

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
May 4, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Nesbitt led those in attendance in a prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Gertz, Mr. Lynd, Mr. Albrinck, Mr. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 20 (Regular)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated 04-20-21 from Department of Commerce: Division of Liquor Control

This is notice that all permits to sell alcoholic beverages in your political subdivision will expire on July 1, 2021. In order to maintain permit privileges, every permit holder must file a renewal application.

Ohio Revised Code Section 4303.27 l(B) provides the legislative authority with the right to object to the renewal of a permit and to request a hearing. The hearing may be held in the county seat of the county in which the permit premises is located if that request is made in writing. This will be your only opportunity to object to the renewal of a liquor permit premises which might be a problem in your community.

In order to register a valid objection with the Division of Liquor Control and request a hearing, the legislative authority must pass a resolution that specifies the problems at the liquor permit premises and the legal grounds for the objection as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 4303.292(A). It is suggested that a separate resolution be passed for each permit premises. The Chief Legal Officer of your political subdivision must also submit a statement with the resolution that, in the Chief Legal Officer's opinion, the objection is based upon substantial legal grounds within the meaning and intent of Ohio Revised Code Section 4303.292(A). The resolution and Chief Legal Officer's statement must be addressed to the Division of Liquor Control, Attn: Legal Section, 6606 Tussing Road, P.O. Box 4005, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-9005 and postmarked no later than June 2, 2021.

For your convenience, you may access our brochure entitled "How to Object to the Issuance or Renewal of a Liquor Permit" from our website at www.com.ohio.gov/liqr Under "Licensing" click on "Renewals" and under that mega menu please select the link "Object to the Issuance or Renewal of a Liquor Permit".

You may wish to contact the law enforcement agency for your jurisdiction to determine if it has any information which will aid in your decision whether or not to object and request a hearing. For your convenience you may obtain a list of issued permit holders in your jurisdiction from our website at the above link. Under "Liquor Control" click on "Look it up" and under that mega menu please select "Search Permit Holders" "Permit Applicant / Holder Information (types and status)". You will then enter the search criteria for your county / city / township to bring up the issued permits in your jurisdiction. If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a list from us by writing the Division at the below address.

If you determine that there are no permit premises within your jurisdiction that you wish to object to, you do not need to take any action. The renewal applications for those premises will be submitted by the permit holders and will be processed by the Division and issued as appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact the Legal Section at (614) 644-2489.

*Sincerely,
Licensing Section*

REPORT FROM GUEST SPEAKER MAYOR BO BEMMES

There are two ordinances tonight that Administration supports. We support awarding the Thurnridge Dr project to Adleta construction including replacing all the sidewalks. We hope this project is awarded tonight. We feel that it would be best if this project started as soon as possible so as much work as possible can be completed before school starts again - especially the section between Hunt Road and Bolser. This is a \$2 million-dollar project with nearly \$1 million of that coming from a Ohio Public Works STIP Grant. We have received a lot of input from residents, and we have been talking about what to include, as in new 8" water main, widen the road by 3 feet, install traffic calming speed humps, new curbs, new driveway aprons and remove all trees between the sidewalk and curb.

Duke Pipeline will be across Columbia by the end of this week, and they have crossed Benson.

Hunt Road Box Culvert \$400 K Grant paved by end of May/early June.

N. Reading Rd. ODOT will start the Cooper Creek bridge reconstruction project next week. two lanes will be closed at a time until completion. 4 lanes-> 2 Lanes

S. Reading Rd. - We continue to work with ODOT, Sycamore Township, Amberley and Cincinnati to accomplish major road and sidewalk improvements on Reading Road south of Galbraith to our border with Cincinnati.

VYO Festival will be held on May 28-31. The VYO is an all-volunteer organization keeping 300 boys and girls busy for six months each year playing softball, baseball and basketball.

Memorial Day Parade starts in Arlington Heights at 9:00 AM on Memorial Day and usually gets to Reading around 9:30. This is always one of the most special events in our City and we hope everyone comes out to show our respect and gratitude for those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the wonderful freedoms we have living in the GREATEST COUNTRY EVER.

Reading always comes together in best and worst of times. Please continue to pray for all in need: Our condolences go out to the Courtney Family, Darrell's brother Duane passed away last Friday. Congratulations and Good Luck to Peyton Ramsey as he signed as a free agent with Carolina Panthers.

Please Slow down as you drive

Please don't litter

Help us stop Vandalism

Congratulations to all graduates at each of our excellent schools. Reading High School: Valedictorian Cris Creatura and Salutatorian Margaret Grant.

Congratulations to Glenda Donnelly who is retiring as principal at SSPP Academy after 13 years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. Email me at rbemmes@readingohio.org or call me at 733-3725 or 509-8619

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- We still have not passed the Permanent Appropriations for 2021.

Suggested a special Council meeting or to suspend expenditures until the Permanent appropriations can be passed.

Motion made by Mr. Lynd, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 6 at 6:30.

Motion passed by voice vote.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Spoke to Mr. Martin regarding a property on Gahl Terrace in which the front window was severely broken, grass very high and clothes strewn all over the front lawn. Eviction notice placed on the front door.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- A city clerk put me in touch with a constituent on Clark Road about a zoning matter. I contacted Dan Brooks and he is working to get the issue corrected.

- I research the unsolicited written materials ordinance in Oxford that Katie referred me to. I found the language and I am reviewing it.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- I passed the rental property registration form on to Patrick and I would like to set up a Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 if that works for Dave and Tony. I'd like to discuss possible fees for failing to register properties and wording for an ordinance so we can move this forward.

- The Gahl Terrace property that Mr. Lindeman discussed, I have also talked to Patrick Ross about it and he has tracked down the owner and talked to them. They told Patrick that they're going to have someone come out and make repairs.

This issue is one that my committee is working on so that we can streamline tracking down owners of properties and holding them responsible for property maintenance issues.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

Fire:

For the month of April, the fire department made 220 EMS Responses and 43 Fire Responses (16 all-call) for a total of 263 responses.

Operations:

- The first Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine dose provided to 16-18-year-old Reading School students.
- FF-P Kit Kretschmar retired April 24th after 31 years of service.
- FF-P Kelly Stickney was offered the vacated full-time position.
- Spring servicing of hydrants continues in all areas of the city.
- Various in-service and full department training sessions on both EMS and Fire technical operations.
- Multiple birthday parades conducted in response areas.

Police:

For the month of April, the Police Department had 1287 calls for service, 33 auto accidents, 268 total charges filed with 156 being original charges. Citation issued: 18 to Arlington Heights, 19 to Hamilton County Court, 3 to Juvenile Court, and 95 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 136 citations.

Highlights of Police activities for the last two weeks of April:

Operations :

- 04/23/2021, E. Benson St., auto accident, driver arrested for OVI and obstructing official business after attempting to hide in someone's house.
- 04/25/2021, E. Lakeshore Dr. young child found alone in the parking lot. After investigation, it was found the child had unlocked the apartment door and got out.
- 04/28/2021, E. Galbraith Rd., call for auto accident. Officers found subject had fled the scene on foot. After being located suspect resisted arrested and struck Investigating Officer in the face during arrest. Subject was transported to UC Hospital and then to HCJC. Officer OK.
- 04/28/2021, Reading @ Illinois, suspect charged with disorderly conduct after squad run for overdosing on Heroin.
- 04/30/2021, Jefferson Ave., Female arrested on open felony warrants, found to be in possession of drugs. Additional charged added.
- 04/30/2021, Illinois Ave., female suspect cited for disorderly conduct after squad run with overdose.
- 05/01/2021, Reading Rd., subject arrested for walking in traffic. Found to be intoxicated or on unknown drugs.
- 05/02/2021, Cooper St., Received call for subject destroying property. Subject appeared to be under the influence of drugs. Subject resisted arrest and had to be tased.

I called Chief Edens after he returned from vacation to get updates on a couple of pending issues.

First, I will be presenting legislation at our next regular meeting for the purchase of police cruisers for 2021. This is an ongoing capital expense that will be taken from the ... fund.

The Chief has pursued several potential sources for body camera grants. Unfortunately, none have come to fruition. The only other potential funding would be a proposed project in the state budget slated to be passed in June. I will again remind council that this is not only a capital purchase, but also an ongoing operations expense including the hiring of a person to manage the program.

Finally, we also discussed the need to hire two part-time dispatchers. This will free up an officer to go back on the road. If you recall, this was mentioned in the proposal when we took on patrolling Arlington Heights.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- Service department is looking forward to the arrival of the new City Service truck
- City crew was out patching potholes in the streets
- The mulcher has been out collecting branches. Please do not place branches and grass cuttings out in the curb.
- City crew has been cleaning catch basins – this is a year-long continual task the Service department completes.
- City crews have removed the plows from city trucks.
- City crew cleaned out the storm line on Bolser Dr

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Pool sign ups start this weekend May 8 and continue on the 15 & 22 between 10 and Noon at the Fieldhouse.
- Pool is scheduled to open on Saturday 6/5 @ Noon.
- All guests this year must be present with a member. The pool will also not allow anymore residents to have a day pass.

- Still no guidelines from board of health for pool. We are planning on business as usual unless we hear otherwise.
- The parks would like the administration to explore the option of possibly getting another full-time employee or assigning a second person from the service department in the parks, especially between March and October. Reading only has one full time parks person and it does make it difficult to get fields etc ready.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Fischesser suggested Mrs. Eadicicco look to reviewing the sections of the code relating to Council meetings. Council voted to approve this be placed in the Law & Contracts Committee.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes

- Report given earlier in the evening.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- No Report (Absent)

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report (Absent). Clerk of Council, Carla Kacher did report for Mr. Stevenson that Mr. Mount has dismissed his suit against the City and the School.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- Absent. Report given by Finance Committee Chair, Tony Gertz:
YTD we have collected \$3,129,387. We are currently running \$526,716 ahead or 20.2%
- *The City of Reading Tax filing Deadline May 17, 2021.* Any questions, you can call the office at 513-733-0300.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- My Office is still working on getting items updated for the GAAP for 2020 to the Auditors. All of this is due May 10, 2021.
- Working on getting payables done for May 2021. Working on closing the end of Month for April 2021. Lots going on.
- State of Ohio is making a lot of changes to my department and some of these are not financially based. Makes it hard to coordinate all these job duties.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS – None.

READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Gertz to add Mr. Stevenson’s ordinance about the suspend the rule that authorizes the Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Reading to act as agent to the City of Reading for the purpose of marketing the Life Science expansion site. Motion carried by a voice vote and the ordinance was added to the agenda.

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO COMPENSATE MICHELLE NAISH FOR ACCRUED SICK TIME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Lindeman, seconded by Mr. Powell to suspend the rule that requires a second or third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote Motion made by Mr. Lynd, seconded by Mr. Lindeman to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-14

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO AWARD A PROJECT TO ADLETA CONSTRUCTION FOR THE THURNRIDGE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,035,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Albrinck, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the rule that requires a second or third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Gertz voting “no”). Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-15

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO AWARD A PROJECT TO ADLETA CONSTRUCTION FOR THE THURN RIDGE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,860,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This ordinance was tabled due to the adoption of Ordinance 2021-15.

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF READING TO ACT AS AGENT TO THE CITY OF READING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MARKETING THE LIFE SCIENCE EXPANSION SITE OWNED BY THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Gertz to suspend the rule that requires a second or third reading.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Lindeman to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-16

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:37 pm.

X _____
CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X _____
CRIS NESBITT
President of Council