

**City of Reading City Council  
Regular Meeting  
March 14, 2016**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Twyman.

All present pledged to the flag.

The Committee of the Whole meeting included an executive session on matters pertaining to contracts and litigation.

**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  
Assistant City Solicitor T. Butler  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Mayor W. Scott

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman stated that there are sixteen (16) 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.

**Carolyn Youngs, of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**, stated that she has resided in Reading for many years and she spoke about the event held to celebrate the African American community that was held in the past. She described her efforts to restart this event as a parade; however, the regulations and cost are prohibitive so she is planning a festival in City Park the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

in June. She described her efforts to attract sponsors and asked for community support.

**Rosie Glaser, of Temple,** stated that she has been a member of East Ends Athletic Association for 35-45 years. She asked the City to give East Ends time to make lease payments before they are evicted from the former hotel located within Mineral Spring Park. She suggested that the City should work with East Ends due to their long history at this facility. She described the many athletic programs that were offered by East Ends to benefit children. She stated that evicting East Ends from this facility at the end of April is harsh.

**Ed Terrell, of Franklin Street,** questioned why Council members did not attend the community development meeting held with Mr. Boscov. He also questioned why Council is not talking about Act 47 issues. He expressed the belief that leadership is lacking on City Council. He questioned why Council has not proposed a candidate for the Managing Director position.

**Harry Rickenbach, of North 10<sup>th</sup> Street,** described the excessive noise created by a compressor at a convenience store in his neighborhood. He asked for relief from the constant noise.

**Mary Ann Ciarlone, of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street,** stated that she is speaking for an elderly neighbor and his small dog who were attacked by a vicious dog. She described the incident that caused the neighbor to fall and break his elbow. She thanked a Public Works employee who helped intervene. She suggested that the City strengthen its vicious dog regulations.

**Li Starita, of West Green Street,** described the boxing club started by the Ayala family. She asked the City to allow the boxing club to remain open. She stated that if the club is closed, the equipment should be returned to those who run the program.

**Charles Folk, of Fleetwood,** stated that he is a coach for the boxing program. He expressed the belief that closing the program would be detrimental to the City's youth. He asked the City to reconsider closing the program.

**Arminda Rodriguez, of North 10<sup>th</sup> Street,** stated that her son participates in the boxing club and she described the positive behavioral changes she witnessed due to his participation in the program. She expressed the belief that the program should not end.

**Marilyn Sanchez, of North 6<sup>h</sup> Street,** described the benefits of the boxing program on the youth who participate. She asked the City to reconsider closing the program.

**Manuel Garrido, of Carroll Street,** expressed the belief that it would be a mistake to end the boxing program due to the benefits the program has for youth.

**Marcelino Garrido, of Carroll Street**, described the benefits provided to those who participate in the boxing club. He stated that before entering the program his son was a bully who was always getting into trouble. He stated that the program changed his son's behavior.

**A citizen whose name is illegible, of Carroll Street**, declined when offered the opportunity to address Council.

**Marshall Kauffman, of Elm Street**, noted the meaning of the boxing club for youth and their families. He stated that he rebuilt the program to greatly increase the number of participants. He asked the City to reconsider closing the program.

**Maria Chavez, no address listed**, with Mr. Rivera acting as translator, explained that boxing is no more dangerous than football or other contact sports. She expressed the belief that it would be more dangerous to close the program due to the benefits it brings to those who participate. She described the positive impact the program has had on her children. She asked the City to allow the program to remain open.

**Nitza Aponte, of North 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, described how her son has benefited from the boxing program and expressed the belief that it would be unfair for the City to close the program due the benefits of the program. She asked the City to consider relocating the program. She stated that boxing is no more dangerous than football. She expressed the belief that the program should remain open.

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting of Council. He stated that the Resolution appointing Donald Pottiger to Administrative Services Director will be withdrawn and reconsidered at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to approve the minutes from the February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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

**B. Resolution No. 18-2016** – Remanding the application for the conversion of the single

family dwelling at 21 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street to a two unit rental to the Zoning Hearing Board as a variance as conversions are prohibited under Zoning Ordinance 1203 D at no additional cost to the applicant and instructing the zoning administrator to contact the applicant to request an extension defined by the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).

**C. Resolution No. 19-2016** – Authorizing the hiring of the following in the Reading Department of Fire and Rescue Services, effective March 16, 2016:

**For the position of Firefighter:**

Lucas Baker

**For the position of Paramedic/Firefighter:**

James Deck

Andrew LaFaver

Devin Scicchitano

Jordan Bankert

Travis Martin

Michael Quintinsky

Robert Schoellkopf

**D. Resolution No. 20-2016** – Authorizing the promotion of Paramedic/Firefighter Michael J. Grow to Emergency Medical Services Lieutenant, effective March 22, 2016.

**E. Resolution No. 21-2016** – Authorizing the transfer of Lieutenant Gail S. Knauer to Lieutenant-Fire Prevention Officer and promoting Firefighter Ronald P. Banks to Lieutenant-Fire Training Officer, effective March 16, 2016.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

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

The mayor described the meeting held earlier today about the boxing program. He expressed the belief that the program should not operate from a facility that is for public use. He stated that he has not changed his mind and the boxing program will need to move out of the Baer Park Fieldhouse but he offered to assist in finding the program a new home. He expressed the belief that grant funding can be made available to purchase a new facility. He suggested that the program consider buying the Elks building, located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets, as there is a ballroom with a dance floor at this facility. He also suggested that the boxing program consider co-locating with other social programs that can also benefit youth.

Mayor Scott stated that since he announced the need to terminate the East Ends lease and move the boxing program his office has fielded many calls from others expressing interest. He reiterated that he is open to the relocation of the boxing program.

Council President Waltman agreed that the boxing program should relocate into another building and co-locate with another agency. He questioned the timeline.

The mayor stated that he has not given the program a deadline date and that he will assist in the relocation of the program. He described the efforts of his staff to assist.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2015 Unemployment costs
- PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Payments 2011-15
- Completion and filing of the AG385 Pension Report
- Report on the Battle of the Badges Hockey Game

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz asked the auditor to speak about the forensic audit report prepared by Baker Tilly at the mayor's request.

The auditor stated that the report prepared is nothing more than a synopsis of the external audit findings prepared annually by Herbein & Co. He noted that some findings included in the report have already been resolved. He noted the work annually by City staff to resolve the findings. He expressed the belief that a deeper dive into the findings is not needed. He suggested strengthening various controls.

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

None.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**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 regular meeting***

**Councilor Marmarou 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, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman**

**President - 6**

**Nays: Reed - 1**

**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 8; Tabled at the February 22 regular meeting***

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

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

Councilor Slifko explained that this is a housekeeping amendment to reduce some fees and rename some fees for improved clarity.

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

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

**President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

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

**A. Ordinance** - eliminating the Lead Clerk/Trainer position and adding a Records Clerk in the Police Special Services Division

**B. Ordinance** - amending the City Code Fee Schedule Section 212 by increasing the rental fees for the fieldhouses for the Rec Commission

**C. Ordinance** - providing for the addition of street parking restrictions at South 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets, in accordance with applicable PennDOT regulations

**D. Ordinance** - providing for the addition of street parking restrictions along North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, near the intersections with Woodward and Oley streets, in accordance with applicable PennDOT regulations

**E. Ordinance** - setting the salary for the Administrative Services Director at \$90,000

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 22-2016** - reappointing Pier Ignozzi-Shaffer to the Environmental Advisory Council

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolution No. 22-2016.**

Councilor Marmarou spoke of the experience Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer brings to this Board.

Councilor Slifko stated that he serves with Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer on this Board and acknowledged the dedication she brings.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz spoke of Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer's community involvement.

**Resolution No. 22-2016 was adopted by the following vote:**

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

**President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

**WITHDRAWN UNTIL THE MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING**

**B. Resolution 23-2016** – appointing Donald Pottiger as Administrative Services Director

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Reed thanked those who spoke about the boxing program during the Public Comment period and she voiced her agreement that the program should be relocated rather than closed.

Councilor Reed questioned why Bill No. 8-2016 relating to the Stadium Commission was tabled, as that was not discussed in the Committee of the Whole agenda review. She noted the importance of having a Council liaison without a vote at the Stadium Commission meetings. She questioned why she was excluded from the discussion to table this ordinance.

Council President Waltman explained that he was approached about tabling the ordinance between meetings, as the current wording will not allow the liaison to have a vote. He expressed the belief that delaying the vote for two (2) weeks is not harmful; however, he agreed that communication about this issue could have been handled better.

Councilor Twyman expressed the belief that tabling the ordinance will allow additional discussion on the issue.

Councilor Twyman thanked those who spoke about the boxing program during the Public Comment period.

Councilor Reed noted the lengthy discussion at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting about the liaison being ex-officio and not having a vote. She noted that the minutes cover the topic nicely.

Councilor Marmarou expressed the belief that the liaison should be a voting member.

Councilor Reed stated that ex-officio members have no vote. The City Clerk agreed that making the liaison an ex-officio member without a vote was discussed at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked those who spoke about the boxing program. She noted that boxing requires physical and mental conditioning.

Councilor Daubert agreed with the need to build opportunities for youth. He noted the success of the student-athletes on the 2016 RHS Boys' Basketball team.

Councilor Slifko echoed the comments regarding the boxing program and he agreed with the need to relocate the program to a new facility.

Council President Waltman agreed with providing a bridge that allows the boxing program to relocate. He noted Council's continual work on Act 47 issues.

Council President Waltman noted the phenomenal season by the RHS Boys' Basketball Team and the support of the large fan base.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz reiterated that the tabling of Bill No. 8-2016 should have been discussed in the Committee of the Whole meeting, rather than in side conversations.

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

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