

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JULY 21, 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 & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

PUBLIC HEARING

No comments received from residents regarding the 2021 Budget. Mr. Ross pointed out the following:

- Budget very tight as is evidenced by projecting more expenses than revenues next two years
- Savings on expenditures by delaying rehiring of two employees
- 2020 receive additional rev from BWC, MSD, and potentially Duke
- Also have entered into contracts with Arlington for Police and Fire, Amberley - for paramedics

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

GUEST SPEAKER – Jason Enix (Reading Community Schools Superintendent): Introduced himself to Council, gave his background and confirmed he started June 1. Very happy to be in the district and is looking forward to getting the new school year up and started. Still not sure what the new school year is going to look like as the plan changes frequently. Board Meeting tomorrow at 6:30 pm – live stream.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- 2021 Budget is the primary focus of the Finance committee right now.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Spoke to Emmett Cottler and he confirmed the bench project is moving along well. Will be happening for another 5 weeks for sure then the restoration will begin.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Amberley Village Planning Commission and Board of Zoning appeals is meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM. They will be discussing the proposed animal hospital/pet boarding facility on the North Site which is being proposed for behind the residences on the South side of Maple Drive in the 700 block.
- He has been speaking with Safety Service Director regarding the possible traffic calming safety measures for Thurnridge
- Continuing to further pursue the weekly ads that are making it into resident's gutters and streets. Would like an option for residents to cancel these deliveries.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- No Report

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (EMHSA) will be upgrading the outdoor warning system starting on July 20, 2020. This work is estimated to last three weeks depending on weather and any technical issues.

During the siren upgrade process, you may hear occasional and brief siren soundings in your area. EMHSA will monitor the weather on days when siren upgrade work will be done and will avoid activating the sirens during severe weather. For more information about the Hamilton County Outdoor Warning Siren System, please visit: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohioema.org/warning-siren-system/>.

It is important for members of the public to remember that these are outdoor warning devices and are not meant to be heard indoors. Hamilton County residents must have multiple ways to be notified of severe weather alerts. Signing up for Alert Hamilton County is a quick & easy way to get more than 40 weather alerts sent straight to your phone or email inbox. Visit www.alerthc.org to sign up. We also encourage all residents and businesses to have a NOAA All Hazards Radio.

The Chief's vehicle, while being used as a medic response vehicle, was involved in an auto accident during a run on July 6th resulting in injury to FF-P Kunkel and significant damage to the vehicle. Mr. Kunkel is recuperating at home and today the car was towed for further evaluation.

With these extreme dry conditions, the department urges everyone to use extreme caution with recreational fires.

Reading has lost some good people over the past couple of weeks.

Express my sympathy to the families of Ruth Geraci, Bill "Turtle" Waller, Larry Roy and Jason Campbell.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- Service Department has been out painting stop bars and crosswalks.
- Echoed the need to hire a new Service Department employee to replace position held by Mr. Buguski.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Pool is going along good! Not sure of closing date as of yet; it will all depend on when schools & sports start. We should know within the next couple of days. We have three managers and each manager starts school (teachers & college student) on different dates, their start dates are not set yet.
- One Ordinance on the floor. The money was transferred from Stadium fund to the Capital improvement at the last meeting to cover the cost. Lawn mower and three drinking fountains. Lawn mower used to cut Stadium, St. Peter & Paul property, and pool property. New version of the old mower currently using.
- 3 drinking fountains for city parks. Made of Cast Iron and Brass. Similar to the current fountains in use. I ask that you support the ordinance to improve our parks.

NEW BUSINESS -

- Mr. Powell – Amberly Village site: Lewis Animal Hospital to replace the property on Galbraith Road. Mr. Powell's objections: Sign facing the backs of the residential houses and 22 outdoor kennels. He was assured that the noise would not be an issue but he's not convinced.
- Mr. Lindeman – Rumpke received a national award for one of the best run companies.
- Mr. Ross - Update on the through the valley project – widens the interstate 75 lanes. To start in 2023.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- Working on the 2021 Budget - Due July 31
- Gave further explanation on the IT ordinance
- Sent pictures to all Council Members showing the progress of the Bench Project
- Duke Energy – Operations: Disconnections will continue next month. If you are struggling please reach out to Duke directly to discuss payment options. Easements needed for their pipeline. One easement would cut through the Nivison property which would impede the placement of a rail spur.
- Department updates from police/fire/public works
- Thurnridge Drive: Mr. Ross would like Council's input – He would like to send a detailed letter to all who live on Thurnridge regarding the planned updates for their street and ask for their feedback. The plan is to widen, pave, curb, water line, sidewalks & removed trees.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- Gave further explanation as to the Resolution on the floor for passage tonight.
- Mayors Court Revenue down about \$51,000 for the year.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- July Financial Update: So far we've collected \$685,000.00 and we're running ahead of where we were this time last year in July. Still in process of trying to process all the tax filings that were received last week. End of June we were \$559,000.00 behind and now we're \$410,000 behind so we're moving in the right direction.
- If anyone has not filed their taxes please do so as soon as possible.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- About a million dollars sitting in the general fund for expenditures. All payroll has been done for July.. Audit is wrapping up and am proud for all who working on this.
- Farmer's Market is every Friday from 4-7p.m.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS

(1) A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE LAW DIRECTOR TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CITY OF READING IN CERTAIN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-29R

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A TURF TIGER LAWN MOWER AND THREE (3) DRINKING FOUNTAINS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Second Reading)

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to suspend the third reading. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Albrinck, seconded by Mrs. Eadiciccio to adopt the ordinance. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-30

(2) THE FOLLOWING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY COUNCIL AND IS HEAREBY SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BUDGET COMISSION (Second Reading)

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-31

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO HIRE SLINGSHOT SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS IT IMPROVEMENTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-32

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:25 pm.

X Carla Kacher
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X Cris Nesbitt
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council