

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2020 - 7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Cris Nesbitt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mr. Nesbitt led those in attendance in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Gertz, Mr. Lynd, Mr. Albrinck, Mr. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Ms. Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut) (1) Newly revised City webpage. Specific parts that were added and was looking forward to an expansion of information about the Building Department. Unfortunately, the added information is incorrect information (fee schedule). Would hope that this will be resolved quickly. Would also like to see the link to ICRC website (Patrick Ross will see that that specific link will be added). (2) Concerned that the (easements for purpose of the Storm Water improvement by the Reading Community Pool) suggested infrastructure would impede future development/expansion on the site. Mr. Lindeman communicated that Mr. Ross said the proposed infrastructure would not impede VYO expansion at the Fieldhouse.

James Shelton (302 E Benson St) Wanted to know if it can be made a Council policy that any ordinance that will be read with “Emergency Clause” can be made available to the community before the meeting and before Audience Participation. An explanation was given between “suspending the rules for and ordinance to be read 3 times” and “Emergency Clause.” Emergency makes it go into immediate effect (example: Mr. Ross can sign a contract instead of having to wait 30 days for it to go into effect). Mr. Powell (Mr. Shelton’s Councilman) offered to get ordinances

Justin Feldman (1415 Market St) Duke Energy Central Corridor Pipeline – appeals filed, administrative Judge came back and made a recommendation to re-study the case and give credit to the professionals that were hired. Thursday, February 20 at 1:30 pm in Columbus to make their decision on the Judges request. If they do decide to re-open they will come back with their judgement and they could decide to not re-open the case and then it will go back to the Supreme Court for a decision.

GUEST SPEAKER – Samuel Kloss (Project Manager) & Tony Dick (Right-of-Way Liaison/Senior Real Property Specialist of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati). Addressed Council regarding the proposed changes (to comply with Federal Government) to the MSD sewer lines around Haffey Fieldhouse. Currently we have combined Sanitary and Storm Water Sewers. When there are heavy rains it pushes the water into overflow. The idea is to get as much of the storm water out of the sanitary sewer by separating the sewer lines. They came to these routes so that it is less disruptive (do the public space as well as personal homes), less cost (Estimated cost is 4 ½ Million dollars. Construction cost alone is 3.5/3.6 Million). They clarified that MSD is only building a Storm Sewer and will control the operational responsibility/maintenance. Reading will still own and operate/maintenance other existing storm sewers throughout Reading. They will have to come across Haffey Fieldhouse & Reading Pool parking lot in order to shift its original design position. This should then not impede future development. Would like to get started at the beginning of August. In order to do so there are a number of deadlines that need to be met. They requested Council giving Safety Service Director Patrick Ross “authority of entry” so that they can meet these deadlines.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Did some research about the purchase of 2 Police Cruisers (2 Police Cruisers were demolished) – has no objection with this ordinance tonight.
- Is concerned that an unelected, small group of people will be making the decision to levy a tax to our residents for repairs to the Mill Creek. Mr. Gertz thinks this will be a financial burden on our taxpayers. Safety Service Director Patrick Ross

recently learned that it is planned that 50% would go towards a barrier damn and 50% to maintenance to the Mill Creek – maintenance items not specified).

-Opposes the sales tax increase for bus service. Damage to the City of Reading. May try to get Tim Burns to come out and speak to this subject and how it will affect the City.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Bench Project may be delayed until Fall or Winter. Contractor that was hired has other projects that will be conducted first.
- Approximately 3,000 water meters installed.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Only two items he was prepared to speak on (Proposed Sewer Separation and the Army Core turning over the Mill Creek) have been spoken at great length and nothing further to report.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I trust that everyone had a chance to read through the Lease Agreement regarding the stadium and ball fields that I passed out 2 weeks ago.

Mr. Fischesser made a good suggestion to change the wording in section IV to read “The option to renew this contract is limited to school fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Further extension beyond June 30, 2023 shall not be allowed unless mutually agreed upon by Lessor and Primary Lessee.”

This eliminates the notion that the stadium is being leased indefinitely and reiterates that the contract is up for renewal each year.

I’ve scheduled a meeting with the Laws and Contracts Committee for next Tuesday, the 25th at 6:30 here in the caucus room. Next week will be the final reading of the ordinance before we vote. I do hope that we vote to pass the ordinance allowing Mr. Ross to present the contract to the school so we can hopefully move forward.

Mr. Gertz expressed that he doesn’t know what the hurry is with passing the ordinance. He invites all Council members to physically take a look at the Stadium building. If it doesn’t meet the minimum standards then we shouldn’t rent it to anyone for usage. Mr. Gertz is of the belief that it’s not the City’s responsibility (for only one tenant - the school). He doesn’t agree that \$25,750.00 (3% increase) is fair considering the improvements suggested. Mr. Gertz believes we should table the ordinance until further research is conducted (analysis of the property and the condition it’s in, total cost for repairs as well as what the continuing maintenance costs are throughout the year).

Mrs. Eadicicco’s response – In regard to the safety issues listed there was an assessment completed in 2017 so not sure why this is being brought up now. Not trying to rush this which is why there is no emergency clause. The school does have games scheduled so the contract needs to be progressed towards some agreement. Mrs. Eadicicco agrees with meeting every 3 months with the school. Contract never states that it is an automatic renewal. 50/50 cost was in the previous contract that was approved by Council in 2017.

Mr. Ross requested from either Mr. Gertz or Mr. Albrinck would like to see an original agreement from 1981 – 1989 while they were in office. Mr. Albrinck confirmed the school didn’t pay for anything.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

I have an ordinance on the floor this evening for the purchase of three SUV type cruisers.

If you recall, last year Ford was retooling the Explorer Interceptor so we did not purchase any vehicles for 2019.

Two of the cruisers on this ordinance are the 2020 purchase for the ongoing vehicle replacement program. The third vehicle will be replacing one of the two 2016 SUVs that were totaled last year.

The other change from past years is that this ordinance is for the vehicles only. Since they are retooled, Mobilcomm is reluctant to quote a price for the changeover until they have a chance to see the new model and make sure everything from the older models will fit. Once we get an estimate for the switchover another ordinance will be prepared.

My committee will be meeting with the Fire Chief next Tuesday, February 25th, at 7:00 to discuss some additional capital needs.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- \$14,000 needed for a new compressor that is used often for several different City services
- City crews have been out patching potholes on a weekly basis and patching main breaks back in after repairs were made.
- Mulcher has been out picking up branches.
- Service Department supplied one man to read water meters.
- City Crews have been repairing some service lines throughout the City.
- Concrete crew has been out repairing concrete sidewalks where we have done service line dig ups.
- City crew hit some slick spots on the roadways with salt as it froze overnight.
- City crews have been changing out stop signs throughout the city.
- City Crews repaired the culvert (storm drain) that runs under Bradley Ave as the roadway was sinking due to hole in the stone foundation the repairs were made and patched back.
- City crews were called out for snow and icy conditions and so far this year we have only used about 300 tons of salt on the roadways.
- The speed sign posts have been set on Bolser Dr and Clark Rd near the schools. We are still in the process of making them operational and they should be ready to go soon.
- Will have a printed list of Service Department Capital needs.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Fieldhouse.
- Reading litter clean-up will be on April 25 between 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Pool sign-ups will be the first 3 Saturdays in May
- The Parks need about 6 drinking fountains throughout the City. The fountains cost about \$3,500 a piece. I will be talking to the Safety Service Director on the best way to get this done.

NEW BUSINESS -

President of Council Cris Nesbitt:

- ICRC: God Flag & Country Competition (3 winners from Reading replays of the Competition being held on multiple days.
- Would like to see the Committee iron out all the differences brought to the table regarding the Stadium Lease contract and bring a final recommendation to Council.

Mr. Gertz – (1) Reisenberg Lane – Port Authority now owns this area. It is Mr. Gertz opinion and suggestion that this area is not very secure and is a potential safety hazard. (2) Hopes we'll proceed forward with flooring for the Council chambers. (3) Thinks there are other parts of Reading that need attention before Benson street is repaved.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes**

- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- We use a subcontractor that handles IT who is leaving. We are looking at a new company (Slingshot Solutions). Sabrina's computer needs an upgrade but the Payroll software would not be compatible with Windows 10 upgrade. Looking at a \$40,000-\$60,000 cost to upgrade her computer system. This is a program used daily between Sabrina and Diane in the office.
- Meeting with Andrew of TEC to discuss the traffic study. It's not fully completed due to school being closed for illness but the traffic counts ARE completed. There are grant funds out there for sidewalks
- Tuesday, March 3 – Katie Barbiere will give an update to Council regarding the Personnel matter with a Police Officer.
- Will ask our Lawyer to visit Council at the next meeting he is available to give an update on the school telephone poles issue.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- February Update: \$526,690.96. Running ahead of February last year with 8 business days left.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- 2018 and 2019 Audit is well underway. Multiple documents have been prepared and sent to Plattenburg and they are coming this Thursday to pick up items from various departments. They will be onsite April 6-10 for a field study and will come back any other time if needed. January and February have an increased workload because of payments for association dues and one-

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None.

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH READING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WITH RESPECT TO FIELD USAGE. (Second Reading)

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Gertz to table the ordinance until the Committee can meet and iron out the details. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE THREE (3) POLICE VEHICLES THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Gertz to suspend the second and third reading. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Lindeman, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-10

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO COMPENSATE SCOTT SNOW FOR ACCRUED SICK TIME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Lynd to suspend the second and third reading. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Lynd to adopt the ordinance. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Powell – Empower You is holding a seminar on March 18 for Sunshine Laws. Law Director Dave Stevenson reminded everyone that as elected officials everyone is required to attend at least once every term.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:52 pm.

X Carla Kacher

CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X Cris Nesbitt

CRIS NESBITT
President of Council