

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 28, 2016**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Dino Koutroubas, Pastoral Assistant, Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting included an executive session on matters pertaining to personnel.

**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

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Oath of office by the City Clerk for to promotions within the Fire Department:
  - Lieutenant Ronald Banks
  - Lieutenant Emergency Michael Grow
  
- Council commendation recognizing Greek Independence Day

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman stated that there are two (2) 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.

**Ricardo Nieves, of Northmont Blvd.,** expressed the belief in the use of audits to expose indiscretions with public funds.. He expressed the belief that the use of audits can protect and improve various controls. He stated that now is not the time to do nothing as audits can help protect the public good.

**Tim Evans, of Douglassville,** was not present.

## **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 March 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to approve the minutes from the March 14<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 No. 25-2016** – authorizing Deputy Chief. Sean Hart to execute and submit the required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288 as amended by Public Law 100-707).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

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

The mayor stated that he plans to celebrate the RHS Boys Basketball Team annually by flying the flag for a month each March. He stated that he is currently exploring alternatives for bond consultants to save money. He stated that a group is preparing a film about urban communities. He stated that he met with two (2) of the three (3) County Commissioners about taking title to the train station at 7<sup>th</sup> and Franklin.

The mayor stated that he is exploring options for new security measures within the City's public buildings. He stated that he obtained prices for metal detectors with the Santander arena's estimate and he is consider upgrading the camera system at City Hall. He stated that he is considering an upgrade to the City's website and making repairs to the roofs at the City's public buildings.

The mayor asked Council to consider reinstating the position of Deputy Police Chief and he introduced Mr. Younger as the Acting Managing Director. He stated that he promoted

Josephina Encarnacion to Acting Administrative Services Director and moved Mr. Pottiger into the recently vacated Controller position. He stated that he has not yet made a final decision on the Police Chief candidate.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the mayor for his emphasis on public safety and asked him to consider looking at solutions to the vandalism at the Olivet building within Pendora and the illegal dumping at the skateboard area within Pendora. She also noted the increase in graffiti on the viaduct.

The mayor stated that he plans to have cameras installed in and around the Olivet area within Pendora. He noted that East Ends and the boxing program will be given notice to vacate. He stated that the boxing program will be relocated.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2012-16 Admissions Tax
- 2012-16 Real Estate Transfer Tax

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

None.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

### **Pending – Amendment requires additional layover period**

**E. Bill No. 16-2016** – providing for the addition of street parking restrictions along North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, near the intersections with Woodward, Douglass and Oley streets, in accordance with applicable PennDOT regulations *Introduced at the March 14 regular meeting*

**A. Bill No. 8-2016** – amending City Code Chapter 23 Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils Part 4 First Energy Stadium Commission by adding ex-officio representatives from the Public Works Department and City Council *Introduced at the January 27 regular meeting; Tabled at the February 22 and March 14 regular meetings*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 8-2016.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she will support this ordinance. She noted the suggestion to explore other pieces of local legislation creating boards and considering adding a Council liaison in other areas.

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

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

**President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 13-2016** - eliminating the Lead Clerk/Trainer position and adding a Records Clerk in the Police Special Services Division ***Introduced at the March 14 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 13-2016.**

**Bill No. 13-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

**C. Bill No. 14-2016** – amending the City Code Fee Schedule Section 212 by increasing the rental fees for the fieldhouses for the Rec Commission ***Introduced at the March 14 regular meeting***

**Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 14-2016.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Rec Commission increases the fees modestly on an annual basis to cover the costs associated with renting the buildings out for parties, events, etc.

Councilor Reed noted the need for the Rec Commission to consider adding fees for Baer Park when the boxing program relocates.

**Bill No. 14-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

**President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

**D. Bill No. 15-2016** – providing for the addition of street parking restrictions at South 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets, in accordance with applicable PennDOT regulations ***Introduced at the March 14 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to enact Bill No. 15-2016.**

Councilor Slifko explained that these parking restrictions will correct lien of sight issues at various intersections. He stated that PennDOT is making upgrades to the 5<sup>th</sup> Street corridor

from Laurel to Robeson Streets.

Councilor Daubert stated that this particular change will remove one parking space in front of the Reading Public Library on South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that the loss of the space will increase the line of sight at this intersection.

**Bill No. 15-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

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

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution No. 26-2016**– authorizing the HOME allocation of \$150,000 to be allocated to the Hillside Pointe Project and that \$150,000 to be allocated to the Barley Square Project and \$11,242 to be allocated to the Acquisition Rehabilitation Resale Activity

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 26-2016.**

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to amend Resolution No. 26-2016 by removing the Hillside Pointe project.**

**The motion to amend Resolution No. 26-2016 adopted by the following vote:**

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

Councilor Slifko explained the project proposed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut area.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed her support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut project.

Councilor Daubert explained that the Woda Company is not a “build and run” company. He noted that this company manages its own properties.

**Resolution No. 26-2016 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**B. Resolution No. 27-2016-** – appointing Frank Gromis to the Stadium Commission

**C. Resolution No. 28-2016-** – reappointing Steven Fisher to the Plumbing Board

**D. Resolution No. 29-2016-** – reappoint Tom Lynam to the Fire and Building Code Board of Appeals

**Councilors Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution Nos. 27-29-2016.**

Councilor Marmarou and Slifko spoke about the experience and dedication of the candidates.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz spoke about Mr. Lynam’s work with the appeals board to address the issues associated with the construction codes and how to apply them to existing architecture.

**Resolution Nos. 27-29-2016 were adopted by the following vote:**

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

**E. Resolution No. 30-2016-** – requesting a study for the installation of a traffic signal or stop sign at the 5<sup>th</sup> and Douglass and 5<sup>th</sup> and Oley intersections due to the number of accidents at these intersections.

**Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adopt Resolution No. 30-2016.**

Councilor Slifko explained that the intersections at Douglass and Oley are the only intersections without signals between Laurel and Robeson Street. He noted the number of fatal accidents that have occurred at these intersections.

Council President Waltman agreed with the need for signals at these intersections.

**Resolution No. 30-2016 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**Nays: None - 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Marmarou thanked the Greek community for attending tonight's meeting. He noted the upcoming College Heights Community Council meeting.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced that she is holding a town meeting on cleanliness on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the kickoff event for the Jazz Fest will be located in the Doubletree Hotel within District 2.

Councilor Twyman noted the need for residents to step up to remove litter from neighborhoods. He stated that the street sweepers were not designed to handle litter. He suggested that everyone become involved in the Great American Cleanup and Earth Day celebrations.

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming 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*