

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 20, 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, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 6 (Regular)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated 04-12-21 from Patrick Ormond (2720 Mapletree Ct.) concerning residential recycling:

Mr. Lindeman and Members of Council,

At the last televised city council meeting held on Tuesday, April 6th, a letter was read that was clearly against the possibility of a ballot issue for all-inclusive curbside recycling. The author stated that his/her family were avid recyclers and that they had a system of recycling that allowed them to take their recyclables to the community recycling bins.

First, I applaud this family for their recycling efforts, as I applaud all who recycle. And this family is certainly creative and resourceful! But the fact is, recycling for most residents in Reading is inconvenient and time consuming, leading to a paltry 8% diversion rate for our city according to the Hamilton County Solid Waste District. Neighboring communities such as Blue Ash and Amberley Village have diversion rates as high as 67%. The diversion rate being the garbage that does not end up in the landfill because of their recycling efforts. The communities that have the highest diversion rates have one thing in common, all-inclusive curbside recycling.

Here in Reading, residents have the option to participate in curbside recycling. My family participates in our curbside recycling program and it is very convenient and easy! With the program, we received a good size wheeled recycling cart with a lid that my family fills each week with our mixed recyclables; drink cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, paper, cardboard, junk mail etc. and we place it on the curb each Friday for pickup. The cost per month is less than the cost of a fancy coffee or typical fast food value meal. Our household diversion rate is about 90% and we feel very good about those waste items getting a second chance at being useful as opposed to being buried in a hole. As a former teacher, I took many students to the Rumpke Landfill in Colerain Township over the years. I would encourage anyone to make that trip. For most, seeing a landfill in action will change the way you see your garbage and our future as human beings on this planet.

With that said, it would be great if the city could, at a minimum, get a full presentation and estimate from Rumpke on a citywide curbside recycling program. Maybe that's already been done? For all we know, we may find that we break even as a city, or even profit, as Rumpke would be picking up less garbage in exchange for more of the recyclables that Rumpke profits from. I think we should at least see a proposal and allow the voters to decide. There is certainly never a downside in allowing our citizens to be heard on the ballot!

*Just my thoughts! Thank you for listening,
Patrick J. Ormond*

UPDATE ON VARIOUS PROJECTS AROUND READING FROM MAYOR BO BEMMES

Report given by Clerk of Council, Carla Kacher:

- Duke Pipeline
 - West and Pleasant St. fully open to access Stadium/Track/Fieldhouse/Recycling today(4-20)
 - End of April the crews will be across Columbia. When constructing Columbia, a lane of traffic will remain open with flaggers
 - 4 weeks should be fully off of Market Street
 - Starting work crossing Benson at 3rd Street (4-20). 1 lane to remain open with traffic control

- Hunt Road
 - Scheduled for paving next Wednesday(28th)
 - Took few weeks longer than anticipated due to several unexpected issues:
 - Concrete pillars from bridge over creek from at least 60 or more years ago were no shown in plans. Old road was 30 inches below current pavement level
 - MSD sewer was 9 inches off so that caused a delay to adjust the box properly
 - Any days it rained precluded work from being done
 - Delays caused delay with Crane and Crane operator
 - Relocate water lines.
- ODOT Bridge Over Cooper Creek
 - Work will begin approximately May 3
 - Two lanes of traffic will remain open
- Thurnridge Drive
 - Plans are at City Hall to review large size(in council chambers)
 - Bids will be received April 29
 - Plans include: widen road 3' (18" each side), new stormwater catch basins, new 8" water main, curbs, driveway aprons, right of way trees removed, worst sidewalk replacement included (alternate bid to complete 100% of sidewalk), Speed humps(Not bumps) approx. every 500'
 - Approximately 1 Million grant and 1 Million interest free loan

REMINDER: VYO will be having Memorial Day Weekend Festival and American Legion will be holding parade on Monday May 31. Starting at 9 AM in Arlington Heights.

American Legion will be having 4th of July Festival the weekend prior to the 4th (June 25-27) with Fireworks on Sunday the 27th at 10PM.

THANK YOU to all volunteers who took time out of their days this Saturday to help clean up around the City and their neighborhoods!

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Asked for prayers for the family of Bob Gertz
- Condolences to the family of Jake Maynard
- \$332,00000 ahead of this time last year.
- Been waiting for the Budget Commission. We have to approve the Permanent Appropriations by May 1st.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Appreciates the two letters from Reading residents voicing both sides of City-Wide Recycling being added to the ballot.
- Appreciated the update from the Mayor regarding the various projects around Reading.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Thank you to the Safety service director for seeing to it that traffic calming elements were included on the plans for Thurnridge. I hope similar measures will be included for other streets in the community moving forward.
- Continuing to research the zoning codes for other communities to see how they define short term rentals. I hope to have some language soon to review with Katie and the law director.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- Will be meeting with Patrick Ross on 04-21-21 to discuss getting the rental registration form added to our city's website. Once the form is up, I'd like to meet with my committee to go over writing an ordinance requiring rental property owners to complete the form.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

The DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back day is this Saturday, 4/24/21.

Bring your old, unused, or expired prescription medication to Reading PD on 4/24/21 10am - 2 p.m. and place it in the drug take back box in the police department lobby.

While the take back day is this Saturday, you can come to the police department at anytime to drop off unused/expired prescription medication.

Go to DEATakeBack.com for more information.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- New single-axel truck will be in in mid-May
- Crews have been cutting down trees throughout the City and the Parks
- Fixed a water main leak on Benson near Hill Street
- Mechanic test will be administered May 22, 2021
- Service Department has purchased the water valve locator
- Purchased a new shoring box. Received a grant to help with the purchase with the help of A All Valley Plumbing City paid \$1,200 of the \$6,800 cost.
- Repainted the Bridal District sign on Koehler Ave
- Repaired a catch basin at Jefferson and Morrow

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Reading Clean up went well. We had a lot of volunteers at the Quiet Park, Koenig Park & St. Peter & Paul Cemetery. Thank you to Diane Brown, Lisa Schoenberger, MND students, Boy Scout Troop # 633, Girl Scout Troops and numerous community members who participated.
- Pool sign ups May 8, 15 & 22 10-Noon @ Fieldhouse.
- Pool opens Saturday 6/5 @ Noon
- The bathrooms at the parks will be opening soon. The soccer & 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**

- Absent. Report read earlier in the evening.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- No Report (Absent)

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- Absent. Report given by President of Council, Cris Nesbitt.
So far April has been an excellent month for tax collections. As of EOB today, we have collected \$1,057,726.08. We are currently running \$332,231.28 ahead compared to the entire month of April 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

- 2022 Tax Budget has arrived and it is due by July 20 by 4:00 p.m. Notice of public hearing will follow.
- Audit to be completed by end of month (May).

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.**

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (with Mr. Gertz abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest).

ORDINANCE ADOPTED**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-13**

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Smith – Thanked everyone for their help with Clean Up Reading Date

- “Walking With A Purpose” (Ohio Litter project). Signup on Facebook or call Sabrina Smith at 513-733-4879
- Farmers Market beginning May 21st.
- “Adopt-A-Pot” – All 62 flower pots have been adopted by individuals, businesses and families.

Mr. Lynd – Thanks to the Boy Scout Troop 633 and the Girl Scouts for all their hard work with Clean Up Reading

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:32 pm.

X _____
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X _____
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council