, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Slifko, District 6
City Auditor D. Cituk
Acting City Solicitor T. Coleman
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Acting Managing Director C. Younger
Mayor W. Scott

Council Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to suspend the rules and calling the resolutions related to the appointment of the managing director and the police chief up for a vote. As there was no objection to the motion, the motion was deemed approved.

Council President Waltman announced that prior to the vote Council will hear public comment from those registered to address the appointments. The City Clerk stated that one person was registered to speak about the appointments.

Councilor Daubert read the public speaking rules.

Carlos Zayas, of South 11th Street, thanked Council for considering this candidate for police chief which will bring a positive change to the department. He stated that the appointment of a Latino chief welcomes diversity to the department. He noted the importance of training for police officers. He reminded Council about the DA's recent charges against a Reading officer

and suggested that training may prevent similar situations in the future. He stated that on duty officers should expect their actions to be video recorded and that officers should be held accountable for their actions.

There was no further public comment on the appointment resolutions.

A. Resolution 42-2016 – appointing Glenn Steckman as Managing Director *Tabled at the May 9 regular meeting*

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 42-2016.

Councilors Slifko stated that the City is fortunate to find a qualified candidate with Mr. Steckman's credentials to fill this role. He noted that Council needs to consider the qualifications of candidates nominated. He stated that while working for Easton, Mr. Steckman handled issues that we are experiencing here in Reading.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed that Reading is fortunate to attract a candidate of this caliber. She noted the import role Council has in appointing executive management.

Council Reed agreed that the candidate is qualified; however, she expressed disappointment that a proper executive search was not conducted. She noted the importance of a proper vetting process. She stated that she will support the appointment of this candidate.

The mayor stated that he checked Mr. Steckman's references. He expressed his belief in the skill and qualification of Mr. Steckman. He assured that everyone that Mr. Steckman will work openly with everyone and he encouraged Council to work on issues directly with Mr. Steckman.

Council President Waltman expressed the belief that Mr. Steckman will play a pivotal role in helping Reading exit Act 47.

Resolution No. 42-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman
President - 7**

Nays: None - 0

B. Resolution 44-2016 – appointing Andres Dominguez, Jr. as Chief of Police

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adopt Resolution No. 44-2016.

Councilor Reed stated that Mr. Dominguez is a Reading native and he brings an experience level that is well suited for the position.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Mr. Dominguez's skills are critical to the leadership needed to protect Reading's citizens.

Councilor Slifko expressed the belief that with these two (2) appointments, the administration is off to a good start.

The mayor welcomed Mr. Dominguez back to Reading. He noted that Mr. Dominguez stated during his interview that he wants to return home to make a difference. He expressed the belief that Mr. Dominguez will lead in a colorblind manner and that he will do well at engaging the community.

Council President Waltman agreed with all the comments made.

Resolution No. 44-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman
President - 7
Nays: None - 0**

Council President Waltman announced that Councilor Marmarou needs to be excused from the rest of the meeting due to a conflicting obligation.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Recognizing Historic Preservation Week
- Presentation of Preservation Awards by HARB
 - 730 Centre Ave., Inn at Centre Park. – Painting of exterior surfaces, roof replacement, copper gutter replacement.
 - 812 N. 4th St. – Painting of exterior surfaces.
 - 727-729 N. 5th St. – Painting of exterior surfaces and the restoration of wood balustrades.
 - 623 N. 4th St. – Roof replacement.
 - 1624 N. 15th St. – Roof replacement and overall maintenance of the property.
- Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
- Recognizing Lupus Awareness Month, accepted by Annette Boynes from the Flowers for Lupus Foundation

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Waltman stated that there are sixteen (16) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired 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.

Council President Waltman reminded those registered to speak about the public speaking rules read earlier in the meeting.

Adanjesus Marin, of Washington St., stated that he represents Make the Road PA and he submitted 1200 postcards signed by residents who support the Municipal ID program. The program would provide municipal IDs for residents who cannot obtain the legal forms of identification required to attend to general life issues such as opening bank accounts, obtaining prescription meds, picking up children from school, etc. He expressed the belief that the adoption of this program would show that Reading welcomes all citizens. He asked Council to adopt the program like 30 other cities across the nation.

David Kozak, of South 5th Street, stated that he moved to Reading when he was reassigned to a local parish. He expressed the belief that having a Municipal ID will provide citizens with human dignity. He expressed the belief that there are currently two (2) classes of citizens in Reading and the cards will unite those classes.

Bernardo Carbajal, of North 5th Street, expressed his belief in the Municipal IDs as the program will recognize and support all in the community. He noted that the lack of an ID jeopardizes a citizens access to basic services.

Marvin Hernandez, of North 3rd Street, stated that he supports the Municipal ID program as it would provide all citizens with the ability to have some form of identification. He asked Council to support the program.

Patricia Uribe, of Franklin Street, expressed hope that the community of faith and all citizens will support the Municipal ID program proposed.

Jose Ortiz, of Schuylkill Avenue, stated that he moved to the United States from Puerto Rico and he relayed what he learned during a drive to Mexico City. He stated that he supports the proposed Municipal ID program.

Mary Ellen Davidson, of Mulberry Street, was not present.

Rafael Nunez, of Reading, stated that he has been teaching for 13 years. He stated that the lack of acceptable ID prevents students from taking the GED test.

Adela Rodriguez, of Penn Street, expressed the belief that the people of Reading makeup Reading's garment. She stated that having a Municipal ID will alleviate struggles for those

without access to IDs.

Ernesto Lujan, of Washington Street, stated that he supports the Municipal ID program as it will provide basic life needs for citizens currently without access to IDs.

Luis Vera, of Gordon Street, asked Council to adopt the proposed Municipal ID program that will provide basic services to citizens as it does in the other 30 cities across the nation that have adopted the program.

Abraham Cepeda, of North 8th Street, stated that he supports the proposed Municipal ID program as it provides access to those who cannot currently obtain an ID. He described the need for identification in everyday life and relayed a personal story when he left his ID behind.

Chuck Broad, Executive Director of DID, distributed the 2015 DID Report. He stated that DID was reauthorized in late 2015 for another five (5) year period without an increase in the assessment rate. He noted that the assessment rate has not increased since 2005 and he described how DID works to cut costs and operate within their budget. He stated that the reauthorization of DID allowed DID to enter into a five (5) year contract for ambassador services to keep the downtown vital and attractive. He described the economic improvements in the downtown area over the past few years and he predicted that improvements will continue moving forward. Mr. Broad's comments were also relayed in Spanish by his Administrative Assistant.

Chris DiAnna, of Bingaman Street, distributed information pertaining to the development of a Dollar Store at 6th and Bingaman over the past four (4) months. He described the negative impact this new store will have on the area. He stated that the sidewalk installed in the alleyway will create problems for those who access their businesses from the alleyway. He stated that approximately 26 parking spaces will be lost due to the proposed truck docking area. He stated that the developer has refused to make the requested changes even though the changes would lower the cost of the project.

Luis Castillo, of Bingaman Street, described the problems that will be created if the proposed sidewalk is placed in the alleyway in the 6th and Bingaman neighborhood. He stated that the changes will harm his ability to move merchandise into his business which will create an economic hardship for him.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Waltman called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes from the May 9th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to add the following pieces of

legislation:

- Resolution appointing an ex officio member to the Stadium Commission
- Resolution notifying RAWA of the intent to dissolve the authority
- Resolution in support of pension reform
- Ordinance dissolving RAWA
- Ordinance creating the Reading Regional Water Authority

No member of Council objected to the additions to the agenda.

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the minutes from the May 9th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, as amended, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution No. 43-2016 - appointing William Farmer as a firefighter/EMT for the Fire Department

B. Resolution No. 45 - 2016 - authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement to transfer the City's former Micro-Loan Program to the Community First Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The mayor stated that he looks forward to working with both the managing director and police chief.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- 2016 Admissions Tax/Fee
- 2012-16 Transfer Tax

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Ordinance 17-2016 - authorizing Berks EIT, as the City's tax collector, to engage one or more third-party collection agencies to pursue and collect delinquent Tax and apply a fee for the use of a third-party collection agency provided that the fee does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of Tax collected from any such Taxpayer ***Introduced at the April 25 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to table Bill No. 17-2016.

Bill No. 17-2016 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6
Nays: None - 0

B. Bill No. 19-2016 – setting the salary of the Managing Director at \$105,000 ***Introduced at the May 9 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 19-2016.

Bill No. 19-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6
Nays: None - 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

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

A. Ordinance – setting the salary of the Police Chief at \$105,000

B. Ordinance – amending the 2016 Position Ordinance and the 2016 Annual Operating Budget to add the position of Deputy Chief under Police Administration and setting the salary for the Deputy Chief at the amount received by a Captain

C. Ordinance – dissolving RAWA

D. Ordinance – creating the Reading Regional Water Authority

RESOLUTIONS

C. Resolution 46-2016 – reappointing Valerie Phelps-Robinson to the Human Relations Commission

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adopt Resolution No. 46-2016.

Resolution No. 46-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6
Nays: None - 0

D. Resolution 47-2016 – requesting the legislators of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all actions required to enact HB 414 (PN 2545) which provides responsible pension

reform

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adopt Resolution No. 47-2016.

Councilor Slifko provided background on the need for pension reform. He explained that the initial reform is focused on police and fire pensions. Under the reform new hires would be placed into a defined contribution plan, rather than the current defined benefit plan. He explained the costs that municipalities are exposed to under the defined benefit plan and that currently this cost is equal to 17% of the City's budget.

Councilor Daubert explained that the cost of the program is in no way the fault of the current employees or retirees.

Council President Waltman thanked Councilor Slifko for all the work he did on this issue.

Resolution No. 47-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6

Nays: None - 0

E. Resolution 48-2016 – notifying RAWA of the City's intent to dissolve the Authority

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 48-2016.

Resolution No. 48-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6

Nays: None - 0

F. Resolution 49-2016 – appointing Stratton Marmarou as the ex officio member of the Stadium Commission

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Twyman, to adopt Resolution No. 49-2016.

Councilor Slifko explained that an ad hoc member has no vote and attends meetings for informational purposes.

Resolution No. 49-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President - 6

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Daubert thanked the District 1 citizens for addressing their concerns about the proposed sidewalk in the alleyway in the 6th and Bingaman area. He expressed hope that the developer will provide a reasonable compromise.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Reading has many icons; however, the East Reading Pool is an icon that can no longer support itself. She noted the need to consider the reuse of this pool property.

Councilor Slifko stated that he looks forward to further consideration of the Municipal ID program.

Councilor Twyman thanked those attending the meeting tonight. He noted the importance of public participation in government.

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk