

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 9, 2016**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Gerald Prentice, Reading Vicinity Ministerium Association.

All present pledged to the flag.

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Waltman  
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

Council President Waltman announced that Councilor Daubert was excused from the meeting due to a professional obligation.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Recognizing RHS winter sports athletes
- Council Commendation recognizing Berks Teens Matter, accepted by Jennifer May Co-County Wellness Center

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman stated that there are four (4) 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 Reed read the public speaking rules that were adopted by Council.

**Carl Derespina, of Hampden Blvd.,** distributed a photograph of the springhouse located in Hampden Park. He stated that when he saw the disrepair that the building was in he performed rehabilitation work. He stated that the springhouse was built by Peter Katzenmoyer, who owed this property and used it for farming, in the late 1700s. He stated that water from the springhouse was left to flow west to North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, thus the street was named Spring Street. He explained the repair work he performed and he stated that the property was recently vandalized. He asked the City to consider making the necessary repairs before the building is destroyed and then install a protective fence around the building. He stressed the need to protect this historic building.

**George Davis, of North 13<sup>th</sup> Street,** introduced himself and described the activities at the City's greenhouse. He expressed concern about diseases spread by the mosquito population and suggested offering plants through the greenhouse that deter mosquitos. He also suggested changes to the pond at the City Park bandshell that would lessen the mosquito population.

**Megan Wagner, of North 11th Street,** described the up-rise in problems at off campus student rentals where partying occurs beginning in the afternoon. She noted that it is not unusual to see drunk students urinating and throwing up in public. She described the ongoing noise from the parties and stated that her car was recently vandalized by the students. She stated that the police department's response was unacceptable. She stated that she is a former employee of the Albright Public Safety Office and stated that the student population exceeds the housing available; therefore students are being pushed off campus. She reported that the College President instructs Public Safety not to inform the Reading Police when incidents are reported.

**Ed Terrell, of Franklin Street,** argued that he registered to speak about Resolution A on the agenda. When the Council President informed Mr. Terrell that there are two (2) agenda headings that contain resolutions and that there are two Resolution A's. He asked Mr. Terrell which resolution he intended to speak about. Mr. Terrell stated that as Council has copies of the agenda additional clarity is not needed.

Mr. Terrell expressed his agreement with the Council President's opinion that what the City and DID are currently accomplishing on Penn Street is not enough. He questioned the activities of DID and Redesign Reading and the exorbitant amount of money spent to enlarge the downtown farmer's market. He expressed the belief that the Executive Director of DID's participation on the Redesign Reading board is a conflict of interest. He also expressed the belief that due to the fact that Lee Olsen was the architect for many new buildings in the downtown, he too has a conflict due to his activities on the Blighted Property Review Committee. He expressed the belief that the seven (7) member Council should be fulltime so

the Councilors are more familiar with the inter-district issues.

Mr. Terrell questioned the executive session held on personal matters. He questioned the content of the meeting and expressed the belief that the secret sessions need to stop. (*Note: the agenda for the May 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting states that an executive session was held pertaining to personnel matters, not personal matters*)

## **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 April 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to add a resolutions under the Consent Agenda heading regarding the application of a Traffic Signal Application for 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington Street. There were no objections to the modifications.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the minutes from the April 11<sup>th</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. 39-2016** – authorizing and directing the Public Works Director to execute and submit the attached Application for Traffic Signal Approval together with the accompanying Signal Permit Drawings for the traffic signal improvements proposed at the 2nd Street and Penn Street intersection, which is part of the *Penn Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, SR 3422*, to the PennDOT

**B. Resolution No. 40-2016** – authorizing the Public Works Director to execute and submit applications for traffic signal improvements at 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington Street.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor did not provide a written report to Council. He stated that the discussion with Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting covered a variety of topics such as the extension of the towing contract, the review of the East Reading Pool, etc. He stated that there is no need to add more information.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2016 Franchise fees

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

None.

### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

**A. Ordinance 17-2016** – authorizing Berks EIT, as the City’s tax collector, to engage one or more third-party collection agencies to pursue and collect delinquent Tax and apply a fee for the use of a third-party collection agency provided that the fee does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of Tax collected from any such Taxpayer *Introduced at the April 25 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No. 17-2016.**

**Bill No. 17-2016 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President**  
**- 6**  
**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Ordinance 18-2016** – amending the City’s Purchasing Policies by adding restrictions on contract change orders *Introduced at the April 25 regular meeting*

**Councilor Slifko moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 18-2016.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz and Councilor Slifko expressed support for this amendment as it creates additional checks and balances.

Councilor Twyman agreed and noted that the amendment also increases transparency.

**Bill No. 18-2016 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President**  
**- 6**  
**Nays: None - 0**

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz read the following ordinance into the record:

**A. Ordinance** – setting the salary of the Managing Director at \$102,000

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 41-2016** – reappointing Lee Olsen to the Blighted Property Review Committee

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Slifko, to adopt Resolution No. 41-2016.**

Councilors Slifko and Marmarou noted the skill and experience Mr. Olsen brings to this board. Mr. Slifko stated that Mr. Olsen's experience as an architect provides an important skill for this particular board.

**Resolution No. 41-2016 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President  
- 6**

**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Resolution 42-2016** – appointing Glenn Steckman as Managing Director

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Resolution No. 42-2016.**

Council President Waltman stated that the short delay will allow Council to review this appointment further.

**Resolution No. 42-2016 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Slifko, Twyman, Waltman President  
- 6**

**Nays: None - 0**

## COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou agreed with the need to make the required repairs to the springhouse. He also spoke about the ongoing problems with Albright students living in residential neighborhoods and Albright's failure to provide appropriate solutions or responses.

Councilor Twyman also agreed with the need to repair the springhouse and the suggestions to deter the mosquito population.

Councilor Reed thanked Mr. Derespina for restoring the springhouse in Hampden Park. She stated that this area of Reading was at one time called Helltown. She suggested that Albright adopt the off campus student regulations currently used by Alvernia University, as citizen complaints about students residing in the residential community are rare.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked Councilor Reed and the City Clerk for their work on the event at the Lauer monument last week and she described the efforts to beautify East Reading.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the Charter Study recommendations that were approved by the electorate in 1993 created the type of government we have in Reading and defined the role of City Council. She explained that while a District Councilor is elected by his District, his first responsibility is attend to city-wide issues.

Councilor Reed thanked Pete Cammarano, owner of Mike's Tavern, Jake Bausher, owner of Canal Street Pub, and Kyle Neuheimer, owner of the Oakbrook Brewery for their participation in the Lauer monument event last week. She stated that their participation made the event more memorable for the brewers. She also thanked the mayor and Councilors Goodman-Hinnershitz, Slifko and Waltman for attending and greeting the guests from the Brewers Association. She stated that the initial \$25K restoration was funded by the national Brewers Association, of which Frederick Lauer was the first president. The second \$25K restoration work will be funded by the PA Brewers Association.

Councilor Slifko agreed with the need to repair the springhouse and develop a model that will deter the mosquito population.

The mayor stated that when he arrived at City Park last Tuesday for the Lauer event, he noticed that the head of the turtle sculpture located at the Hill Road and Perkiomen Avenue entrance is missing. He asked people that have information about the turtle's head to contact the police. He also asked the Reading Eagle to help publicize the need for the return of the turtle head. He also recalled his prior meetings and experiences with Mr. Derespina and he asked Mr. Derespina to file a police report about the vandalism at the springhouse.

Council President Waltman clarified the remarks he made at last week's Strategic Planning meeting about DID and Main Street that appeared in the Reading Eagle article the next day. He stated that while Main Street got off to a good start, it needs to go much further to improve Penn Street. He apologized if his original remarks offended anyone or any organization.

Council President Waltman reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

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