

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
APRIL 19, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President of Council 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. Eadicco. 7 present, 0 absent.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, and Treasurer Brenda Owens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

The audiovisual recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.icrctv.com/video/reading-city-council-41922>

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ken Wietmarschen of 1660 Sanborn Drive discussed the Mayor's April 5th report, indicating that the Mayor had advocated for a turf field for the stadium and that the school has done nothing in support of the stadium. Mr. Wietmarschen discussed a facebook post from the Mayor saying that the school is paying \$10K/year for facilities and that the city administration wants to rebuild the track and field. Mr. Wietmarschen asked about a rainy day fund and other development within the city and asked if the streetscape was the first phase. The Benson Street streetscape is over 40 years old and needs updating. He also asked about the appropriateness of handling city funds and stated that the City should get out of the stadium business. Mayor Bemmes replied by talking about maintenance and replacement funding and the loss of 2 sport fields. He continued by saying that talk surrounding stadium maintenance started 15 years ago and that sod was coming out in chunks during the Deer Park game. "Usage and affordability swayed me," the mayor stated. He then went on to talk about safety issues in the neighborhood south of Galbraith and that the port authority was involved in the acquisition and demolition of the Drake Motel on the west side of Reading Road and indicated that \$7K in city funds went into that. He continued on about the status of Vorhees Park and others, the pool and other things, discussion of a pool liner, soccer practice fields and Lockland's turf. Mr. Wietmarschen asked how many of Lockland's players were from Reading. The mayor indicated that the City maintains Saint Peter & Paul Fields, that it's his 22nd year as mayor, and that the Fire/EMS department needs other facilities. Mrs. Kroeger claimed that there were more citizens on the track than people from the school.

Brian Collins of 1313 Mockingbird Lane asked whether Reading residents were allowed to use the new baseball fields at the old Hilltop School location. The mayor said that the fields can only be used during daylight hours, since there are no lights there, and that it's school property. Mr. Collins agrees with Mr. Wietmarschen that the City needs to get out of the stadium business and suggested that the City should give it to the school. The mayor then indicated his support for the school levy, and the Law Director said that the school does not have to accept the stadium property even if the City gives it to the school. Mr. Wietmarschen recalled that the previous superintendent said that the ball fields would not be available to the public. The mayor said that this was not true.

Bob Ashbrock of 321 Walnut Street spoke about the loss of fields and practice facilities and reminded council that there was a 2019 ordinance on the books to upgrade council chambers. He suggested that there should be a technology upgrade, so that guests could present video and slideshow presentations without the need for council to move to the gallery to see. Mr. Ashbrock provided a brief history regarding a previous school district bond issue. He indicated the FAQ publication with the Reading Blue Devil seal on it that was circulated publicly prior to the bond issue passing indicated that the school district and the state of Ohio agreed that the [Central School] building should be demolished and that the land would be given to the City of Reading. Since the building was demolished, but the land was not given to the City, Mr. Ashbrock said that he felt like "many of us were snookered." He then proceeded into a discussion of how the City was financially responsible for certain things. The president of council indicated to Mr. Ashbrock that his 5 minute limit had expired, and Mr. Ashbrock asked for more time. Mr. Boehner moved to extend Mr. Ashbrock's time. Mr. Thamann seconded the motion. The president called the roll for the vote. Mr. Powell – yes, Mr Bronner – no, Mr Bishop – yes, Mr. Boehner – yes, Mr. Thamann –

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yes, Mrs. Kroeger – no, Mrs. Eadicicco – no. 4 yes, 3 no, the motion carried. Mr. Ashbrock's time was extended. He continued explaining some of the City financial issues surrounding the school and said that the City should press the pause button on assisting the district further.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: Jessica Miranda (Ohio General Assembly House Member from the 28th District) Assemblywoman Miranda spoke regarding proposed legislation regarding trains blocking tracks. The House Bill is H.B. 361. Bill analysis was provided to council in paper form. The full text of the bill is available on the House website at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-361>.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES:

1) AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF READING, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022. (Third Reading)

Mr. Boehner motioned to adopt the ordinance, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. 7 yes. The ordinance is adopted. Ordinance number is 2022-11.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING THE CITY'S FINANCE AND PAYROLL SOFTWARE FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$190,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Boehner motioned to suspend the rules requiring a second and third readings, and Mr. Thamann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. 7 yes.

Mrs. Eadicicco motioned to adopt the ordinance, and Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. 7 yes. The ordinance is adopted. Ordinance number is 2022-12.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mrs. Eadicicco brought up the revision to the rules of council. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Boehner announced a Service Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:30 pm in council chambers with the Chief of Public works.

Mr. Thamann announced that the upcoming Saturday was Reading Cleanup Day and provided details.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mr. Bronner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

X _____
Dwight Daum

X _____
Dwight Daum

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Acting Clerk of Council

President of Council