

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 15, 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:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

SCHEDULED GUEST SPEAKERS: Bo Bemmes (Mayor)

Greetings. Hope everyone is healthy and doing well. The last 6 months have been very challenging for our great nation, our State, our churches, schools, businesses and organizations, for many of you and for all of us at City Hall.

Many adjustments, changes and cancellations and then more adjustments have been made.

Our prayers go out to those the Corona Virus has affected the most, people who have gone through being sick, their families, business owners, teachers, students, organizations, and churches. This Pandemic has affected just about everyone in one way or another.

I want all of you to know that it remains an incredible honor for me to be your Mayor and it is an incredible honor to work with our Safety Service Department, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Chief of Public Works, Parks and Recreation Director, with all of our clerks at City Hall and with all of our talented and dedicated employees. Through all of the unknowns and changes we have made it to this point with little effect on our ability to provide the basic city services our residents and businesses have become accustomed to. At City Hall we know that we are public servants and we do our best to serve our city to the best of our abilities every day.

We have spent a lot of time communicating with our United States Representatives, our State leaders and our Hamilton County Board of Health to make sure we were/are following all of the latest guidelines and leading our City forward in the best possible way with the knowledge and information we had at the time, I declared our City to be in a State of Emergency in late March which allowed us to apply for assistance to help with the extra costs of changes to our operations. With the deadline to file taxes being delayed for 3 months we knew that we had to prepare for possible reductions in revenue. We immediately contacted our top businesses to hear how they were doing and how their projections for the future were. We also contacted our other businesses as well and helped let everyone know which businesses were open and how we all could best support them. We were in constant touch with our schools and organizations to assist them as best we could. There were many delays, uncertainties and gut wrenching cancellations but with God's help and a lot of thought and hard work we have made it to today as best we could.

Our latest Treasurer's reports show that all in all we are doing okay and we will continue going forward to keep in touch with our businesses to help plan our future. Through all of this we have remained very productive as we go through spending over \$1.5 million in grants and another \$2 million plus in 20 year interest free loans to make major improvements (Thurnridge, Hunt Road, Flood bench).

I want to thank our wonderful churches for all the great things they do. I want to thank our excellent schools for their incredible efforts to get our young students back to school in the safest manner possible. I want to thank our organizations for all they do to serve everyone in our community, especially our youth and for making the difficult decisions they have all had to make in everyone's best interest.

I want to remind and encourage everyone to get out to vote in this very important election.

I want to thank volunteers for litter clean up, and neighborhood watch. Please be reminded to call Police immediately when you see suspicious or illegal activity.

Please contact me anytime. 513-509-8619 or rbemmes@readingohio.org. Although I cannot do everything for everybody, I will do my best within the laws, manpower and resources we have.

God bless all of you, our great Country and our great City.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Doesn't think we're going to have to borrow any money this year due to COVID.
- Thinks 2021 will be a challenging year.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Spoke to Patrick about the work on Columbia and Market.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Gave further insight into his Comprehensive Plan

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- On Sunday I sent each council member the document that Mr. Albrinck referred to at our last meeting. This document shows the chief of public works signature approving Duke to, according to document, "relocate single phase line to enable customer to put in [a] parking lot." I want to thank Mr. Albrinck for getting me a copy. The one I sent out is in color, showing what poles and power lines were moved in red on the diagram.

I also sent out satellite images that showed where the original poles were located behind the houses on Columbia in 2015 before construction began. And another image shows the lines in their original location after the homes were torn down.

I also want to remind everyone that the petition that was sent in was not an official petition get the issue on the ballot. They were clear about that when obtain signatures. This was just a way for their voices to be heard.

I went through the signatures again and only found one repeat for someone who signed in person and then again online. If there are others, please let me know who and I'll let Mr. Bemmes know.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

A Safety Committee meeting was requested by the Fire Chief and held last Tuesday, September 8th. The reason for the meeting was unexpected capital expenditures.

The first expenditure was the purchase of a used squad from Blue Ash F.D. This unit was bought strictly for the box and will be refurbished and mounted on a new Ford F550 chassis. The purchase of a third transport unit was originally planned for 2022 and was to be a complete new unit including box and chassis with an anticipated cost of \$290,416.00. However, the Blue ash unit unexpectedly became available after it blew an engine and was purchased for \$5,000.00 out of EMS operations. This enables the department to be able to remount the refurbished box on the new chassis for \$227,886.00. This equates to a savings of \$62,530.00.

An ordinance for the purchase of the chassis, remount, and other costs will be presented to council at a later date once the chassis comes in and the unit scheduled for construction.

The second expenditure which we have an ordinance on the agenda tonight is for the purchase of two LifePak 15 V4 units to replace LifePak 15 V1 units that were purchased in 2009. These units are a critical piece of EMS equipment and used on every run. This purchase was planned for 2023 when the existing service contract ran out with an anticipated cost of around 96,000.00. However, the department was made aware in June that a major component, similar to a computer mother board, was no longer available. This component, if it should fail, would happen without warning and render the unit inoperable - potentially even in the middle of an incident. The manufacturer saw the continued use of these units as a serious liability and was willing to work with our department to facilitate replacement units. Replacement cost for the two units will be

\$36,730.00 and an additional \$15,300.00 for the 5 year service agreement for a total expenditure of \$52,030.00. This expense will be deferred equally over three years, without interest, fee or service charge.

A few highlights of the police activity over the past two weeks include deescalating an incident with a female on the railroad tracks attempting to commit suicide and kill her baby. A traffic stop that resulted in determining the car was stolen and the subject in possession of two hand guns with 30 round clips for both. Four additional routine traffic stops that resulted in finding drugs and other drug related items. They have also noted an increase in homeless subjects moving onto private property.

The detectives currently are working on two robberies, a failure to comply that resulted in a cruiser being struck, an unlawful sexual contact with a minor, and continuing tracking the four suspects from the lounge shooting.

The new cruisers are expected to arrive by the end of the month. For that reason, there is a second ordinance this evening for the expenditures associated with changing over and outfitting these vehicles. This was carried as a separate expense from the ordinance to purchase the cruisers since we did not know exactly when the cruisers would be coming in. Total expenditures will not exceed \$17,000.00 and will be taken from the capital (340) fund.

Finally, with regard to the story in the media over the past few days about \$40,000.00 missing from the Reading/Lockland Youth Football, right now it looks like this will be handled by Lockland PD. The story originated with a letter sent to the media and the media then contacting Lockland PD as a follow up.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- No Report

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Congratulated Seth Redwine on the birth of his new baby girl yesterday.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

- No Report – Earlier presentation to Council.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

1. Contacted Congressman Wenstrup's office regarding FEMA Flood Insurance requirement that places burden on number of property owners. Congressman Wenstrup has been helpful in past on other items and remains a very easy to contact congressional leader.
2. Appeal court heard City's appeal of arbitrator's decision regarding personnel matter. Can take 30 days or longer for decision
3. Planning commission held meeting regarding text changes to zoning code. Will transmit letter to council so council can schedule their required hearing on the items.
4. Tests were held for patrol officer and firefighter/paramedic
5. Ambulance Purchase- 1 year earlier than scheduled \$50,000 or more cost savings than anticipated
6. MSD SSO 700 construction - 9/30/2020 Approximately 1 year
7. Jefferson ROW – vacation of ROW
8. Hunt Road Storm Sewer Project Update
9. Fire Contract
10. Dynegy Contract for Electricity and 30 Month Performance
11. Thurnridge Drive Recommendation
12. Budget Resolution will be ready for next meeting.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- No Report (Absent).

- The Audit is finally over and once it is released I will get everyone the information of where it can be found on the Auditor of State's Website. We got picked for another audit on Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund. Staff worked diligently to get this information to the auditors and they had their site visit last week. We are charged for this audit but it is done randomly. We hope to have the report back soon and the invoice. This audit should not be more than \$1000. Currently, we have \$1.8 Million in our General Fund and City Earnings Fund. This is a good amount as we start to close out the rest of the year.

- Property Taxes came in April and the second payment is set to come in September, in the next few days. Looks to be a 7% decrease but fees are front-loaded from April. Won't be sure of the September fees until the breakdown report reaches me.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS – None.

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO HAVE EQUIPMENT PURCHASED AND SWITCHED OVER AS NEEDED, FOR THREE 2020 CRUISERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-36

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CARDIAC MONITOR/DEFIBRILLATORS, ACCESSORIES AND EXTENDED SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Lindeman, seconded by Mr. Powell to suspend the second and third reading. Motion carried 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. 2020-37

(3) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF READING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE JULY, 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-38

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gertz – Reading Republican Club this Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm at Voorhees Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:24 pm.

X Carla Kacher
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X Cris Nesbitt
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council