

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 4, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Mr. Daum called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKER: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None Requested

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes – State of the City Address

- Gave the “State of the City” address. For the full address please visit <http://www.icrctv.com/communities>, click on “Reading,” and then click “Reading City Council 01-04-2022”

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- Contractors will be out on Third Street later this week to fix the sewer laterals. Our Engineers are working on designing Third Street Road Project which will include full curbs & water main. This is a Reading project because Duke gave the City \$461,000.00. We must fund the water main at 100% and Duke is only paying for 1100 feet of damaged curbs and the rest of the curb is on us. It’s about a half a million dollars. We did apply for a zero percent interest free loan for that half. We should find out through the County’s SCIP program in the next several weeks as to whether we’re going to get the 0% loan.
- 100% of the Duke Pipeline has been installed through the entire route. In the next few weeks, they will begin testing it and eventually it will be put into full service.
- Crews resume work on Thurnridge Drive. The water main is firmly laid from Hunt Road to Fuhrman. They’ll begin testing it and then they’ll need to do all the tie-ins. They have also begun work on the catch basins.
- Moving our dispatch from the Police to the County: Before, if you dialed 911 and had a Police Emergency, the County would transfer it to our dispatchers at City Hall and they dispatch our Officers. Since our Fire and EMS has been with the County for 20 years, we have every confidence that it will be a smooth transition. For any Emergencies, you call 911. The remaining dispatchers did NOT get fired, they have actually been reclassified as clerks and they will be here from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.
- The red, orange or green bands around our hydrants serves two purposes: (1) It lets the firefighters know the flow rate and (2) they are reflective and help the firefighters find them easier when it nighttime.
- Due Diligence period that Nitto Denko Avecia has been undergoing for the last 3-4 months to purchase the Life Science site at the end of Third Street, they are satisfied with their Due Diligence period and they’re ready to move forward with the closing.
- Publics Works Crew has completed leaf pick-up, however, if you still have some leaves needing pick-up, you can bag them, and they will come around and pick them up for you.
- Every single and 2-family home has the ability to Recycle at home. If you haven’t received a bin or gotten a large one, you can call Rumpke and they will give you either the green, rolling bin (larger) or the smaller red bin. Collection day is the same day as your trash pickup. The public bins that have been located down by the stadium,

those will be relocated to the Public Works garage on Incinerator Lane, and they'll be available to use from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Boehner pointed out that Rumpke requests that residents place their garbage container on one side of the driveway and the Recycling container on the other side in an effort to keep them separate since there are two separate crews handling pick up.

- Mr. Powell asked if part of the water line replacement on Third street included replacing lead service lines?
Mr. Ross response: Our Engineers have been directed to put an alternate bid in there that the Contractor will have to provide per new tap.
Mr. Powell also asked if there were any guarantees for how many years the \$5.00 rate per dispatch would last with the Hamilton County Dispatch. Mr. Ross Answer: No but the current stance is that they have no thoughts about increasing it.
- Mr. Thamann asked if there was a projected completion date for Thurnridge.
Mr. Ross Response: Doesn't have an exact date but he thinks around Summertime.
- Mr. Daum asked for point of contact info for Recycling since he and some other residents didn't receive their bins.
Mr. Ross Response: Call the City Clerks at 513-733-3725 and they can help you with all the details. Also, residents, Mr. and Mrs. Ormond, has offered their assistance as well.
Mr. Daum also asked if Hamilton County has updated maps. Last time he called 911, they routed him to Cincinnati.
Mr. Ross Response: They should. Sometimes the different zip codes on Galbraith Road may be causing that.
Mr. Stevenson suggested that we contact Hamilton County and let them know which addresses belong to Reading.
Mr. Daum asked if the residents that have the lead water lines know that there is a product being put in the water to reduce the amount of lead that gets to them or to neutralize it?
Mr. Ross Answer: Every year they are provided with the Water Quality Report, so if they read it, they know.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson *(No Report)*

TREASURER: Brenda Owens *(No Report, Absent)*

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- I'm Sabrina Smith, your City Auditor, and I'm excited to get started with this year. Tonight, you will see 5 ordinances from my office. These are normal ordinances that are passed every year. Fund accounting is a little different of a ballgame but I'm confident that everyone can learn these items. Throughout the year you will see us consolidate some of these funds to get ready for a new software.
- Mr. Bronner has already reached out to me to get acclimated in his new role. I will be sharing documents and meeting with him in the near future.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- First, tonight I would like council to talk about appointing the other two members of each of our committees and vote on those tonight so we can move forward with committee meetings.
- Second, I would like to schedule a Laws and Contracts committee meeting for Tuesday, January 25 at 6:30 here at City Hall in the caucus room to discuss the Rules and Regulations Governing Council Procedure. I would like to invite Mayor Bemmes and Patrick to the committee meeting so we can get their input and also add any changes that Carla would like to make to the duties of Clerk of Council. Also, during the meeting, I would like to talk about some of our committee's goals for this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for December, 2021

- Calls for service 1,102
- Auto Accidents 30
- Booking Original Charges 151

- Total Criminal Charges 230

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 12
- Arlington Heights 14
- Juvenile 0
- Reading Mayor's 156

Total Citations 186

Fire Departments run count for December 2021

- EMS Responses 203
- Fire Responses 43 (9 all-call)

Total Responses 246

Fire Department run count for 2021

- EMS Responses 2,547
- Fire Responses 472 (140 all-calls)

Total Responses for 2021 3,019

***Record number of incidents, an increase of 13.5% from 2020 (2,660)**

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- We started taking applications for the swimming pool employees today. We only have so many positions available, so it is important for all interested parties to submit applications as early as possible. We will review returning employee applications first, and the new applicants will be reviewed in the order they are received. Pool employees are typically hired in April.
- Applicants must be at least 14 years-old to work in concessions.
- Applicants must be at least 15 years-old to be a lifeguard.
- All lifeguards must get their lifeguard certification prior to the pool opening. The City of Reading does NOT pay for the certification. However, lifeguards are eligible for an end-of-summer bonus to offset the cost of training.
- Please call Susan Slavey with any questions: 513-623-4145\
- Sign-ups for pool memberships will be on the first 3 Saturdays in May (7, 14, 21), from 10:00 am – noon at the Haffey Fieldhouse
- The pool is set to open on Saturday, June 4th @ noon
- The City Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 16: 10: 00 a.m. at the Haffey Field House.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Will reach out to Jerry Newfarmer to schedule a date for him to visit Council to review how the City does things.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

- Thanked Mr. Ross for providing a nice update to the Utilities, Lands and Buildings Committee.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

- City crew was out patching potholes in the streets
- The Mulcher has been out collecting branches.
- City street sweeper has been out cleaning streets
- There have been two leaf crews out picking up leaves through the fall and now we have changed over for snow removal on our trucks and leaf pickup is done for the year
- Water main breaks have been repaired on Heile Dr and South Kathwood
- And the repairs to the roadways will be completed this week
- City crew helped set up for the new year for Council at the Haffey Field House.
- Thanked Shelly Kroger for organizing the Inauguration on January 1.

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- No Report

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Committee Chairs requested for interested members to join their committees. The full Committees are as follows:

- **Finance: Chairman, Andy Bronner**, members Mr. Bishop & Mr. Boehner
- **Utilities, Lands & Buildings: Chairman, Mark Bishop**, members Mr. Bronner & Mr. Powell
- **Zoning, Planning & Environment: Chairman, Dave Powell**, members Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco
- **Laws and Contracts: Chairwoman, Katie Eadicicco**, members Mr. Powell & Mr. Boehner
- **Public Health & Safety: Chairwoman, Shelly Kroeger**, members Mrs. Eadicicco & Mr. Thamann
- **Service: Chairman, Bob Boehner**, members Mrs. Kroeger & Mr. Bronner
- **Recreation: Chairman, Scott Thamann**, members Mr. Bishop & Mrs. Kroeger

President of Council, Dwight Daum, brought up the following topics:

- (1) Ordinance 2019-49 regarding updating the Council Chambers and the Caucus Room. Asked everyone to consider what improvements need to be made and bring their list of ideas to the next meeting.
- (2) Requested a Top Priorities Streets Paving List to be posted online from Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross maintains a spreadsheet listing all the roads for the past decade, how much they cost and what we must pay back for those projects. There is also another list that the Public Works department put together that lists "Immediate Need, Needs within 3-5 years & Needs within 10 years." Mr. Ross will get both documents out to Council.
- (3) A request was made by a resident on Third Street to install speed signs at the South end.
(From Benson, towards East Vorhees, towards the dead-end part of the street)
- (4) Stop Signs on Galbraith Road. Residents at Ridgepoint and Harvest are having trouble getting out of their properties without getting in a wreck. Getting in is better, but not much since the speed limit changes from 35 to 25. Residents are requesting some kind of speed traffic control. Mr. Stevenson pointed out that before a sign or traffic light goes up, a study will have to be completed. If it's an issue of speeding, target enforcement might help and other types of signage. Mr. Stevenson is not sure of whether a Stop Sign or a Traffic Light will be allowed to be put there. Mr. Ross said he'll investigate possible solutions and ask our Police Department to target that area for speeding. Clerk of Council, Carla Kacher, suggested that both the speed signs for Third Street and the request for traffic control on Galbraith Road be placed into Shelly Kroeger's committee and they can work with Mr. Ross on these issues.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES

- (1) **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** *(First Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-01

- (2) **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM APRIL 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** *(First Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Boehner to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.

Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Powell to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-02

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM JULY 1, 2022 – SEPTEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY *(First Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.
Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Powell to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-03

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 – DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY *(First Reading)*

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bishop to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.
Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-04

(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO PAY THE AMOUNT OF \$73,565.03 FROM THE STREETS & CURBS FUND (230.280.5800.00) FOR PAYMENT WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT LOANS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(First Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.
Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bishop to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-05

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President of Council, Dwight Daum, handed out copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States to all Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Boehner and was seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote.
There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:50 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council