

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 15, 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. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.
Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, Seconded by Mr. Bronner to excuse Mr. Bishop. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve January 18 (Legislative) & February 1 (Regular) Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, Seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

GUEST SPEAKER: Cate Crusham, Branch Manager of Reading Library

New Library Hours: Sunday 1:00-5:00, Monday & Tuesday 10:00-8:00, Wednesday-Saturday 10:00-6:00

Update on Library Services:

Free faxing, Free prints up to 20 pages, Free printed tax forms, Drive thru service – print, fax, pick up materials,
No overdue late fees on materials.

Programs and Events for the Community:

Meal Service for youth – Mondays from 3:00-5:00, while supplies last

Homework Help program – Monday-Thursday 3:00-6:00

Storytime for families – Wednesdays at 10:30

Afterschool program for school age kids – Tuesdays at 3:30

Adult Book Clubs

General Fiction – last Thursday of the month at 1:30

Parenting by the Book – book discussion and playdate – 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Craft Night – 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00

More information: visit cincinnati.library.org or call 513-369-4465

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None Requested

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner to approve the 2022 Council Rules as edited and distributed after the Laws and Contracts committee meeting in January 2022. Motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” Mr. Boehner voting “no.”) Mr. Boehner mentioned that he would like the Safety Service Director, Patrick Ross, to attend more meetings since there are many questions that come up during the meetings that he is the only one who can answer them properly. Mayor Bo Bemmes commented that Patrick intends on attending more meetings going forward.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to approve the committees as created on January 4, 2022. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to elect Mark Bishop as the second Council Representative to the CIC (Community Improvement Corporation). Motion carried by voice vote.

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.

- We now have a new, 8 inch in diameter water main on Thurnridge. Physical attempts were made to communicate with the residents and ask that their cars to be moved due to needing to block their driveways. Going forward, contractors will leave a note on the front doors.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President of Council, Dwight Daum read the following anonymous letter from a resident:

“As a Reading resident of 20+ years, I am concerned about the City’s current financial situation. Reading’s \$8M yearly operating budget is unsustainable. Discontinuing consideration for new, expensive, projects, the city should internally audit whether or not all apartment dwellers and other renters are paying the local income tax. Additionally, City Council should consider amending the tax law to make it 1% while requiring all residents to file and pay income tax, regardless of age and income sources. Since Reading’s local income tax is the highest in Hamilton County, Reading needs to focus on being competitive with other communities to avoid making it more economical to live elsewhere.”

President of Council, Dwight Daum, gave the following explanation relating to the Source of Taxing Authority – City and School District:

*At the February 1st meeting, after Reading Schools Superintendent Mr. Enix spoke, I mentioned that the school district is a separate taxing authority, and I verified with Mr. Enix that the 9.99 mil property tax levy was already voted by the school board to be on the **May 3rd primary ballot**. Since then, I have been asked what that means and why the City did that. Therefore, I am providing the following information.*

***The City of Reading** is incorporated under the Ohio Revised Code in **Title 7, Municipal Corporations**. The City’s taxing authority is provided in Chapter 718, Municipal Income Taxes. **Cities** are only allowed to institute an income tax – not a property tax. The tax levy on the primary ballot is a **property** tax; the City had no say whether the school tax levy question would be on **any** ballot, so the City **didn’t** do it.*

***The Reading Community City School District** is incorporated under the Ohio Revised Code as well, but that is found in **Title 33, Education – Libraries**. Section 3311.02 defines a City school district. The Board of Education is defined in Chapter 3313, and its **taxing authority is established in Chapter 3315**. Under Chapter 3316, the State of Ohio has started a fiscal watch on the School District, and one outcome of that is the State pressuring the School Board for a tax levy to maintain the operating budget in the black for the next 5 years. It was the School Board that voted for the property tax levy question to be on the primary ballot.*

So, the City of Reading and the Reading Community City School District are two separate entities under the Ohio Revised Code, and, by law, must operate independently of each other. Specifically, the City cannot institute a school tax levy; neither can the School District institute a City income tax.

However, the line that separates the City of Reading from the Reading Community City School District gets very blurry, since the whole of the school district lies within the City, and no other school districts are present within the city. It is important to keep the legal distinction in mind as we discuss taxes, properties, daily operations, and cooperation between the City and School District.

CONTINUED MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Boehner gave a Service Committee Report from their Committee meeting before tonight’s Council Meeting. Tonight’s meeting was to review the Capital needs of the Service Department.

Equipment list for the year of 2022 Public Works

- 1) ½ ton pickup truck to replace one that has 160,000 miles plus on it and is rusted through. Close the driver door and the floorboard shakes from the rust as the flooring is shot in the vehicle.
- 2) 1 ton dump truck to replace unit 69 or 30 which is 19 years old on 30 the dump bed does not work.
- 3) Valve turner to exercise the water valves to make shut offs easier and more efficient to repair water main breaks.
- 4) Mulcher needs to be replaced it has excessive amount of running hours on it and is breaking down more often.
- 5) New leaf machine the old one we cannot find parts for it anymore for repairs. Refurbished one approximately \$30,000.00 a ODB 650 is just like the one we have or a new one for \$60,000.00 GRANT?
- 6) Midsize truck for the parks to use in their operations for the restrooms, taking care of all the city facilities, moving tables and so on.
- 7) New street sweeper ours is over 30 years old and we can not find parts any longer and it breaks down constantly. Tymco 435 street sweeper holds 4 yards of waste and is stainless steel approximately \$175,000.00

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mrs. Kroeger and was seconded by Mr. Bohner. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:10 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council