

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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:

Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *August 17 (Legislative & Whole)*

COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

GUEST SPEAKER – NONE

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

Pat Ormond (2720 Mapletree Ct): He is a member of both WeThrive and Walk With A Purpose groups in Reading. Gave his support behind Dave Powell's ordinance for the Unsolicited Materials (ex. Door Store ads, Cinti Bell phone books). Encourages recycling to be part of the upcoming contract with Rumpke for the City of Reading.

Glenda A. Smith (119 E Court Street):

- Youth Sanctuary brings non-profits, businesses & government together to maximize their potential.
- Zoom Youth Discussion (Ages 9-18). Every 4 sessions a child attends they get a gift card to help with food, gas, etc.
- Raising money to teach faith, work ethic & charity.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

- No Report (Absent)

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross

- Thurnridge Drive Update
 - Duke Energy finishing gas service line relocations
 - Upon completion, Adleta will begin work, first area they will do is Water Main replacement work later in September
- Benson Street Update
 - Last week and early this week, our Public Works crew is doing spot curb work on the worst areas of curb.
 - Later this week Rack and Ballauer will commence work on repaving of Benson from Reading Road to bridge
 - Work anticipated to take no longer than end of this month to complete.
 - They will work 4 ten hour days, with Friday being a rain make up day
 - There will be detour when they are working in two different sections. Those sections are: Wachendorf to Jefferson and Reading to Jefferson. Having detour will allow workers to work in a safer manner for themselves and vehicles and will allow them to work in a manner to complete work in a timely manner.
 - Streets will be open after 5 each day and on Weekends
- Third Street/Duke Paving (Additional City Work)
 - Administration, Public Works Department, Water Department, and Fire Department all supportive of replacing undersized(3") water main, main with lead still in it, and main that has had several breaks.
 - Also support replacing all curbs on Third St. rather than just the curbing Duke contractor damaged.

- Duke has said they would pay the City directly for their required work, which will allow the City the time to properly engineer project that will incorporate water mains and full curbing
- \$461,000 is amount Duke will give the City to do paving they are required to do. This amount has been checked by City Engineer to verify we are receiving adequate compensation
- **Arlington Heights Police**
 - Agreement for 5 year extension for city to remain providing police protection services for the village. Initial contract was for 3 years. Contractual increases built in annually. Administration and PD believe this agreement is a win-win for both the City of Reading and Arlington
 - Garbage/Recycling - awaiting feedback from committee of council before advertising bid specs for garbage and recycling

EVENTS

- Our Lady of Valley- St. Pete's Festival 9/18-9/19
- Car Show- September 12 @Noon at fields by Pool and Fieldhouse Registration at 10AM
- Bridal Event- 9/22 from 6-9 on Benson between Reading and Wachendorf - Street Closed

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- No Report.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz

- August Financial Update: We collected \$643,978 (-4.2% behind 2020).
Year to date we have collected \$5,889,192.00 (12.3% ahead of 2020)

- Ordinance tonight which will enable our Tax Department to begin receiving Income Tax Filings Electronically. All Hardware, Software and Support will be paid for from the Covid Relief Fund (501). We looked at this several years ago but the software had not been perfected. However, in recent times, it has been brought up to speed and the City of Reading is one of a few MITS software users that has not yet implemented it. We would like to get this Ordinance passed as an Emergency Measure so we can get the Hardware, Software installed and Training completed before the next Tax Season begins

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- No Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Will be pursuing the 2022 Budget Submission to the Budget Commission permanent appropriation once it is returned.
- Mr. Ross confirmed: November 2020 Council passed the CDBG funds to be 50% on Roads & 50% on property acquisition

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- Complimented the Taste of Reading event and the WeThrive's group "Walking with a Purpose" for their recycling efforts.
- Patrick gave my Committee the Waste Collection & Recycling bid. It is the standard, 5 year contract for waste collection we have now with 2 options for Curbside recycling to be picked up either every week or every other week. Residents will have 3 different size options of recycling containers. Mr. Lindeman pointed out that if Council decides not to include recycling in the contract then the current 900 residents with curbside recycling will have to contract directly with Rumpke for this service.

Motion by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Lindeman to direct Administration to go out for bids. Motion carried by voice vote.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- I have a proposed ordinance on the floor to control the placement of unsolicited written materials. This ordinance should help prevent litter in the city and improve the appearance.
- I will be reaching out the Bridal District Association in the coming days to solicit their ideas for potential improvements to the bridal district.
- I have been researching companies that perform organizational reviews for local government. I have found one that has a

local presence that I am going to reach out to. I am thinking about asking them to come to an upcoming Council meeting to speak about what they do and the associated cost to foster further discussion on Council. I think it is time we take a serious look at how we do things as an organization and how it can be improved to ensure we allocate resources where they will have the most impact.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- I held a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting on August 23rd and we worked out the best way to combine the rental property ordinances. It was a quick meeting, but I feel like we got a lot accomplished. After typing up the updated ordinance I sent it on to Mr. Stevenson and my committee members to review before sending it to the rest of council. I trust that everyone had a chance to read it over. Hopefully, tonight we can vote to move forward with this issue.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- Requested and confirmed with the Public Health and Safety Committee that a committee meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 28th at 6:30PM

- Since I was unable to give the run statistics last month, I have both July and August statistics this evening.

Fire: For the month of July, the fire department made 234 EMS Responses and 44 Fire Responses (13 all-call) for a total of 278 responses. For the month of August, they made 219 EMS Responses and 38 Fire Responses (9 all-call) for a total of 257 responses.

Police: For the month of July, the Police Department had 1651 calls for service, 29 auto accidents, 335 total charges filed with 231 being original charges. Citation issued: 30 to Arlington Heights, 13 to Hamilton County Court, 3 to Juvenile Court, and 235 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 282 citations. For the month of August, the Department had 1360 calls for service, 32 auto accidents, 246 total charges filed with 178 being original charges. Citation issued: 25 to Arlington Heights, 7 to Hamilton County Court, 2 to Juvenile Court, and 175 to Reading's Mayors Court for a total of 216 citations.

Congratulations to our Fire Department on receiving the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Plus Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures to treat patients who suffer a severe heart attack.

Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on our nation. That day we lost 2,977 people including 344 firefighters, 72 law enforcement officers and 55 military personnel at the pentagon. Sadly, a lot of people today have all but forgotten this horrendous act and the impact it had on every American. Life goes on; but we must never forget the events of this day.

This Saturday at 8:46 AM, the time the first plane struck the north tower of the World Trade Center, I ask that everyone stop whatever you are doing and say a prayer for all those who lost their lives that day and ask God to guard and protect us from something like this ever happening again.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- All hands on deck to tear out all the bad 400ft of curbing on West Benson St. and replace before the construction company comes in to grind and replace the roadway from the bridge coming from Lockland to Reading Road. This project is being done in two phases one from the bridge to Jefferson Ave and the other from Jefferson Ave to Reading Road on West Benson Street.

- New Mechanic: Aaron Griffith starts September 27th.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- The mayor mentioned in his report last month that the service department was in need of another full time employee to help the parks. I talked with Darrell Courtney and Seth Redwine and both agreed the service department could use help for the parks. I reached out to the administration if we could make that happen. Patrick Ross responded and let me know that we don't have it in the budget to hire a full time employee right now. So the administration's plan is to hire part time employees and to utilize another service department employee to help with the parks in the summer months. I love the parks in Reading and it takes a lot to maintain them. I appreciate all the hard work Seth does for the parks and truly believe he needs help. The administration has a plan and I support that at this time. Maybe down the line the budget will allow for another full time employee dedicated to the parks.

- The pool is officially closed. I want to thank everyone who worked at the pool this year and thank them for a great year. They had around 296 registered members/family this year. Last year it was only 179 and it was up from 282 in 2019. I am just happy to see that so many Reading residents are enjoying the pool.

- Fall soccer has started. We did have to move some fields around due to the Port Authority not allowing us to use the old fields anymore. We were able to put two fields (one large & one small) at Koenig Park, two smaller fields at Haffey & the Instructional fields behind the pool.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

READING OF RESOLUTIONS - NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES

(1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF READING, OHIO, BY ADDING NEW SECTION 660.17 ENTITLED UNSOLICITED WRITTEN MATERIALS TO CHAPTER 660 ENTITLED SAFETY, SANITATION AND HEALTH. (First Reading)

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

(2) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS TO PROPERLY ABIDE BY OHIO REVISED CODE 5323.02 BY COMPLETELY THE HAMILTON COUNTY RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION AND PENALTIES ACCORDINGLY TO LAW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading - Updated Ordinance)

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the second and third reading. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Lindeman, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-28

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER, OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX SOLUTIONS (MITS) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING TAXPAYERS TO eFILE AND ePAY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the second and third reading. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Lindeman, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-29

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH DUKE ENERGY, OHIO (DEO) GRANTING A RELEASE FOR RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) RESTORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

OTHER BUSINESS - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:20 pm.

X_____

CARLA KACHER

Clerk of Council

X_____

CRIS NESBITT

President of Council