



# *CITY COUNCIL*

## ***Committee of the Whole***

**Monday, July 11, 2016**

**5:00 pm**

**Agenda**

*Although Council committee meetings are open to the public, public comment is not permitted at Council Committee of the Whole meetings. However, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe the meetings. Comment from citizens or professionals during the meeting may be solicited on agenda topics via invitation by the President of Council.*

*All electronic recording devices must be located behind the podium area in Council Chambers and located at the entry door in all other meeting rooms and offices, as per Bill No.27-2012.*

- I. Citizens' Initiative Committee**
- II. RAWA Dissolution Update**
- III. Angelica Park and the DCNR**
- IV. Agenda Review**
- V. Other Matters**



***COMMITTEE of the WHOLE***  
***CITY COUNCIL***

**MINUTES**  
**June 27, 2016**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Reed, J. Slifko, C. Daubert, J. Waltman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, B. Murray, D. Cituk, A. Palacios, G. Steckman, C. Castner, W. Scott, J. Encarnacion, C. Younger, P. Vasquez

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Mr. Waltman.

**I. Citizens' Initiative Committee**

No report.

**II. RAWA Dissolution**

Mr. Waltman announced the need for an executive session to discuss personnel issues related to RAWA. Council entered executive session at 5:08 pm and exited at 5:29 pm.

Mr. Waltman stated that Council has received a legal opinion regarding Councilors serving as members of the Water Authority. He stated that he now agrees with Ms. Reed, Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, and Mr. Daubert that this would not be in the City's best interest.

Mr. Slifko reminded all that all citizens including Council members have the right to attend meetings to observe.

Mr. Johnson arrived at this time.

**III. Angelica Park and DCNR**

Mr. Younger stated that there is no update.

Mr. Scott stated that positive work is happening on this project.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there is a change in perception at Angelica as Alvernia has begun using the park as its main entrance to campus. She stated that Alvernia is also replacing the bridge in the park and that this is a great partnership. She stated that work has begun on the Nature Center.

Mr. Waltman reminded all that Council did not approve the placement of the Alvernia sign at the main entrance to Angelica on Route 10. He stated that the park is no longer the focus of this area.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that it is a public street.

Mr. Waltman questioned if new signage would be installed. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the signage would remain the same. She stated that the small sign marking Angelica will remain. She stated that the Planning Commission approved the signage.

Mr. Johnson explained that the bridge work was funded through a state grant that Alvernia received. He stated that Public Works is monitoring the work very closely and that Alvernia received assistance on the grant from Rep. Caltagirone.

Mr. Waltman questioned if there would be additional changes. Mr. Johnson stated that the project is to repair the bridge and repave the street and the parking area.

Mr. Daubert stated that this is campus's dedicated entrance but that there is no limited access. The park is still fully public. He stated that Alvernia is also rerouting campus roads for accessibility.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the sign installation was a big issue.

Mr. Waltman stated that many residents were upset and that it was a trickle down process – loss of the lake, loss of use of the boathouse, and then the signage.

Mr. Daubert stated that Alvernia is also acquiring neighboring properties to expand campus.

Mr. Steckman suggested that the Planning Commission be reminded that all City permissions are necessary when approving plans.

Mr. Slifko questioned if the road in Angelica and the bridge are City property. Mr. Johnson stated that they are and that City crews plow and maintain them.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Alvernia is still not allowing other groups to use the baseball fields. He stated that there is high demand for the fields but no permission is granted.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the ballfield use was part of the triparty agreement at Angelica. Mr. Younger agreed. Ms. Katzenmoyer recalled that this was a separate agreement but that it was signed at the same time.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need to increase use at this ballfield.

Mr. Scott questioned if a Council resolution was needed allowing Alvernia to perform the bridge work. Mr. Younger stated that it was not.

Mr. Waltman stated that the signage issue was a very emotional one. He noted the need for the parkland to remain public and accessible.

Mr. Johnson stated that the appraiser has submitted a report and that he and Mr. Coleman have not yet reviewed it.

#### **IV. Agenda Review**

Mr. Waltman stated that three resolutions for police promotions will be added to the consent agenda and one ordinance to amend the Zoning Code will be added for introduction.

Council reviewed this evening's agenda including:

- Mayor's Report
  - East Reading Pool

Mr. Scott stated that someone is trying to purchase the East Reading Pool property. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the grass is being cut. She stated that there is a private citizen who wishes to purchase the property but that the City is moving forward with the feasibility study.

Mr. Waltman noted his hope that the property be managed by the Rec Commission. He stated that the City needs summer water recreation facilities and that the Hillside Pool should never have been lost.

Mr. Johnson stated that the study will show the structural integrity of the retaining wall, analyze the pool equipment, and design a splash park.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that if the retaining wall is not structurally sound it will affect the use of the entire property.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that it was already determined that the pool equipment was not operational. Mr. Johnson stated that he was unaware of this but that the study will confirm if it is.

Mr. Scott expressed the belief that if the property cannot become a splash park, that the City should retain control of the land.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the funds needed to keep the pool operational are substantial.

Mr. Waltman suggested that if the wall is not structurally sound that a water slide be installed.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the Police Beneficial Assn had paid to use the pool in the past.

- o Municipal ID program

Mr. Scott stated that he expects another large group in support of municipal IDs at this evening's meeting. He stated that he met with the group and their attorney and that they tried to engage him in debate. He stated that his opinion about this program has not changed. He explained that New York City IDs are already being counterfeited and the program is proving to be problematic. He stated that he told the group to have its supporters begin to pay the Per Capita Tax if they were supportive of the success of the City. He expressed the belief that if the program is created it will be difficult to enforce. He stated that this cannot be a political decision and that the public needs to hear the City's decision with an explanation.

Mr. Marmarou stated that PennDOT issues non-driver IDs to those who qualify but that documentation is necessary. He expressed the belief that the supporters do not have the necessary documentation and that he does not support the program.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that PennDOT ID requires a social security number or a rejection letter showing that the person does not qualify for a social security number. She stated that getting the letter would expose the person and put them at risk for deportation.

Mr. Daubert stated that it is interesting the number of municipalities who have created programs but then not implemented them. He stated that this is very telling and appears to him that the decision was politically motivated.

Ms. Kelleher stated that the lack of implementation is also due to the high cost of the program.

Mr. Waltman stated that a legal opinion was received and it is very clear that there concerns. He stated that the City cannot begin a program that is contrary to its solicitor. He stated that it is time to respond to the request.

Mr. Scott stated that organizers tried to approach him at home.

Mr. Slifko stated that the Council staff research was also excellent. He noted his concerns with staffing, the language in the draft regulations, and the legal issues. He stated that resolution to the immigration issue must be done at the federal level. He stated that those in the United States illegally cannot make themselves legal through a municipal ID. He stated that he does not support the program.

Mr. Scott stated that it is already proven that it is easy to falsify documents. He expressed the belief that if the program is created that officials must be able to share information with law enforcement.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that her opinion of the group changed when they walked out of the last meeting rather than listening to what they didn't want to hear.

Ms. Reed stated that this group also high-jacked the ceremony at Centre Park honoring the Orlando victims. She stated that many at the event were very offended.

Mr. Waltman stated that it is difficult for local municipalities to manage state and federal issues. He stated that this could cause larger problems and that this is not a core City issue.

There was discussion about when to comment on the program. It was decided to comment during the Mayor's report and that a unified statement would be read and released to the press.

Mr. Scott stated that it is important for people to understand the City's position. Mr. Slifko agreed and stated that this is a very complex issue.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that local officials are more accessible and that the group will continue its work.

## **V. Other Matters**

- Police Beneficial Picnic

Mr. Marmarou stated that the picnic will be held on Monday, July 18 and he requested that the Committee meetings be rescheduled to Tuesday, July 19 to allow Councilors to attend the picnic. He stated that another option is to have someone pick up items for take-out at 4 pm and eat during the meetings.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz voiced concern with rescheduling meetings. Mr. Slifko agreed and stated that meetings should only be rescheduled for extreme circumstances.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there may be a Nominations & Appointments Committee meeting that day at 4 pm.

- Reading 120 Bike Race

Mr. Scott voiced concern that the organizers wanted to serve alcohol in City Park. He stated that this makes him uncomfortable and asked for Council's opinion.

Ms. Reed stated that this would be highly monitored by organizers. She stated that there is a designated area with one entrance/exit and that wristbands are worn by those who can be inside.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the PA LCB would need to grant permission. She warned that this may encourage others to drink alcohol in all City parks.

Mr. Marmarou stated that a permit must be obtained from the PA LCB and additional insurance is required.

Mr. Daubert stated that there is alcohol in City Park during the Duryea Downhill and that it is well done and very closely monitored.

Mr. Waltman expressed the belief that this sets a bad example.

Ms. Reed expressed support if the organizer is responsible. Mr. Daubert agreed.

Mr. Waltman reminded all that the Police Chief oversees the special event permit process.

Mr. Marmarou stated that recently there was a large outdoor party on Lemon St and that the group stated they had the Mayor's approval. He stated that the Mayor did not approve and the party got out of control.

Mr. Waltman suggested that Council defer this decision to the Police Chief.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that PA LCB regulations must be followed.

Mr. Waltman noted his hope that participants would enjoy the fares at local restaurants.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the date of the race. Ms. Reed stated that it was September 10. Mr. Steckman stated that the City is working very closely with the organizers so that it is better planned this year.

- 5<sup>th</sup> & Oley and 5<sup>th</sup> and Douglass Intersections

Mr. Waltman stated that he received a letter about this project from Senator Schwank.

Mr. Slifko questioned where the City was in the process. Mr. Johnson stated that it is currently performing the warrant analysis.

Mr. Waltman stated that the letter indicated this project would not be part of the larger 5<sup>th</sup> St corridor project. Mr. Johnson agreed and stated that this would be its own separate project.

Mr. Slifko noted his hope that the larger project would be complete by the end of the summer.

Mr. Johnson stated that the work on the handicapped ramps at the intersections is being performed by PennDOT. He stated that this work is in preparation for future repaving projects.

- UGI

Council entered executive session to discuss pending litigation at 6:20 pm and exited at 6:33 pm.

- Reutlingen

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz reviewed the schedule. Ms. Katzenmoyer was asked to prepare a commendation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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

Drafted by	City Clerk/City Council
Sponsored by/Referred by	City Council
Introduced on	N/A
Advertised on	N/A

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 2016

The Reading City Council hereby resolves as follows:

**Whereas:** City Council creates a Citizen Initiatives Committee to improve the overall effectiveness of City government by:

- 1) Recommending policy changes or suggesting new policies to City Council; and
- 2) Suggesting operational improvements to the City Administration; and
- 3) To educate the general public on the mechanics of city government, as well as, the status of major issues being addressed by city government.

**Section A. Citizen Initiatives Committee Appointments:**

1. Two Members of City Council shall be appointed by City Council.
2. Three Citizens shall be appointed by the Mayor for 4 year terms. The terms of the initial members shall be staggered, with one member serving a term of one year, one member serving for two years, and one members serving for three years.
3. Six citizens, one citizen from each of the six (6) Council Districts shall be appointed by City Council for 4 year terms. The terms of the initial members shall be staggered, with two members serving a term of one year, two members serving for two years, and two members serving for three years.
4. All Members appointed after the initial term period defined in section 3 herein, shall serve a four (4) year term.
5. Each member shall continue to serve until a successor is duly appointed or until some other formal action is taken by Council.
6. Members may be appointed to successive terms with no term limits.
7. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum.
8. Any member absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings shall be recommended to Council for formal dismissal.
9. All appointees must have been City residents for a minimum of one (1) year prior to their appointment and they must remain a City resident to remain a viable member of the Citizens Initiative Committee

**Section B. Officers**

1. The committee will establish their own operational procedures and elect both a Chairman and

Vice Chairman to facilitate committee activities.

2. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall have the duties and powers normally invested in the Office of Chair. He/she shall enforce the adopted operational procedures and regulations of the Committee and shall be the official spokesperson for the Committee.
3. The Vice-Chair shall carry out the Chair's duties in case of absence, incapacity, or resignation.
4. The Committee shall elect a Secretary who will be responsible for keeping the official minutes of the Committee and for preparing all correspondence on behalf of the Committee.

**Section C. Meetings**

1. All Citizens Initiative Committee meetings shall adhere to State regulations as defined in the Act of June 3, 1986, P.L. 388, No. 84, known as the Sunshine Act,” 53 P.S. §271 et seq.
2. Regular meetings of the Committee shall be determined by the membership. Notices of meetings will be posted on the City of Reading website.
3. Minutes from meetings will be kept and copies of the meeting minutes will be sent to the City Clerk’s Office.

Adopted by Council on \_\_\_\_\_ 2016

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Jeffrey S. Waltman, Council President

Attest:

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Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk