

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 11, 2016**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Rev. Danny Moore, Holy Trinity Church of God.

All present pledged to the flag.

The executive session held during the Committee of the Whole meeting was regarding potential litigation.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Waltman  
Councilor Daubert, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Sterner, District 3  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
District 6 Vacant  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Solicitor C. Younger  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Managing Director C. Snyder  
Mayor W. Scott

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman stated that there are eleven (11) 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.

**Noahleen Betts Kebbey, of Perkiomen Avenue**, introduced the three (3) finalists for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 2016 Miss Teen Reading competition scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln Hotel.

**Ed Terrell, of Franklin Street**, spoke on leadership, democracy and the representation of the public in government. He expressed the belief that the City was not properly managed in the past and he requested change.

**Shelia Perez, of Weiser Street**, expressed the belief that unethical malarkey is alive and well in City Hall and she stated that this practice must stop. She defined malarkey. She expressed the belief that some employees have behaved criminally without the proper repercussions.

**Aaron Thomas, of South 13th Street**, deferred his time to comment.

**Johanny Cepeda, of Walnut Street**, described her well documented dedication and commitment to the City and its people. She also noted her work to dispel the bad image of the City. She expressed the belief that the process to appoint a District 6 Councilor was unfair and biased and that as she ran in the primary election in 2015 she would better represent the people's voice. She requested all materials relating to the District 6 appointment and she distributed copies of a lawsuit to Council claiming that the appointment of Mr. Slifko to Council District 6 violates the Charter.

**Felix Freytiz, of Carroll Street**, deferred his time to comment.

**Carol Riley, of Shillington**, stated that she represents Abilities in Motion and she announced her intent to meet with the Mayor and Public Works Director about the decaying condition of walkways, streets and intersections in Reading.

**Evelyn Morrison, of Church Street**, stated that while she is pleased that Council is making budget modifications to fund the positions in the Mayor's Office she is concerned that at a prior meeting City Council agreed to loan the CD Department \$500,000 from the general fund to cover CDBG related actions until the 2016 CDBG allocation is received. She stated that a petition is circulating regarding discrimination in employment. She expressed the belief that the people can take up actions to remove elected officials from office.

**Noah Ayala, of Lackawanna Avenue**, spoke in support of Johanny Cepeda and her positive influence on his life. He described the ways he volunteers in the community. He expressed belief in the passion Ms. Cepeda brings to all she is involved with.

**Juan Zabala, of McKnight Street**, expressed the belief that if Council does not appoint Ms. Cepeda they are not properly serving the people of District 6. He said that the process that Council continues to use to make Council District appointments is faulty and has caused similar problems in the past. He expressed the belief that the selection process is subjective and filled with conflict. He asked Council to table the appointment and to refer the appointment to the Berks County Court of Common Pleas.

## **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 December 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the December 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of Council.

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the December 22<sup>nd</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. Award of Contract** – for the Tree Care Project to Nolde Pines, 2177 New Holland Road, Reading

**B. Resolution 1-2016** – authorizing the hiring of Corey Buck, Jose Cruz III, Jared Doberstein, Angel Abreu-Feliciano, Andrew Gery, Joshua Kline, and Ryan Melley as probationary police patrol officers effective Monday, January 18, 2016.

**C. Resolution 2-2016** – authorizing the disposal of the 2008 Financial Interest Statements in the City Clerk's Office

**D. Award of Contract** – for the purchase of electricity for a three year period to GDF Suez

**E. Resolution 3-2016** – authorizing the execution of the Transportation Enhancement Funds Federal-Aid Reimbursement Agreement for the Penn Street Crosswalk Project, PennDOT MPMS No. 76614, at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Penn and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Penn

**F. Resolution 4-2016** – authorizing the Bank Accounts for the City of Reading for the 2016 Calendar Year

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor did not provide a written report to Council. He stated that he has served as Mayor for seven (7) days and he has met many people. He announced his intent to make many changes that will make many City offices and agencies self-sustaining now and after he completes his term. He stated that Bill Murray has helped him identify new innovative ways that the City can work with RAWA by selling water through the Water Bureau which will allow the City to retain the profit.

The mayor noted his intent to nominate Reimundo Encarnacion as City Manager but he noted the terrific job Carole Snyder has done during her term of service. He stated that he is currently considering asking Council to open the 2016 budget. He stated that he has not yet

forgotten about his promise to complete a forensic audit; however, he noted that he has learned that similar audits are ongoing. He stated that he intends to stay on the high road and make government transparent.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

- 2015 Admissions Tax collection
- 2016 Pension Board organization

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

None.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

None.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

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

**A. Ordinance** – amending the City's Purchasing Policies adding the requirement for the need for those who contract with the City to pay all taxes, fees, etc.

**B. Ordinance** – Amending §5-209 of the Administrative Code, Public Participation by making a correction to the registration requirements

**C. Ordinance** – authorizing an all way stop at S. 17<sup>th</sup> and Haak St, in accordance with City Code Section 576-213

**D. Ordinance** – authorizing an amendment to the 2016 Position Ordinance as follows:

1. In the Managing Director Office, eliminate the position of Business Analyst, and replace it with a Staff Assistant.
2. In the Community Development Department, eliminate the position of Confidential Secretary.
3. In the Community Development Department, replace the Housing and Development Coordinator with a Community Development Coordinator.

**E. Ordinance** – authorizing an amendment to the 2016 Budget Ordinance for the Mayor's Office Salary Line Item as follows:

1. \$56,100 from the Wage Increase line in Human Resources
2. \$20,000 from Community Development Salaries
3. \$19,900 from Managing Director Salaries

## RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 4-2016** – appointing John Slifko to represent Council District 6

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to nominate John Slifko to the District 6 seat and to adopt Resolution No. 4-2016.**

Councilor Tywman expressed the belief that the appointment process is flawed and he announced his intent to abstain from the vote due to the flawed process.

Council President Waltman asked the Solicitor if Councilor Tywman's abstention is valid. The Solicitor opined that Councilor Twyman cannot abstain due to his belief that the process is flawed.

**Councilor Tywman moved to table Resolution No. 4-2016. As there was no second motion the motion to table failed.**

Councilor Daubert expressed the belief that the process to make appointments to vacated Council seats is proper. However, he stated that he does have an issue with a process that allows people who do not reside in a district to make the selection. He reminded everyone that when the District 6 seat was first filled in September, his was the sole negative vote.

Councilor Twyman noted his objection to the selection process, not to those who applied. He expressed the belief that the selection process should be changed.

Council President Waltman stated that the body of Council is not circumventing anyone. He expressed the belief that Council should make the appointment as they understand all aspects of the function and responsibilities required of those who serve on Council, along with the challenges of running for office. He expressed the belief that the selection process has nothing to do with discriminatory practices. He expressed the belief that both candidates have different skills and bring passion in different ways.

**Resolution No. 4-2015 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Waltman President - 5**

**Nays: Twyman - 1**

## COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that violence in the neighborhoods needs to stop and that the neighbors within the neighborhoods need to become part of the solution.

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

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