

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 06, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Nesbitt 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. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 16 (Regular)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter to Mr. Lindeman concerning residential recycling
- Letter from Superintendent Jason Enix acknowledging the Reading Fire Department
- Received a letter from the Ohio Ethics Commission reminding all individuals serving for any amount of time in 2020 or 2021 in such positions file a financial disclosure statement.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Have not received anything from the Budget Commission regarding the 2021 Budget.
- Condolences to the Engel family
- Complimented Mr. & Mrs. Ormond (Maplewood) for keeping their property so nicely upkept.
- We're looking solid financially in the various funds.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Hunt road closed for another week before it can open up but the project is progressing well.
- Duke Energy is working around Reading with the installation of the Pipeline.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Thank you to the Safety Service Director for assistance with the road closure sign on Maple Drive. A constituent has reached out to me and requested the sign be moved to the intersection with Lory Lane to keep drivers from having to turn around in resident's driveways.

I received an email from a citizen on Dottie Court voicing his opposition to potentially eliminating parking on one side of the street. I look forward to going door to door with Randy in the future to discuss this with the potentially impacted residence.

I would like us as a council to set a goal for a date to be back in chambers.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

First, regarding an incident that happened a couple weeks ago, I want to answer a questions I've been asked by several people and remind everyone that yes, we do have leash laws in our city. Section 618.01 in our Code of Ordinance explains these laws in detail. We seem to have a lot of dogs running loose in our city, and I don't know how we compare to other towns or if we're just lucky enough to have people who take the time to post about loose dogs on our neighborhood pages, but either way, this does seem to be a problem. Now I'm not condemning owners whose pets get out of their yards. We used to have a beagle that would dig under our old fence and go on little adventures and I know that some dogs are escape artists no matter what you try to do. I'm just asking that owners frequently check on their pets while their outside, make sure gates are closed, and that dogs have on their collars with proper identification.

Second, regarding the many comments and messages I've received about the condition of the former DOW/Rohm and Haas property. Those who have used the detour through that property to get to the recycling bins have commented on the garbage and items that look like they have been dumped and the general state of the area. For those that didn't see my Facebook post on my page regarding this site, I want to let everyone know that Patrick is working on getting that area cleaned up. Please

keep in mind that some of the debris is from the clearing and demolition of the buildings. The site is a Brownfield site and will take some time to demo and clear and eventually develop. It's currently owned by the Port Authority. Lastly, regarding the rental properties & property maintenance, I would like to get a registration form for rental properties up on our city's website before I move forward with an ordinance requiring owners to fill out the form. This way the ordinance can immediately go into effect and the form will be easily available to property owners.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

Fire:

For the month of March, the fire department made 182 EMS Responses and 46 Fire Responses (13 all-call) for a total of 228 responses.

Police:

For the month of March, the Police Department had 1190 calls for service, 29 auto accidents, 152 total charges filed with 156 being original charges. Citation issued: 23 to Arlington Heights, 11 to Hamilton County Court, 1 to Juvenile Court, and 116 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 152 citations.

- Over the past month, officers have had 12 OVI's, several with a loaded firearm in their possession and at least four overdoses, one of which was fatal.

Highlights for the last two weeks of March:

Operations:

- 03/17/2021, Walnut St. Subject arrested for assault after punching female in the face.
- 03/17/2021, W. Crest. Report of a stolen vehicle. Investigation continues.
- 03/21/2021, Auto crash involving a stolen vehicle. Driver fled; investigation continues.
- 03/23/2021, Reading Rd. Don Lykins reported his employee was stealing electricity. Warrants filed.
- 03/28/2021, Jefferson. Report of a stolen firearm. Investigation continues.
- 04/01/2021, Reading Rd., Father of a 2-year-old took the child without permission of the mother. Child located and returned; father arrested.
- 04/03/2021, E Benson, report of female attempting to burn a vehicle. Investigation continues.

Detectives:

- CFS 2021-0492, Investigation into thefts from Family Dollar. Owner of vehicle used identified.
- CFS 2021-0415, Menacing by stalking suspect identified after sending pictures of his private parts to victim. Suspect charged and arrested.
- CFS 2020-1268, Investigation into cruiser that was struck on 08/16/2020 completed. Suspect charged and admitted to being the driver.

Personnel:

- David Reddington started his FTO program on March 29th.
- Patrolman Roth will be returning on 04/14/2021.

Equipment:

- All three new cruisers are now in service.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- Items discussed at the most recent Service Committee:
- Asked the Civil Service Commission to administer a test for a Mechanic and hope to hire someone by Mid-June 2021.
- Various Equipment & possible ways of funding these needs.
- Possibility of renting or sharing a Street Sweeper (company: Contract Sweepers) instead of purchasing one for \$275,000. We have taken out a Federal Bond in the past.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- The Reading Clean Up day is scheduled for April 17. We'd like to get as many volunteers to come out and help on April 17.
- There have been comments on Facebook regarding the St Peter & Paul Cemetery on Reading RD - April 17th is the time to come out and help clean it up! You can meet at Koenig Park or St. Peter and Paul cemetery at 10.
- Pool sign-ups are May 8, 15 & 22 10-Noon at Haffey Fieldhouse. The pool will open Saturday, June 5 @ Noon. So far we have not gotten any details from the Board of Health on restrictions, but we will work it like we did last year. We are planning on opening concessions this year.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended; the nice weather helped.
- The bathrooms at the parks will be opening soon. The soccer and baseball fields have been worked on and are ready for use.
- The Memorial Day parade and festival are a go. The festival is scheduled to happen between May 28-31. Parade will be on Memorial Day @ 9am.
- The Legion Festival is Scheduled for June 25-27. The fireworks will be on Sunday, June 27 @ 10pm; the Legion decided to have them on this date so that they did not have to compete with other cities on July 4.

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

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- March Financial Update: \$1,969,044.00 (4.9% ahead of 2020)

- *The City of Reading Tax filing Deadline May 17, 2021.* Any questions, you can call the office at 513-733-0300.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- All account payable items are set. May 31 is the deadline for the Audit but their goal is to have it completed by the first week in May.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS – None.

READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to add Mr. Gertz’s Ordinance. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

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

Ordinance was declared a second reading only.

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

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-11

(3) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE INCREASE OF SALARIES FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PART OF THE NON-BARGAINING CITY EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Lynd, seconded by Mr. Lindeman to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-12

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Powell – Proposed that we aim for Tuesday, July 6 as the Council first meeting back in Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:46 pm.

X _____
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X _____
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council

NEW BUSINESS – None.

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- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

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