

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 18, 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. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, Seconded by Mr. Bronner to excuse Mr. Powell. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Treasurer Brenda Owens, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve December 21, 2021 (Legislative); December 27, 2021 (Special); January 1, 2022 (Inauguration) & January 4 (Regular) Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, Seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut Street)

Discussed the Civic Public works Project: Presentation was made to Council 15 years ago by ODOT with their plans to widen I-75 throughout the Reading stretch. At that time Mr. Ashbrock (then a Council Member) made a strong pitch to close the Lockland split and consolidate all traffic at a broadened right of way through the heart of Lockland but they chose to take a different path. In the Summer of 2021, however, ODOT decided that a similar idea would be beneficial and save about 88 million dollars. Before proceeding with that as their final alternative, they are requesting public input during a public hearing on February 17. This will be a virtual public input session scheduled at 12:00 p.m. and can be accessed at the website www.publicinput.com/I75improvements. Information from that session will be repeated at an in-person setting two weeks later on March 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center. Mr. Ashbrock thinks that his suggestion so many years ago would be the most beneficial to our City by delivering an improved public gateway into our city and also serve as a way to bolster our image. He also believes it would be a significant aesthetic improvement and enhance the quality of life for a significant number of people that live in the Valley by greatly mitigate highway noise.

Pat Ormond (2720 Maple Tree)

- Welcomed new members to Council.
- Cleared the air with any misconceptions the City of Reading residents may have about he and his wife. They do not work for the City of Reading or Rumpke, they are just very passionate, private citizens who post online (Reading Community Forum).
- Offered information about Recycling within Reading: 2021 Reading Recycling Averaged about 4.8 tons per week (collected curbside). For the first 2 weeks of 2022 with the full inclusion Recycling program, we have now been averaging over 10 tons per week collected by Rumpke (120% increase) with curbside recycling. Currently, 1,400 green recycling rolling carts are being used (Rumpke prefers these). If you still need a green recycling rolling cart, please call 1-800-828-8171 to request a large green recycling rolling cart – no extra charge!
- Mentioned a few problems with Recycling within the city:
 - (1) Alley Streets (ex: Pike, Pearl, Walnut, Vine) are being missed. Garbage is collected but not the Recycling.
 - (2) All cardboard needs to be broken down. Styrofoam & plastic packaging needs to be REMOVED.
 - (3) Communication Gap – nothing official from the City about garbage & recycling pick-up days changing to the same day and suggested that this information be included in the next water bill. Mayor Bo Bemmes said this can be added to the water bill but confirmed that Rumpke did send out that communication for the City.
 - (4) Suggestion by a Reading resident that Incinerator Lane be open more than just on “Reading Clean Up Day” for residents to bring their tires, and other garbage items.
- Mayor Bo Bemmes confirmed that “Reading Clean Up Day” is the only day Daryl Courtney (Service Department Manager) can get the dumpsters for tires, etc. There is a cost to the City to dispose of the tires and other items.
- Mrs. Eadicicco reminded residents that the free, recycling dumpsters that were previously located by the football field are now located at Incinerator Lane and available from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- (5) Reminded the new Council members about the Unsolicited Materials Ordinance (Ordinance 2021-33) that was passed in 2021 (referencing the Door Store Ads). Mr. Ormond had an “encounter” with the Door Store employee randomly throwing the ads left and right out of her car window. The Police were called, 2 very nice, professional Police officers responded to handle the situation, but they did not issue a citation because they really didn’t know what the ordinance was all about, and

they didn't see the ads as "litter." He wanted to thank the officers for coming out and wonderfully handling the situation.

Mayor Bo Bemmes has discussed this ordinance with Law Director Dave Stevenson and it's suggested that we take another look at it. There is concern that it could lead to a lawsuit that would be costly to the City. There is already a contest that they are under the same type of protection that the Enquirer Delivery person is. This is a tough ordinance for the City to enforce because we have to catch people in the act of littering to give them a ticket for littering (same way with speeding).

James Shelton (2401 Carol Drive)

- Gave his comments about adding a D.O.R.A. ("Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area" – can have an open container outside within a certain area) district in the Bridal District. It is his opinion that he'd like to see the City use this somewhere else in Reading where more bars can open. It is his belief that if we use it in the Bridal District we are limiting the scope of what we can actually do with the D.O.R.A. district since most of the business in the Bridal District are stores that are not selling alcohol. Mr. Shelton would like to see this designated to another area where there is potential to open up more bars, restaurants or different venues for entertainment.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKER: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None Requested

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

- Please call 911 for all Police, Fire & EMS emergencies. Call 513-733-4122 for non-emergencies. We are maintaining 2 clerks who will answer the non-emergency phone line is being answered from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can also call 513-733-3725 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with questions. Residents can also always call him at 513-509-8619 or email the Mayor or Patrick Ross with questions.

- Please remove cars from streets during the snow so City Snow Plows can get through easily and the streets cleared appropriately.

- American Legion Fireworks will be held on Sunday, July 3 at 10:00 p.m at Koenig Park.

American Legion 4th of July Festival will be July 2 & 3rd.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022 FOR THE CITY OF READING PARKS, PROGRAMS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-06

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021 - 06 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EMPLOY CERTAIN TEMPORARY; SEASONAL AND PART-TIME HELP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroger to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-07

Those in attendance in the audience brought up a discussion about the ordinances being publicly publicized before meetings so they have an opportunity to read through the ordinances and weigh in with their opinions. Suggestions were made to post the ordinances before the meeting on the City Website and/or in the glass case outside of City Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

Next committee meeting will be held on January 25 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the information she passed out to Council members of responses she received from City residents from a Facebook posting she made regarding City Issues/Areas of Concerns they'd like to see Council address.

City Issues/Areas of Concern, per Citizens

(In order by number of mentions)

- Property Maintenance for both homes and businesses
 - Blight/condemned/empty or abandoned properties
 - Dilapidated properties/cars and junk in yards
 - New/updated/improved Building Department
 - Cap on rental properties
- Stadium
 - School taking ownership
 - Updates/repairs or building a new stadium
- New City Hall/Emergency Responder Facilities
- Economic Development
 - Improving the Reading Road Corridor
 - Street beautification
 - Updating the Bridal District
 - Implementing DORA in the area
 - Approval for new businesses
- Upkeep and Improvement to our Parks
- Parking Issues
 - Better or more signage
 - Better enforcement
 - Limiting parking near corners/intersections
- Street Paving/Fixing Pot Holes
- Better Communication from City
 - Better communication from the Pool
 - More events at the pool and at our parks
 - Communication about these events
- City and School working together
- Enforcing the ordinances on the books
- Building a Rec Center
- Drug enforcement
 - Cracking down on drug houses/dealing
- Stopped trains
- Police Department upgrades
 - Body cameras
 - Dash cameras
 - Fingerprint camera
- Traffic Issues at the bottom of Columbia hill
 - Adding a right turn only lane onto Reading Rd.
- Semi-truck traffic through residential areas
- Adding a Dog Park

Auditor: Sabrina Smith

- Gave information to the new Council Members about available trainings:

Ohio Ethics of Law Training is not mandatory, but they are very helpful. Mainly because we live in a small city.

<https://ethics.ohio.gov/education/>

Ohio Sunshine Law is a mandatory training.

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/legal/sunshine-laws/sunshine-law-training>

The Center For Local Government Offers Trainings:

<https://www.c4lg.org/events/>

And the Ohio Municipal League that Bo and Patrick signed you up for updates has a website as well:

<https://www.omloho.org/>

- Distributed a survey handout to Council Members that the Auditors require all newly elected officials to fill out.

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

Report Date: 01/18/2022

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Income Tax Receipt Summary

MICHELLE

Selected date 1/18/2022

Month	2021 Individual	2021 Net-Profit	2021 Withholding	2021 Total	2022 Individual	2022 Net-Profit	2022 Withholding	2022 Total	Difference	Percent
January	\$78,359.45	\$6,066.99	\$574,280.18	\$658,706.62	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-49,295.98	-7
1 - QTR	\$78,359.45	\$6,066.99	\$574,280.18	\$658,706.62	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-49,295.98	-7
YTD QTR - 1	\$78,359.45	\$6,066.99	\$574,280.18	\$658,706.62	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-49,295.98	-7

Report Date: 01/18/2022

CITY OF READING

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Report Time:14:45:33

Income Tax Receipt Summary

MICHELLE

Selected date 1/31/2022

Month	2021 Individual	2021 Net-Profit	2021 Withholding	2021 Total	2022 Individual	2022 Net-Profit	2022 Withholding	2022 Total	Difference	Percent
January	\$107,428.78	\$11,980.99	\$717,951.69	\$837,361.46	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-227,950.82	-27
1 - QTR	\$107,428.78	\$11,980.99	\$717,951.69	\$837,361.46	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-227,950.82	-27
YTD QTR - 1	\$107,428.78	\$11,980.99	\$717,951.69	\$837,361.46	\$56,040.58	\$27,657.75	\$525,712.31	\$609,410.64	\$-227,950.82	-27

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Boehner and was seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:19 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council