

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 1, 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, Law Director Dave Stevenson, and Treasurer Brenda Owens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Pat Ormond of 2720 Mapletree Court commented regarding outdated information on the City website, specifically as it relates to Council Members and City ordinances. He remarked that the names and emails of the current council were not on the site and that the unsolicited materials ordinance was not published. Mayor Bemmes responded by saying that there was no website at the start of his first term as mayor in 2003 and that the City was moving to a new provider and that someone was working on it.

Mr. Ormond also made a recycling announcement for Rumpke, specifically that Rumpke can now accept disposable drink cups, except for Solo cups, as long as they are free of food debris.

The president of council mentioned email troubleshooting efforts had been attempted and that email communication among the current council members worked, but that emails to and from external emails was not working and asked the Mayor if someone could work on that.

Jennifer Dick of 227 Harvest Lane talked about the lack of snow removal on Harvest Lane after the snow event on Friday, January 28th and Saturday, January 29th. She mentioned that she had to call the Mayor to get someone out to plow Harvest Lane that Saturday, since the police said that it was not a dedicated road. Mrs. Dick informed council that Harvest Lane has been a dedicated road since 1981 and said that the service department did a great job clearing the road once they got there. Mayor Bemmes asked if this happened all the time, and Mrs. Dick said that was an unusual occurrence and that she would like to recognize Matt Morgan of the safety department for doing a good job on the street. She also asked about a neighborhood watch.

Mayor Bemmes responded by discussing the neighborhood watch program, summing it up with the advice to “look out for your neighbors.”

Crystal Menner of 2401 East Galbraith Road and Beth Wernery of 1102 Jefferson Avenue, both of the Reading Community City School District Board of Education, addressed council regarding the January 5th school board meeting and asked for council participation in a City-Schools Relations Committee to help the City and the School Board work as a team. Mrs. Menner provided her school district email address, cmenner@readingschools.org, for contact information. Mayor Bemmes and Councilmembers Boehner and Eadicicco agreed to be members of the Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mr. Jason Enix, Superintendent of Reading Schools, displayed a slideshow outlining the need for a school tax levy to be on the ballot. Mr. Enix also took questions from council members and the general public. The president of council noted for the viewing public that the school district is a separate taxing authority and verified with Mr. Enix that a 9.99 mil levy had been voted by the school board to be included on the May 3rd Primary Election ballot. For the full presentation, please visit <http://www.icrcvt.com/communities>, click on “Reading,” and then click “Reading City Council 02-01-2022.”

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Mr. John Putnam of the UniCity Project spoke regarding the possibility of a citywide Wi-Fi system that could help residents and visitors find businesses, parks, and city offices by using a cellphone app. UniCity combines technology and community development expertise. UniCity works with governments of all sizes to problem solve through smart city solutions. Building on a foundation of connectivity through fiber and high-speed public Wi-Fi networks, UniCity works hand-in-hand with communities to custom build a suite of technology applications to impact business district vibrancy, neighborhood-based enhancements, public safety, and data-driven policy decision making. Over the last 24 months UniCity has deployed over 1,500 WiFi hotspots regionally to drive economic development, and address digital equity issues.

Our website is located at: <https://unicity.cincinnati-bell.com/>

Mr. Putnam took questions from council and the general public. For the full presentation, please visit <http://www.icrctv.com/communities>, click on “Reading,” and then click “Reading City Council 02-01-2022.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes

The Mayor mentioned the need to call 911 for all EMS situations, since there is no longer a city dispatcher. He also indicated the need for people to move cars off the streets during a snow event, so the snow plows could clear the streets. He said that the City had received a grant for body cameras for the police department, and that video storage would be in-house due to the high cost of “cloud” storage. He also said they were looking into a grant for police car cameras.

Mr. Bemmes talked about the recycling dumpsters being at the city garage and that there had been 1300 calls for police service and that calls regarding child abuse, domestic violence, and theft would be prioritized. He spoke about the Koenig Park bathroom restoration project and the use of \$29,000 in road salt usage so far this year. He spoke about a water main break on Thurnridge drive over the weekend and a \$1 million grant out of a \$2 million project for maintaining water mains.

Mayor Bemmes also said that Nitto AVECIA has purchased the old Nivison property for an expansion of its current business. He also talked about the upcoming demolition of the Drake Motel in the northern part of Sycamore Township that is across Reading Road from southern Reading and how this will help the businesses in Reading. The Mayor reminded everyone that the Reading Community Arts Center is now open and that there were two upcoming events. He also congratulated the Reading High School Bowling Team for winning the state championship.

He mentioned again that everyone should get to know their neighbors and that the service desk was open from 6 am to 10 pm Monday through Friday. The phone number is 733-4122. He talked about the school district funding by comparing it to the one-time availability of the money from the Electric Bond, and that the City had to raise revenue or experience cuts, both of which happened. He thanked the school board members for being at the meeting.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross *(No Report, Absent)*

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson *(No Report)*

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
January 2022 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison**

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$96,093	\$110,812	\$107,429	\$79,333	-26.2%
February	\$68,356	\$67,807	\$45,896		
March	\$117,226	\$89,577	\$127,056		
April	\$415,198	\$109,428	\$221,576		
May	\$77,836	\$48,987	\$223,455		
June	\$115,093	\$99,289	\$134,637		
July	\$53,556	\$337,009	\$82,544		
August	\$70,483	\$71,990	\$39,361		
September	\$102,017	\$106,778	\$89,782		
October	\$38,131	\$93,081	\$56,061		
November	\$54,158	\$76,487	\$14,763		
December	\$58,151	\$96,708	\$86,298		
Yearly Totals	\$1,266,298	\$1,307,953	\$1,228,857	\$79,333	
YTD Progress	\$96,093	\$110,812	\$107,429	\$79,333	-26.2%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2021	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$555,799	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	-4.0%
February	\$418,114	\$530,926	\$462,760		
March	\$403,816	\$419,609	\$413,361		
April	\$718,041	\$590,089	\$801,135		
May	\$464,702	\$453,000	\$490,963		
June	\$463,205	\$441,487	\$484,864		
July	\$474,774	\$433,643	\$507,334		
August	\$410,495	\$519,886	\$566,411		
September	\$519,714	\$392,475	\$411,837		
October	\$457,049	\$449,639	\$549,184		
November	\$454,636	\$483,331	\$545,750		
December	\$458,688	\$429,457	\$432,363		
Yearly Totals	\$5,799,031	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$689,143	
YTD Progress	\$555,799	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	-4.0%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$14,888	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	308.2%
February	\$37,357	\$18,896	\$58,854		
March	\$44,127	\$77,585	\$23,641		
April	\$146,628	\$26,014	\$137,747		
May	\$22,169	\$21,905	\$60,812		
June	\$87,523	\$39,477	\$87,483		
July	\$7,829	\$95,430	\$43,735		
August	\$50,022	\$80,398	\$38,207		
September	\$61,612	\$77,959	\$85,263		
October	\$16,216	\$32,831	\$42,542		
November	\$13,642	\$17,874	\$22,412		
December	\$63,553	\$26,952	\$87,159		
Yearly Totals	\$565,565	\$537,579	\$699,835	\$48,907	
YTD Progress	\$14,888	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	308.2%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$666,780	\$672,741	\$837,361	\$817,383	-2.4%
February	\$523,826	\$617,629	\$567,510		
March	\$565,169	\$586,771	\$564,058		
April	\$1,279,867	\$725,531	\$1,160,458		
May	\$564,707	\$523,892	\$775,230		
June	\$665,820	\$580,253	\$706,984		
July	\$536,158	\$866,082	\$633,613		
August	\$531,000	\$672,274	\$643,978		
September	\$683,343	\$577,213	\$586,882		
October	\$511,396	\$575,551	\$647,787		
November	\$522,436	\$577,693	\$582,925		
December	\$580,392	\$553,117	\$605,819		
Yearly Totals	\$7,630,893	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,605	\$817,383	
YTD Progress	\$666,780	\$672,741	\$837,361	\$817,383	-2.4%

Total Refunds 2019 = \$135,343 2020 = \$132,162 2021 = \$115,450 2022 YTD Refunds = \$0

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 02/01/2022

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith (No Report, Absent)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

Congratulations to Sabrina for completing the 2020 audit. It appears that everything went very well as they have already begun working on 2021. I would like to thank Brenda for her report and comment that tax collection looks to be on a good pace. Lastly, I will talk about having 31 different city funds and how I would like to work with the administration and Sabrina, through finance committee, to possibly consolidate and eliminate some of the funds.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

The Utilities Lands and Buildings Committee will be holding its first meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 6:30pm in the Caucus Room. The meeting is being held to discuss the Committee's goals for 2022.

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ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell *(No Report)*

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

Mrs. Eadicicco talked about the January 25th committee meeting having discussed the Rules and Regulations Governing Council Procedures that had been sent out. In attendance was Mr. Powell, Mr. Boehner, and Mayor Bemmes. The updated Rules and Regulations were sent out on Saturday with the changes and additions suggested during the committee meeting, including the suggestions from Mayor Bemmes and Patrick Ross and our Clerk of Council, Carla Kacher.

She mentioned three items that she would like to make motions on: adoption of the rules of council, keeping the current committees and memberships, and approving Mr. Thamann as Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Boehner moved to table the adoption of the rules of council, since he had not received them and had not had time to read them. The motion to table was seconded by Mr. Thamann. The president of council took a roll call vote with all members voting to table the rules. The president advised Mrs. Eadicicco that she could bring them up at the next meeting. Mrs. Eadicicco then moved to nominate Mr. Thamann as Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Boehner seconded the motion. The president took a roll call vote with all members voting to appoint Mr. Thamann Sergeant-at-Arms. Mrs. Eadicicco retracted her motion to keep current committees of council, since the new rules of council had not been adopted.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for January, 2022

- Calls for service 1312
- Auto Accidents 31
- Booking Original Charges
- Total Criminal Charges

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County
- Arlington Heights
- Juvenile
- Reading Mayor's

Total Citations 314

Fire Departments run count for January, 2022

- EMS Responses 234
- Fire Responses 40 – 7 all-call

Total Responses 274

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Mr. Boehner presented the report from the Chief of Public Works and mentioned pothole filling and pickup of tree branches. He talked about water main breaks all over the city patched and the lines back in service. There is catch basin work at Market and Vine Streets. There have been 3 snow events using 400 tons of salt. He talked about the work on the Koenig Park bathrooms and work on Thurnridge Drive and how Service Department employees had assisted Adleta with cold-weather work. Mr. Boehner mentioned that only the Safety Service Director can call a snow emergency, and that once a snow emergency is called, people need to get their cars off the streets, so they don't end up covered in snow. Mr. Boehner announced the first Service Committee meeting would be held on February 15 at 6:30 pm.

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RECREATION: Scott Thamann

We are still accepting pool applications, for lifeguards and concession workers.
Applications can be found at City Hall

The city Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 16 @ 10am at the fieldhouse.

Reading Litter Clean-up Day will be Saturday, April 23 10 – Noon. Meet at Koenig Park Small Shelter or St. Peter & Paul Cemetery on Reading Road.

Pool sign-ups will be the first three Saturdays in May, (May 7, 14 & 21) 10 – Noon at the fieldhouse.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Bishop thanked the students at Saints Peter and Paul Academy for the handmade cards delivered to councilmembers' mailboxes. Other councilmembers also thanked the students.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mr Bronner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

X_____

Respectfully Submitted
Dwight Daum
Clerk of Council, Pro-Tem

X_____

Dwight Daum
President of Council