

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SPECIAL SESSION
MARCH 22, 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. Bochner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

GUEST SPEAKER: Chief of Police, Bryan Edens

(1) Few of the constant complaints we receive are.

- Speed
- Parking- from stop signs, from curbs, over curbs, in yards
- Red Lights

We average 180 citations each month.

- 1) Over the past two weeks we have stepped up enforcement due to complaints in the following areas.
- Hill top area- the following complaints have been received over the past couple of weeks
Traffic exiting the high school on Bolser, Parking on Bolser, Speed on Columbia, traffic on Thurnridge, speed on Fuhrman, Siebenthaler, Hunt Rd., Fuhrman. Parking issues in the same areas, over curbs, in yards, blocking sidewalks.

We have stepped up enforcement in the areas.

- 2) Arlington Heights-
- We just completed the first three contract in December 2021
 - Signed a new five-year contract
 - This is particularly good for both Reading and Arlington Hts., as they are saving, and we are also saving money. Talking with Mayor Crase he sounds pleased with our service.
- 3) BWC's
- Received a grant for 24,000.
 - With adjustments made in grant will cost additional 7000.00 for BWC's only.
 - To also purchase cruiser cameras to complete the package additional 30,000.
 - Prior council supported and price with cruiser cameras was requested by Safety Committee.
 - Would expect to have up and running late second quarter of early third quarter of 2022.
 - Request for records- will be managed by current staff, unless found to be too burdensome. If so will look to hire part time staff to manage, 20,000 per year, supported by current administration.
 - Storage of records- will be stored in stand-alone server.

4) Improvements for department

- As with all the city departments, we lack space. The absolute best would be a new building.
- We currently share space for detectives and lieutenants. Have a break room that everybody in the department walks through, run Mayors Court Clerk in a small office that is busting at the seams, no dedicated room to process evidence.
- If fire department were to get new building. Space used currently could be split up, giving the first floor to the police department for use in operations and Mayors Court Clerk. Using the second floor for city operations.

Bob Boehner Questions to Chief Edens:

(1) Any Liquor Licenses available in Reading?

Answer: Chief Edens does not have information on available licenses?

(2) Speeding from trucks still on Bernard & Riesenberg.

Would like the City to look into “No Trucks” signs be installed as a possible solution.

(3) Trucks driving down Columbia from Cross County/Ridge Road are still a problem.

Would like the City to look into whether or not the County might have any ideas on solutions to this problem

(4) Noticed attention to speeding issues on Reading Road and Columbia and would like to see it continued.

Mayor Bo Bemmes Response to the Bernard/Riesenberg issue:

There is no easy fix to this issue but we can look into a bridge and look into Cavit Drive again. The biggest issue with these solutions is where to get the money to cover the costs.

Mark Bishop Question to Chief Edens: Signs that tell people how fast they’re going – are those effective?

Answer: It doesn’t solve the problem but it does make some folks slow down.

With the man power that we have we spend as much time as we can on each speeding complaint but we eventually have to move onto other areas.

Dave Stevenson: Urges Council to take in the needs they have for body & dash cameras. Believes that the cameras will eventually become required. Chief Edens commented that the footage assists with cutting down investigation time, prosecuting time and addressing the issues. Life expectancy on the body camera and dash camera equipment is 10-15 years. Servers will last is 7-8 years. Storing footage to the cloud is an outrageous price.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dave Powell:

“At our Council meeting on March 15, 2022 the President of Council read a prepared statement prior to the scheduled presentation by the Superintendent of Reading Community Schools.

In the prepared statement the President of Council opined on the kinships and employment of various public officials and their relatives in the City of Reading.

The president of Council also unilaterally attempted to modify the published agenda for that evening’s meeting.

Later that evening the President of Council allowed a member of the audience to speak for over 8.5 minutes contrary to the 5 minutes allowed in our recently adopted Rules of Council.

I make a motion that we as a Council publicly rebuke these actions by the President of Council and remind the President of Council that they are a member of the Executive branch, that their primary purpose is to conduct our meetings according to our published agenda in a businesslike manner, and in rare instances cast a vote in the event of a tie.

I ask that this be a roll call vote if this motion gets a second.”

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to publicly rebuke stated actions by the President of Council and remind the President of Council that they are a member of the Executive branch, that their primary purpose is to conduct our meetings according to our published agenda in a businesslike manner, and in rare instances cast a vote in the event of a tie. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “no”).

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 8:24 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council