



City Council Activity Report April - May 2011

Councilors

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council

Francis Acosta, City Council District 1

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, City Council District 2

Dennis Sterner, City Council District 3

Stratton Marmarou, City Council District 4

Donna Reed, City Council District 5

Jeffrey Waltman, City Council District 6

Topics under Discussion and Consideration

City Business

- Enacted an ordinance **updating the City's financial policies** (section §1-186. Fiscal Provisions, Parts 2 and 3 of the Codified Ordinance book) regarding fund transfers and inter-fund borrowing.
- Seeking appointees to the **Citizens Advisory Board and Redistricting Committee**.
- Representatives from City Council, the Mayor's Office and Reading School District have drafted a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of a Recreation Commission** to run the City's recreation programs. The MOU is currently being reviewed by the City and District's legal counsel.
- Continued the **Sewer Fund Investigation**.
- **Created a CD Microloan Program**; however, discussions on the funding of the program continue.
- **Council President, Council Vice-President and City Clerk** attend bimonthly meetings with the Act 47 Coordinator and Administration to discuss and review the implementation of the Act 47 initiatives.
- Appealed the Charter Board's Final Order regarding **Initiative and Referendum**

Legislation under Consideration

- **Ordinance** - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 25 Trees, Part 25-104 Administration, by adding a new Section 4 Requirements For Tree Work Contractors and amending new Section 6 A by setting the number of members of the

Shade Tree Commission at Five (5), removing Section 110 requiring amendments to be made after Public Hearings are held and amending as necessary throughout as attached
(Council Staff/Shade Tree Commission)

- **Ordinance** – vacating the unopened portions of Eastman Road and Durham Street
(Law/Public Works)

Legislation Adopted

- **Ordinance 21-2011-** authorizing the Mayor to execute the lease between the City of Reading and the Reading Area Fire Fighters Museum, Inc. for premises located at 501 South 5th Street, Reading, Berks County, PA **(Law/Mayor)**
- **Ordinance 22-2011** setting forth the salary of the Chief of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services at \$80,000.00 per annum **(Man Dir)**
- **Ordinance 23-2011**– amending the City of Reading Full Time Position Ordinance by reducing the number of sergeant positions in the Police Department to 26 from 29. **(Police)**
- **Ordinance 24-2011** – amending the City of Reading Full Time Position Ordinance by adding one (1) Graffiti Abatement Manager in the Solid Waste Office **(Business Analyst)**
- **Resolutions** - making 11 appointments and reappointments to the City’s Boards, Authorities and Commissions
- **Resolutions** – authorizing the promotion of 11 police officers to the rank of Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant

Committee Discussion Topics

The President of Council serves as an ad hoc member of all committees

Finance Committee (Acosta, Chair; Waltman; Reed):

- Reviewed March and April **Cash Flow and Finance Reports**
- Received an update - Collection Report for **Delinquent Taxes and Misc Fines & Fees (RE01)** & developing strategy to improve **collection of EIT and Per Capita taxes**
- Reviewed the **Act 47 Recovery Plan**

- Requested that the **Major Systems Rehabilitation program** be created to offer 50% of the funding in the Ricktown area and 50% of the funding city-wide based on the income of the applicant
- Learned that **Comcast** has merged with NBC Universal and plans to provide an initiative that will offer discounted internet services to underprivileged families (those that qualify for the School District's free lunch program).
- Learned that the City's **pension ordinances** are not in compliance with IRS regulations

Public Safety Committee (Sterner, Chair; Goodman-Hinnershitz, Waltman):

- Reviewed **draft Certificate of Transfer and Housing Permit Ordinances**
- Received an update of the implementation of **Quality of Life Ticketing**.
- Received an update on **the Citizens Services Center**
- Learned that the need to hire a **Deputy Director of CD** is being re-evaluated

Public Works Committee (Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair; Reed, Marmarou)

- Assisted in the development of an integrated plan to address the **Buttonwood Gateway area**
- Reviewed various **traffic issues** including the correction of the multiple crosswalks at Albright College on Bern Rd and College Avenue
- Reviewed **lease agreements** with organizations that use City facilities.
- Received an update on the start of the Recreation Commission
- Received an update on the RAWA and UGI projects on Cotton Street
- Discussed seeking partnerships for the care and maintenance of City parks and playgrounds

Administrative Oversight Committee (Marmarou, Chair; Reed, Acosta):

- **Boards, Authorities & Commissions** – conducted 11 appointment and reappointment interviews and recommended 10 appointment and reappointment actions, where applicable, to the body of Council.