

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 25, 2016**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer, Trinity Lutheran Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilor Daubert, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

Councilor Twyman, District 3

Councilor Marmarou, District 4

Councilor Reed, District 5

City Auditor D. Cituk

City Solicitor C. Younger

City Clerk L. Kelleher

Managing Director G. Steckman

Mayor W. Scott

There was an executive session on litigation at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council President Waltman announced that Councilor Slifko was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Council issued a Commendation and the Mayor issued a Proclamation recognizing Park and Recreation Month, accepted by Recreation Commission Executive Director Daphne Klahr

Daphne Klahr, Executive Director of the Rec Commission, distributed the Rec Commission's annual report. She noted that the Rec Commission has received two (2) awards for excellence in the last three (3) years. She described the Rec Commission's staffing and programming and the dinosaur summer project. She noted that the staff are currently gearing up for the fall programs. She thanked the City's Public Works Department for their hard behind the scenes work that enables the Commission's work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman stated that there are four (4) 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.

Councilor Daubert read the public speaking rules that were adopted by Council.

**Ernie Schlegel, of Pear Street**, questioned the use of his name in the article “Full Speed Ahead” that appeared in the Sunday Reading Eagle. He questioned the claim that the former administration was about power and the new administration is about getting ahead. He noted his disappointment in the mean spirited talk.

**Wanda Negron, of Lackawanna Street**, described her recent experience with Vince’s Towing following a car accident. She questioned why the tow truck arrived at the scene before the ambulance. She also questioned the business practices and exorbitant fees charged by Vince’s Towing.

**Shelia Perez, no address listed on the signup sheet**, read from Charter Section X Boards and Commissions and Charter Section XI Citizen Participation. She once again put Council on notice.

**Crystal Kowalski, of Wyomissing**, noted her interest in decriminalization of parking tickets. She stated that she has been tracking the number of parking ticket cases that result in jail time.

## **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 July 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to approve the minutes from the July 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**A. Resolution 53-2016** – authorizing the disposition of records from the City Clerk’s office re expired contracts

**B. Award of Contract** – for Sulfur Dioxide 1 Ton Cylinders JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. 1765 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL in the amount of \$52,000.00

**C. Award of Contract** – for Liquid Chlorine 1 Ton Cylinders JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. 1765 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL in the amount of \$90,750.00

**D. Award of Contract** – for Sodium Hydroxide 25% Bulk to Brenntag Northeast 81 West Huller Lane Reading in the amount of \$23,460.00

**E. Award of Contract** – for Sodium Hydroxide 25% Totes to Brenntag Northeast 81 West Huller Lane Reading in the amount of \$15,136.80

**F. Award of Contract** – for Sodium Hypochlorite 15% Bulk to Univar USA Inc. 532 East Emaus Street Middletown, PA in the amount of \$53,000.00

**G. Award of Contract** – for Sodium Hypochlorite 15% Totes to Brenntag Northeast 81 West Huller Lane Reading in the amount of \$29,182.50

**H. Resolution 55**– authorizing the Mayor to execute the Certification of Unpaid Interim Tax Bills for 943 E. Laurel St. and 414A Minor St.

**I. Resolution 54**– authorizing the approval of a Sewage Planning Module revision for Radkra LLC's 1100 Rockland Street Student Housing project.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor gave an overview of the feasibility report prepared for the East Reading Pool. He noted the City's interest in acquiring the pool and converting it to a sprinkler park. He stated that the new park would cost approximately \$1M and he noted the importance of preserving this as a community resource.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2012-16 Real Estate Transfer Tax
- 2012-16 Admissions Tax
- 1997-2016 Cable Franchise Fee

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

- PennDOT Report re proposed traffic improvement project at 5<sup>th</sup> and Bingaman Street to Chestnut Street, to Perkiomen Avenue to the Mt Penn boundary line.

Representatives from PennDOT and PennDOT contractors made a presentation on the proposed paving projects for South 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Howard Street (boundary with Mt. Penn). They explained that the project will rehabilitate the roadway curb to curb. They stated that in locations where brick exists, the brick will be replaced with concrete. Curbs will also be replaced in some areas. The project, as it is curb to curb, will also replace the existing ADA ramps in approximately 46 locations. The project will be bid out in April 2017 and work is expected to begin in June 2017. The project is expected to take a year's time. They explained that the project boards on display will remain on display for one (1) week and the public will have the ability to provide comment on the project.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that the project will disrupt parking in an already stressed area. She suggested that PennDOT and the contractors work with the Parking Authority to provide options for the people who reside in the affected neighborhoods.

Councilor Reed questioned if property owners will be charged for the repair/replacement

work on the sidewalks and curbs, as property owners are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks and curbs. The contractor stated that the property owners will not be assessed a charge.

The Managing Director noted that there will be a tremendous amount of repaving in Reading over the coming year. He stated that the repaving projects start with the replacement of the ADA ramps in areas where repaving is done curb to curb. He noted that UGI will be assisting with the cost of some paving projects if they have performed utility work on the street.

A representative from Abilities in Motion noted the gaps located in some roadways and intersections that create a trip hazard.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

### **Pending additional information required**

**Bill No. 2016** – creating the Reading Regional Water Authority *Introduced at the May 23 regular meeting*

**Ordinance** – amending the City of Reading Code of Ordinances, Chapter 600 Zoning, Section 600-2111 Telecommunications Facility Exemptions *Introduced at the June 27 regular meeting; Advertised on June 28, July 18 and 25; Public Hearing scheduled August 1*

**A. Bill No. 22-2016** - 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 July 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 22-2016.**

**Bill No. 22-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 23-2016** – authorizing the transfer of funds from the Shade Tree budget to the Minor Capital budget for the purchase of a bucket truck, authorized in the 2015 budget *Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 23-2016.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for the replacement of the bucket truck that is

currently in use.

Councilor Twyman expressed the belief that the importance of the City's trees are overlooked. He noted the importance of trees in an urban community.

**Bill No. 23-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**C. Bill No. 24-2016** – authorizing the amendment of the 2016 Budget to add a PennDOT Reimbursement Grant for the Downtown Lighting Project ***Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 24-2016.**

**Bill No. 24-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**D. Bill No. 25-2016** – authorizing the addition of a budget item for the receipt of a grant from the State Fire Commissioners for the replacement of the Fire Department's nozzle and hoses ***Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 25-2016.**

**Bill No. 25-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**E. Bill No. 26-2016** – amending City Code Chapter 496 Solid Waste, Part 1 Dumpster by amending the definitions of Trash Can, Dumpster and Trash Can and deleting the definition of Container ***Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Twyman, to enact Bill No. 26-2016.**

Councilor Daubert stated that while this change will be helpful, it by itself is not the sole solution. He noted the importance of the upcoming consideration of the program used to

collect municipal waste.

Councilor Reed explained that this change will help the City secure better prices when municipal trash collection is bid out.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that this change is a step in the right direction. She noted the need for a strong and varied education program.

Councilor Twyman agreed with the importance of this discussion about trash collection and he agreed with the need for a strong educational component.

Council President Waltman commended the administration for getting this discussion started. He noted that Bill No. 27 below is a partner bill that addresses the Solid Waste ordinance.

**Bill No. 26-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

**F. Bill No. 27-2016** – amending City Code Chapter 496, Part 2 Solid Waste, Section 206 Storage of Municipal Waste requiring storage in containers and defining the type of trash bag that may be used for set out ***Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 27-2016.**

**Bill No. 27-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

**G. Bill No. 28-2016** – authorizing the use of the General Fund Reserve to pay off the balance of the 2010 unfunded debt bond in the amount of \$6,570,000 ***Introduced at the July 11 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 28-2016.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of the City's ability to pay this bond off early. She noted the City's progress under Act 47.

The managing director stated that paying the bond off will generate approximately \$1.2M in savings as the interest rate is 6%.

**Bill No. 28-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

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

**A. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer in the sewer reserve fund in the amount of \$1,141,326.69 for construction work to be performed on the digester.

**B. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer from the Agency Fund in the amount of \$20,000.00 to General Plant Supplies and amending the 2016 Agency Fund operating budget to allocate funds for the purchase of supplies for the K-9 and bicycle units through the use of public sector contributions.

**C. Ordinance** – amending City Code Chapter 576 Vehicles And Traffic, Part 5 Parking Meters, A Regulations by adding an Administrative Appeal Process Section 576-518 and repealing the imprisonment provision for default of payment in Section 576-517 (B).

**D. Ordinance** – adopting the 2016 Operating Budget of Community Development Fund 32 and authorizing the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,673,875.24 to fund projects and administrative operations.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Marmarou thanked those who provided support during the difficult period of moving his wife into a facility where she can safely reside.

Councilor Reed described the accident experienced by Councilor Slifko when he fell off a roof while performing volunteer work at Essig Playground for the Gilmore Henne Foundation. She noted that it was a miracle that he was not more severely injured.

Councilor Reed noted that her neighborhood was recently visited by the Parking Authority and a number of tickets were issued. She questioned why the tickets were issued as this area is not plagued by parking problems or heavy traffic. She suggested that changes in the application of parking regulations should be provided to residents before tickets are issued.

Councilor Twyman noted his pride in our law abiding police officers. He noted the need for increased fairness in the justice system. He stressed the need for public participation in Council

meetings. He also stressed the importance of municipal trash collection in Reading and the need for people to stop sweeping litter into the street as the street sweepers do not have the capability to remove litter from the streets.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the NAACP event planned for this Wednesday at the Alright Chapel will begin a community conversation on barriers for people of color. She noted the domestic violence issue that recently occurred in Reutlingen Germany, the City's Sister City. She noted the need for coordinated volunteer cleanups in a variety of areas prior to the September 10<sup>th</sup> bike race.

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule.

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

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