

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
MARCH 16, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Pro Tem Randy Fischesser called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.
Mr. Nesbitt did join the meeting shortly after the start of the Executive Session.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Gertz, Mr. Lynd, Mr. Albrinck, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.
Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Lynd to excuse Mr. Lindeman. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Law Director Dave Stevenson & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 2 (Regular)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to enter into Executive Session for purpose of discussing updates on pending litigation and a fire department proposal. Motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Council entered into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Lynd, seconded by Mr. Powell to come back to regular session from Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Christopher Zander (317 Walnut) Gave his opinion that Reading Council utilizing the Zoom meetings has been great and it's not a barrier to citizens to wish to participation in Government. He would like to see more updated minutes on the website & would like to see meeting agendas published ahead of time.

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut) (1) Gave his appreciation to the first responders who assisted him following an auto accident he was involved in recently. (2) In relation to in-person vs virtual meetings of council – there is no official link on the website to enable a citizen to fill out the form to participate on the virtual meetings. (3) Urge to consider not suspending 2nd and 3rd readings of resolutions and ordinances. (4) Would like the matter of Executive Sessions to be re-examined. Reason of Executive Session needs to be stated and part of public record. Public should know who is participating in the Executive Sessions. Would like to see Council get back to Chambers so that the public can see who is participating in the Executive Sessions. (5) Asked Council: When is it “an official neglect” when something that has been passed has not been executed - especially in reference to Zoning regulations and building department fees?

COMMUNICATIONS – None

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Have not received anything from the Budget Commission regarding the 2021 Budget.
- Tried to contact the Service Director regarding the ordinances on the floor tonight. Did not receive a phone call back.
- Thinks we're in good shape financially.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- No Report (Absent)

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Mr. Powell thanked the Council Clerk, President of Council and others for their assistance finding the Ordinance for the building department fees. The ordinance information was passed along to the Safety Service Director who will look into getting it posted to the city web site.

After several complaints about the parking situation on Dottie Court and driving the street a couple of times on week mornings, I asked the Safety Service Director to look into limiting parking to one side of the street. I understand it has been referred to Randy Fischesser Chairman of the PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY Committee.

Temporary no parking has been established on part of Maple Drive for what I believe to be work by MSD.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

The Laws and Contracts committee had another great meeting on Thursday and we're getting a lot of information together regarding rental properties and property maintenance.

I designed an example of a form that we could add to the City's website for rental property owners to fill out. The hope would be to have this easily accessible and able to be converted to a spreadsheet if needed. I sent the form on to Patrick with some questions and we'll talk soon. I would imagine that we would have to have the form on the website first, before moving forward with an ordinance requiring owners to register.

Mr. Powell and I cross referenced the lists of registered properties from Hamilton County verses what our Fire Department has and there's not a lot of overlap, less than what I was even expecting, and there are quite a few properties that aren't on either list. This is why we would like to have a centralized form listing all the properties within our city and the owners.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- Fire:

For the month of February, the fire department made 190 EMS Responses and 29 Fire Responses (6 all-call) for a total of 219 responses.

Police:

For the month of February, the Police Department had 1253 calls for service, 27 auto accidents, 152 total charges filed with 143 being original charges. Citation issued: 12 to Arlington Heights, 7 to Hamilton County Court, 0 to Juvenile Court, and 109 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 128 citations.

Highlights for the last two weeks of February:

Operations:

- Two Stolen Catalytic Converters cases.
- One aggravated menacing charge after threats to family.
- Two domestic violence charges; one being a juvenile.
- One disorderly at Budget Rental. Located along Mill Creek and arrested.
- Four DUI charges including one with a loaded firearm in the car.
- Theft from coin operated machines, after washer and drier broken into.
- Warrants signed on subject who violated a protection order.

Detectives:

- Continue investigation into breaking and entering at 8424 Reading Rd.
- Assisted with investigation into theft of catalytic converters along E. Galbraith Rd. Developed suspect vehicle.
- Continued investigation into breaking and entering at 8400 Reading Rd. (Boost Mobile).
- Sex case investigation- on going.
- Search warrant served on subject for on-going investigation from 2020.
- Charges signed for stalking after subject was found to be sending nude photographs to victim.
- Assisted FBI and Dart with serving a search warrant on 4th St.
- Assisted Lockland PD process bank robbery crime scene.
- Continuing monitor drug complaints in Reading and Arlington Hts.

Personnel:

- David Redding ton was sworn in by Mayor Bemmes as our newest police officer on 03/15/2021.
- Officer Berlin completed FTO course.
- PO Poppe off for medical leave.

During the first two weeks of March: they have already had six DUI charges including another one with a loaded firearm in the car. I want you to know that they aren't out targeting bars or special enforcement. For the most part these violators are bringing attention to themselves by their own actions. With St. Patrick's Day tomorrow, I am encouraging everyone that decides to celebrate to appoint a designated driver or arrange some other way to get home. It's not worth getting arrested, losing your car, or worse yet, losing yours or someone else's life by getting behind the wheel.

I want to thank Patrick Ross for calling and working with me on several follow-ups and questions that came out of the Safety Committee meeting.

1. He has contacted Tec Engineering to obtain a quote to conduct a traffic study of the bottom of Columbia from Hunt Rd. through the intersection of Reading Rd. Obviously, this study will not be done until after the work on Hunt is completed.

2. I raised some safety concerns with regard to the parking on Dottie Ct. Patrick and I agree that it should be limited to parking on one side. However, I know Mr. Powell is working on this since this is his ward. I would suggest polling the residents on the street to get their feedback.
3. We also briefly touched base on the body camera proposal for the police. He reiterated what Chief Eden's had already advised us that the biggest concern is the personnel costs to redact the requested materials. But in the end, we are both in agreement that we, as a city, need to move forward on this.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- Planning on setting a couple meetings with Administration and the Finance Committee Chairman to discuss how we can address the issues brought up in the previous Council meeting for the Service Department.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Change in sign up dates for the pool from my last report. They are now schedule for May 8, 15 & 22.
- The Easter egg hunt is scheduled for 4/3 @ 10:00 am at Haffey Fieldhouse.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- Absent (Report given by President of Council Cris Nesbitt)

- Duke Pipeline continues work - total construction time in populated Reading areas is 3 months. For more information, Pipeline website including Reading specific section can be found on our website readingohio.org
- Hunt Rd. Box Culvert work underway. Closure is anticipated to begin on Monday March 22. Could be delayed depending on weather the rest of the week. Closure and detours for about three weeks, hopefully quicker.
- Working with Public Works currently on Restroom Renovations. With winter weather behind, more time for this.
- Poles- Already have a price estimate for work, but am meeting with Ron Ashbrock next week to discuss the project that Council approved
- North End (West Side) of Reading Road Sidewalk- Rough Engineer Estimate for 6' wide sidewalks for approximately 900 feet: \$115,000. This estimate could increase depending on how significant regarding would be required in front of the Grand Antique Mall due to the slope behind the curb and could require a few utility pole relocations
- Thurnridge Drive- Will have engineered plans later this week/early next week for council to review prior to putting full project out for bid. Reminder this project is approximately 2 million dollars: 1 million in Grant and 1 million in interest free loan
- Property Purchase-Pike Street received survey back this morning. Forwarded full survey with value on Page 2 at bottom of page. If council wishes to proceed, would look at Capital Fund, Sewer Service Fee or other funds for purchase.

Comment from Mr. Gertz: He's concerned that since the renovation of the restrooms at Koenig park is a CDBG grant that the project may need to be bid, even though our Service Department is able and willing to do it.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- Absent (Report given by President of Council Cris Nesbitt)

- As of close of Business today (03-16-21) here is where we stand.

- We have collected approximately \$437,500 MTD as compared to approximately \$442,300 for the same time period in 2020.
- In total for the month of March 2020 we collected \$586,771. We need to collect approximately \$150,000 to meet this target which we will hopefully surpass given we still have 11 Business Days remaining in March.

We continue to encourage folks to mail in their tax information or place it in the Drop Box outside. We can then process the tax information.

The filing Deadline is still April 15, 2021.

Any questions, you can call the office at 513-733-0300.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- No Report (Absent)

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THREE YEAR CONTRACTS WITH AFSCME LOCAL 1093 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This was declared a first reading only.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO COMPENSATE KRISTOPHER KRETSCHMAR FOR ACCRUED SICK TIME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Fischesser to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Lynd to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-10

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO COMPENSATE PAUL GALLO AND TODD OWENS FOR ACCRUED SICK LEAVE TME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This was declared a first reading only.

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING WAGE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This was declared a first reading only.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gertz – Lincoln Day Dinner being held at Benson's Tavern on Monday, March 22 at 6:30 pm.

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