

CITY OF READING, OHIO

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Nesbitt led all in the Our Father and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Other Officials Present: President of Council Cris Nesbitt, Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Sabrina Smith, and Law Director Dave Stevenson.

SCHEDULED GUEST SPEAKER: FIRE CHIEF TODD OWENS

Fire Department Council Report

Incidents:

- 2,425 (1/1/2020 to 11/30/2020) increase of 3.4% from 2019
 - o 2,206 without Amberley Village (219) decrease of 6% from 2019
- 2,346 (1/1/2019 to 11/30/2019)

Simultaneous (2 or more) Incidents:

- 21.2% (513) for 2020
 - o 2.14% (3 simultaneous incidents-52)
 - o 0.12% (4 simultaneous incidents-3)
- 19.07% (490) for 2019
 - o 1.52% (3 simultaneous incidents-39)
- Mutual Aid (Medical) Received
 - o 34 for 2020 (1.7%)
 - o 36 for 2019 (1.9%)
 - o 68 for 2018 (3.6%)

Incident Type:

- 81.9% medical (79.6% in 2019)
- 19.1% fire (20.4% in 2019)

Response:

- 6 personnel scheduled (5 minimum)
- Medical run: 3 respond (2 vehicles)
- Fire run:
 - o In town, all respond.
 - o Out of town, 3-4 respond.
- Supervisor determines response if simultaneous runs occur.
 - o Generates recall.

- Contracted services:
 - o Arlington Heights—renewed 1/2021-1/2025.
 - o Amberley Village—1/2020-1/2024.

COVID-19 Changes:

- 3/12/20: General Order
 - o Response changes:
 - Limit patient contact.
 - Police stage outside.
 - USE of PPE.
 - No family riders in ambulance.
 - o Non-emergency changes:
 - Limited station access.
 - Suspended inspections, station tours, public education and CPR programs.
 - We did continue adoption inspections.
 - Birthday parades.
 - Complaints directed to Ham. Co. Public Health.
 - o Guidelines evaluated/updated multiple times.
 - o We’ve had two members test positive, both did well and returned to work.
 - o As of midnight today, we have 163 positive cases in Reading.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE (Tony Gertz)

Mr. Gertz inquired about the \$30,000 Duke Energy Grant. \$12,000 reportedly went for Park Updates and \$18,000 for Masterplan for the park and the Doughboy rehab. Should council have appropriated these monies? What was the “mechanics” of these expenditures?

Duke’s reported increase of money for easements is suspicious. He indicated the City should be wary of this action.

He asked if the School Board had approved the TIF application. Mr. Powell indicated no vote had been taken.

Mr. Gertz inquired about the \$570,000 received as part of the CARES Act and the project \$200,000 for this coming year. He understood that there is a settlement in the wings for the police department personnel issue. Sabrina Smith reported the amount received from the CARES Act was \$577,932.08. Expenditures must be COVID related and any monies unspent must be returned to the County.

UTILITIES, LANDS, AND BUILDINGS (Don Lindeman)

New items will soon be accepted in Rumpke’s recycling program.

Starting in 2021, residents and businesses will be able to recycle plastic tubs in Rumpke’s recycling program. So, yogurt eaters rejoice! Bring on the butter tubs and toss in those fruit cups! All of these items will find new life through Rumpke’s enhanced recycling program.

Like with our other acceptable items, Rumpke has secured long-term contracts with stable, regional end users for this material, and with a grant from The Recycling Partnership, we will soon install new machinery at some of our recycling facilities to better sort the material.

Rumpke will officially launch the new program January 4, 2021. Throughout the next few months our team will begin providing you with materials to help educate customers about the change.

We look forward to working with you as we continue to make all communities serviced by Rumpke a little cleaner and greener!

ZONING, PLANNING, AND ENVIRONMENT (Dave Powell)

At our last meeting Dan Brooks mention needing new software that has an initial purchase price plus annual costs as well. I think it might be worth setting up a separate account that would segregate a portion of the receipts of the building department to fund this software and other possible improvements to the building department. I will be contacting the building department to get additional details on the software and associated costs.

I continue to monitor a parking situation on Maple Drive that a constituent asked me to look into. It appears that vehicles belonging to people that live elsewhere are being stored on the street. That combined with the requirement that vehicles be parked 3 feet or more from driveways has created a parking crunch on a street with parking on only one side of the street.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS (Katie Eadicicco)

We have an ordinance on the agenda authorizing the mayor and Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with our city's career firefighters. I trust that everyone has had time to look over the contract. I hope we can suspend the rules for a second and third reading and vote to approve this so that it can move forward and our city office can process the pay changes with next week's payroll, due to the delay in negotiations because of Covid.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (Randy Fischesser)

First, I would like to extend my sympathy to the families of Dr. Lamping and Lance Estep; both of whom passed away over the past two weeks.

Police:

For the month of November, they had 1235 calls for service, 21 auto accidents, 190 total charges filed with 150 being original charges. Citation issued: 24 to Arlington Heights, 6 to Hamilton County Court, 0 to Juvenile Court, and 98 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 128 citations.

For Operations:

- Several assault charges,
- Several thefts in the area of South Reading,
- A Gross Sexual Imposition charge
- Several drug related charges
- A hit skip on Third St.
- Continued investigation of the hit skip at Columbia and Hunt.

Other Information:

- Three Cruisers still waiting for equipment installation.
- Officer Samuel Cole was sworn in by Mayor Bemmes and started with his FTO on 11/28/2020
- Dispatcher Setters out 4 to 6 weeks for shoulder surgery.

Fire:

Since the Fire Chief was our guest speaker this evening, he has covered what I would have reported on. The ordinance for the squad chassis purchase will be placed on the agenda after the new year.

SERVICE (Dennis Albrinck)

Mr. Albrinck reported that the service department will make one more sweep on the City for the collection of leaves. They will also continue to pick up tree branches and limbs.

The Service Department put our three trucks to deal with the recent snow fall. They concentrated mainly on the hills and the main arteries. We are in good shapes reference salt. We only used 250 tons each of the last three years when

normally we use 1200 to 1600 tons a year. We have 500-600 tons on hand. An average snow fall needs 100-150 tons. We have an ample supply of salt “on the river” from previous orders.

The Service Department recently offered a mechanics job to an individual on the list from previous testing but he refused. He called back later to accept but the list had expired so he could not be hired. The Department is giving a skills test for the position of truck driver this coming Saturday. It is expected that an individuals will be hired starting January 4th, 2021.

Mr. Albrinck reported that the traffic signal at Columbia and Benson had malfunctioned, resulting in some lengthy waits for green lights. This situation was noted by a number of individuals and has been fixed.

RECREATION (Tom Lynd)

Due to COVID related problems Reading will not have the tree lighting or movie night this year.

Reading Parks applied for the Reds Grant again and should hear something about the grant in February.

NEW BUSINESS

President Nesbitt indicated he would be addressing a situation between Council and the Administration.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

LAW DIRECTOR (Dave Stevenson)

No Report

TREASURER (Mel Gertz)

November Total Income Taxes Collected: \$577,693.00 (10.6% ahead of last year).

Year to date: \$6,975,629.00 (1.1% behind last year)

AUDITOR (Sabrina Smith)

No Report

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE UTILITY EASEMENT, BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY WORK SPACES EASEMENTS OF BEHALF OF THE CITY OF READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (SECOND READING)

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Lindeman to suspend the third reading. Motion did not carry by a 5-1-1 vote with Mr. Powell abstaining and Mr. Gertz voting no. There will be a final vote at the December 15th meeting.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2004-61 AND 2017-02, REMOVING OPTIONAL HEALTH, SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR PAID-ON-CALL (POC) AND PART-TIME (PT) FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Don Lindeman, seconded by Katie Eadicicco to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Don Lindeman, seconded by Randy Fischesser to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINACE NO. 2020-47

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF READING CAREER FIREFIGHTES ASSOCIATION I.A.F.F., LOCAL 3717 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Dave Powell to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote, with Mr. Gertz voting no. Motion made by Don Lindeman, seconded by Tom Lynd to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 5-1-1 roll call vote with Mr. Gertz voting no and Mr. Fischesser abstaining.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2020- 48

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gertz reported that there will be a hearing for proposed zoning changes on December 7th at 6:30 PM. They will be talking about building codes and eliminating underground wiring requirements.

There was a discussion about the 2018-19-20 CDBG recommendations and the 2021-22-23 recommendations. Mr. Gertz was concerned that we would not miss any of the deadlines for these two program years. It was stated that there was \$145,000 available for 18-19-20 and monies had to be spent by September 2021 and \$123,000 was available for 21-22-23. It was stated that we voted 5-1 or 5-2 for bathroom at Koenig and work on Benson Street. There was also agreement of monies for "dilapidated buildings and Bathroom at Koenig." There still seemed to be confusion about what is being presented for both program years

Don Lindeman requested a list of all the property owners affected by the proposed new gas line. It was reported that Mr. Ross has sent the list.

Mr. Gertz asked if there was a "quick take" provision for road construction or the gas line.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

X 
Dennis E. Albrinck, 4th Ward Council
Clerk of Council Pro Tem

X 
Christopher Nesbitt
President of Council