

City of Reading City Council
Regular Meeting
February 22, 2016

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by a representative of Rev. Robert Brookins, Holy Trinity Church of God.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting did not include an executive session.

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
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor W. Scott

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Waltman stated that there is one (1) citizen 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.

Ed Terrell, of Franklin Street, expressed the belief that he registered to talk about an agenda topic as he is addressing City Council. He noted the absence of a managing director over the past two (2) months and noted the importance of filling the position. He expressed the belief that City Council is part-time. He displayed certificates he requested for youth who assisted

with his mural project and he noted the certificates were mailed to an address he no longer resides at and are not signed. He stated that the certificates are unacceptable. He expressed the belief that the comments he makes at City Council meetings are uplifting.

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 February 8th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to add a resolution in support of the Barley Apartments located at 2nd and Chestnut Streets.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to approve the minutes from the February 8th 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

Pending - further review by the administration

A. Resolution No. 15-2016 - Ratifying the AFSCME 3799 Contract with First Level Supervisors

B. Resolution No. 2016 - approving the Settlement Stipulation in City of Reading vs. Elm View Apartments Limited Partnership (BCCCP No. 13-26845)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The mayor did not provide a written report to Council. He made comments to the audience, in summary:

The mayor stated that he recently met with County Commissioner Leinbach to discuss the acquisition of the train station. He also expressed his desire to acquire title to the former post office building located at 5th and Washington Streets. He stated that police patrol could be relocated to the former post office building, which would increase safety in the downtown. He described the problems with various Public Works related contracts that allow change orders. He stated that so far he has identified \$61M in overspending. A further report will be made at the next meeting. He stated that he has retained the services of the forensic auditor used by the FBI. The auditor will review records and decide if forensic audits are indeed needed.

The mayor asked to be excused from the meeting at this time.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the mayor for attending the site of the fire on South 16th ½ Street and for the follow up provided. She also thanked the police and fire departments for their hard work at the fire.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

- Report on the Real Estate Transfer Tax 2012-2015
- Report on the Snow and Ice Grant 2016
- Report on the Admissions Tax 2016
- Report on the Traffic Fines and Motor Code 2005-2015

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

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 6-2016 – eliminating the penalty section from the Curbside Waste Fee ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting; Advertised Feb 8th***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to enact Bill No. 6-2016.

Councilor Daubert explained that this is a housekeeping matter to remove the double penalty section.

Bill No. 6-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Bill No. 7-2016 – authorizes the transfer within the 2015 Department of Public Works, Division of Solid Waste & Recycling budget \$20,500.00 from Legal Services (56-07-46-4224) to Contracted Services (56-07-47-4216) for the purpose of covering funds for the last residential solid waste contracted service invoices of 2015 ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 7-2016.

Councilors Reed and Slifko stated that this transfer is a shift within the Enterprise fund, not the General Fund.

Bill No. 7-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Bill No. 8-2016 – amending City Code Chapter 23 Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils Part 4 First Energy Stadium Commission by adding liaisons from the Public Works Department and City Council ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Twyman, to table Bill No. 8-2016.

Bill No. 8-2016 was tabled by the following vote:

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

Bill No. 9-2016 – execution of a Right-of-Way to convey to the PennDOT, a right-of-way upon that portion of premises 0.0421 acres along State Route 625 in Cumru Township as attached in the exhibit ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting; Advertised Feb 8th***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to enact Bill No. 9-2016.

Councilor Reed explained that this piece of City owned land is located off the New Holland Road, near Dairy Queen. The City will receive compensation for the right of way.

Bill No. 9-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Bill No. 10-2016 – execution of a Temporary Easement for Construction Purposes to convey to PennDOT, a temporary construction easement upon that portion of premises p.056 acres along State Route 625 in Cumru Township as attached in the exhibit ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting; Advertised Feb 8th***

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to enact Bill No. 10-2016.

Bill No. 10-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

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

Bill No. 11-2016 – amending the City Code Fee Schedule Section 126 Property sales: certificate of transfer; health and safety inspections ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting; Advertised Feb 8th***

Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to table Bill No. 11-2016.

Bill No. 11-2016 was tabled by the following vote:

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

President - 7

Nays: None - 0

Bill No. 12-2016 – amending the 2016 Position Ordinance by replacing the Housing and Development Coordinator with a Community Development Coordinator in the Community Development Department ***Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting***

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 12-2016.

Bill No. 12-2016 was enacted by the following vote:

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

President - 7

Nays: None - 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances introduced at this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 17-2016 – authorizing the execution of a letter of support for the Barley Apartment project by Woda Construction

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 17-2016.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that this project will provide additional senior housing in Reading. She described the information shared by Woda Construction at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councilor Reed noted the success of this company in other municipalities.

Councilor Slifko stated that this project will convert a vacant lot into a productive tax paying

property. He expressed the belief that the project is well suited to this neighborhood.

Council President Waltman stated that this project will receive local funding from the 2016 CDBG HOME funds.

Resolution No. 17-2016 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Daubert commended Penn State University for raising \$9M in finds to support pediatric cancer research.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the recent activities at the Santander and Doubletree. She again thanked the police and fire departments for their hard work to handle the fire in District 2 over the past weekend.

Councilor Twyman expressed the belief that he and his Council colleagues are taking great care to make careful decisions and create solutions to improve Reading.

Councilor Twyman noted the positivity of those participating in this evening's meeting. He announced the plan to create a Citizens Initiative Committee.

Council President Waltman reviewed the Council meeting schedule.

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

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk