

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 04, 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:

Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Police Chief Edens – Introduced himself to Council and the Residents of the City of Reading:

Graduated from St Bernard Elmwood Place, attended Great Oaks Police Academy Graduated in 1992. Police Officer for 28 years, 8 with Elmwood Place, 20 With Reading. Promoted to Lieutenant in 2009 and to Chief April 2020. Had the pleasure of working under 3 different chiefs in Reading Huelsman, Hilling and Snow for the last 12 years. Worked with Chief Snow most of my career and I have the upmost respect for him. He ran the department with community policing always in mind which will continue under my watch!

Mission statement guide is (We the Reading Police Department dedicate ourselves to the protection and service of the people within our community. We do this willingly, using our core values as our Guide.) Respect, Integrity, Equality, Compassion, and professionalism.

At present the worst thing we are dealing with is Covid; keeping our employees safe while still doing our job. Have had 3 patrolman out past couple of weeks.

Projects working on, currently:

- Budget- Trying to operate effectively while still maintaining current service, including training of personal (cost is approaching 20,000 for Covid expenses year to date for PD alone)
- Getting the fleet back up to full, we have been down two vehicles since last November 3 new cruisers are on order and I will need assistance from the council to outfit the cars when they arrive about \$16000.00, we are driving the current cruisers around the clock
- Currently, I am updating the current department policies so that we are abiding by the best policies and practices- choke holds, bias in policing issues, race relations
- Will be working with OPOTC on updating internal affairs investigations; excessive use of force, officer involved shooting, misconduct by officers, these and other internal investigations, the Attorney General along with OPOTC will at some point become involved with these type of investigations in the whole state.
- We changed to a 12-hour shift schedule for a trial/ this will be reviewed over the next year
- We now have the speed trailer up and running and have been placing it around our town in places we receive complaints about.
- Dispatch- I would really like to keep our local dispatchers and be able to commit to them that they are staying. The amount or collateral duties daily such as clerk duties, assisting officers, assisting citizens in person and on the phone.

The following has been considered over the last several months:

- Going to Hamilton County - cost savings and it would be a saving in the short time. However, it should be noted the county has offered to provide services cheaper in the past and within a couple years had to jack the price back. It is reported that the county is having budget troubles at this time.
- If keeping, we will need to update radio system in dispatch- last estimate was about 30,000

Working with the schools

- School Resource Officer
- I have met with the new superintendent Jason Enix, seeing where we fit in under his new administration.
- Dare Program
- Third grade seat belt program
- School crossing guards- would like to turn these positions over to the school.

Community Policing

- Image the officers present in the city
- Officers out with the public more, not just persons suspected of no good
- Have had positive images on social media as or late with officers out engaging with kids

Programs

- Shop with a cop
- Enhance from the past, we have met with kids, shopped, and sent them home. I would like to make more of an evening for the kids as in dinner, shopping, wrapping the gifts

National Night Out

- Park Event
- All community invited
- Participation from outside agencies

Yard signs showing support of our department, continuing we have a lot of citizens and businesses showing great support.

Would like to start a coffee with a cop weekly or monthly- pending Covid.

Want to explore the possibility of starting a citizen's police academy /patrol.

We have over the last couple months, increased our presence on social media and will continue to increase.

COMMUNICATIONS

Note from Resident:

It was awesome to hear from our new Superintendent at the last council meeting. I want to thank Mrs. Eadicicco for getting that arranged. Thank you for going out of your way to work together with our schools. It's very much appreciated.

Patty Piron, 1198 Oldwick Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45215

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Will be meeting with the Auditor to discuss a few questions.
- Currently we're 7-8% behind what we projected for the year. Doesn't think, at this point, that we'll need to go out and borrow additional money.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Introduced 2 videos from Emmet Cottler (Project Manager for the Mill Creek Alliance) of the work being completed on the Mill Creek Flood plain Bench Project. First video was of the beginning of the project, detailing what work will be accomplished and what benefits that will mean for the City of Reading. The second video was of how much progress they've made in one week's period. 3/4th s of the soil has been removed at this point.
- Asked Council members to look over the Electric Aggregation Renewal he sent out and bring all questions to the August 17 meeting.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Reminded and encouraged everyone to respond to the Safety Service Director as to which streets and curbs that need work in each Councilman/Councilwoman's ward.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- No Report

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- There is an ordinance on the agenda this evening to renew our contract to supply Fire and EMS services to the Village of Arlington Heights. This contract will run for 5 years from 2021 through 2025 with a 10% increase per year. The only change between this contract and the previous one is the years and increases. Overall, this has been a very positive collaboration for both Arlington Heights and Reading.
- The Fire Department recently received word that they have been awarded a \$47,619.00 grant from AFG for the installation of an exhaust system for the firehouse. Our matching part of the grant is 5% which equates to less than \$3,000.00.
- Chief Owens, along with Administration participated in a virtual meeting regarding the Duke pipeline.
- The Fire Department will be repairing the vehicle involved in the accident last month. One member remains on injury leave.
- The fire department's trial use of the Lucas CPR device has expired and they had to return it to the manufacturer today. They have applied for a grant to purchase this unit and are still waiting to hear the outcome of that application. If that grant falls through, we will need to pass legislation at our next meeting to obtain the device. Evendale FD will be responding on all cardiac arrests with their unit in the interim.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- Spoke about Thurnridge Drive resident Linda Wilson's concerns and opposition for the Thurnridge Drive Widening project. Her e-mail detailing her concerns and her suggestions was e-mailed out to all members of Council for their review and he'd like to discuss it further at the next Council meeting.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Pool will be open normal hours (weather permitting) until 8/16. We will be open the weekends of 8/22-23 and 8/29-30 normal weekend hours. 8/30 will be the last day for the pool. This year we had 179 memberships. June daily average was 71, July daily average was 93, August daily average is 13. Our year total daily average is 82. I want to thank all the employees for doing a great job and thank all our residents complying with the COVID-19 restrictions at the pool.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE**REPORTS OF OFFICIALS****MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes**

- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- No Report (Absent)

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report (Absent)

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- July Financial Update: \$4,572,898.00 (13.1% short from last year's numbers at this time).
- The good news is that we have gained some ground approximately \$330,000. As of the end of July we are now running about \$229,000 (4.8%) behind as compared to where we were last year at this time. This is much better than the approximate \$559,000 we were running behind at the end of June. We are hoping to continue gaining ground as people are still in the process of filing their taxes late. They were due on July 15th.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- The Audit for 2018 and 2019 is finishing up. Dave Stevenson and I met with the Auditors from Plattenburg to discuss the final notes of the audit. Another clean audit for the City of Reading. This is great news and a testament to all of our departments working together. I just sent out the July 2020 Financial Reports. My office is currently preparing for next year and making the proper steps to get ready for 2021 expenditures.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS – None.**READING OF ORDINANCES**

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE PAYMENT WITH REGARDS TO THE COMMERCIAL LOAN FOR \$37,826.18 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-33

**(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Eadiciccio - First, I wanted to follow up regarding the issue of people dumping non-recyclable materials at the site by the stadium and remind folks that those are only for cardboard, paper, glass, plastic jugs/bottles, and metals such as aluminum cans. There's a sign on the side of the bins that shows you what can and can't get recycled. I wasn't sure if there was a fine for dumping at the site, but I'm wondering if it falls under the city's ordinances for littering. I believe it's a \$500 fine for littering. There's a "no dumping sign" posted at the site but nothing about a fine.

Second, again I wanted to commend Katie Konrad and Brightview Health for sending outreach teams to the area along the Millcreek. There's been a few posts on the block watch and community pages about homeless and drug users in the area. Katie and some others went out to look for those who are homeless or struggling with addiction. Brightview Health offers addiction treatment, counseling, medication and support. They help people get back on their feet. We do seem to have a lot of folks, especially in the Valley that are in need of help. And I want to remind everyone that if you or someone you know is struggling you can contact Brightview at (833) 510-4357 or go to brightviewhealth.com.

Mr. Gertz – Appreciated the visit and presentation this evening from Chief Owens and would like to see more of our department heads visit and give similar updates.

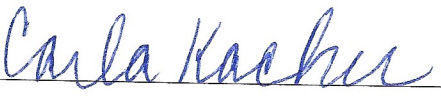
Mr. Fischesser - Sad to see Beeco Monument will no longer be a Reading business. It is my understanding that the owner has passed away.

Mr. Powell – Advised residents to be aware of scam phone calls from people claiming to be a relative in trouble and needing money.

Ms. Smith – Reminded everyone that the Reading Farmer's Market happens every Friday during the Summer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:49 pm.

X 
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X 
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council