

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit <http://www.icrcv.com/communities>, click on "Reading," and then click "Reading City Council 09-20-2022."

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. Thamann & Mrs. Kroeger.

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner to excuse Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner & Mrs. Eadicicco.

Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve September 6 (Regular) Council Minutes made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Powell. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Tim Neumann, ICRC Executive Director

Hello Reading Council Members,
Let me first introduce myself. My name is Tim Neumann and I'm the Executive Director at the ICRC.
I met some of you last year when you came to the ICRC studio to record your candidate video.
I've become aware there has been some discussion at a recent committee meeting regarding ESP Media being considered as an alternative to ICRC.
While I am unaware of how far along the discussion is, I feel it's important that everyone knows the resources that are already available through ICRC.
I've attached a one page outline that I hope reintroduces you to the ICRC and the benefits of being a longtime member.

In addition to the list of programs on the outline, we are currently working on a documentary for Reading Community Schools 100th Anniversary (A trailer will be premiered at the Settlement Day Dinner on October 1st)
As well as a video on the legacy of the Late Mary Haskamp.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk with all of you in person at a committee or council meeting to answer any questions you have.
I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Tim Neumann
Executive Director
ICRC-TV

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to mark the communication received and filed.
Motion carried by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

(1) Luke Ourednik (Associate Planner for the Hamilton County Planning & Development)

Gave background and further detail into the resolution presented to Council this evening.

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, @ 7:30 PM
City of Reading
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Summary

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Overview

The purpose of the RCP Program is to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities such as highways and rail lines that create barriers to community connectivity including to mobility, access, or economic development. The program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives. The variety of transformative solutions to knit communities back together can include: high-quality public transportation, infrastructure removal, pedestrian walkways and overpasses, capping and lids, linear parks and trails, roadway redesigns and complete streets conversions, and main street revitalization, including planning projects related to these topics. The RCP Program welcomes applications from diverse local, Tribal, and regional communities regardless of size, location, and experience administering Federal funding awards. The total amount of funding available in this NOFO for FY 2022 is up to \$195 million.

RCP Grant Deliverables

The RCP Program provides funding for two types of grants. **Planning Grants** fund the study of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing facility to restore community connectivity; to conduct public engagement; and other transportation planning activities. Capital Construction Grants are to carry out a project to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities.

RCP Grant Priorities

The primary goal of the RCP Program is to reconnect communities harmed by transportation infrastructure, through community-supported planning activities and capital construction projects that are championed by those communities. The RCP Program aligns with Biden-Harris Administration policies and priorities, including the DOT Strategic Plan goals of Safety, Economic Strength, Equity, Climate and Sustainability, Transformation, and Organizational Excellence.

Potential Outcomes

The RCP Program has obtained funding for projects through FY 2026, providing opportunities to apply for further funding in the future. A successful Planning Grant could be used to guide an application for a future Capital Construction Grant, as well as other funding opportunities to benefit jurisdictions' connectivity, economic development, and municipal infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None Requested

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A Resolution of Support for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Application by Hamilton County Planning and Development to Secure Funding for a Planning Study to Identify Ways and Means of Evaluating East-to-West Mobility and Connectivity Problems in Central Hamilton County.

Resolution was declared a first reading only.

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF READING AND THE BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF FUHRMAN ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Katie Eadicicco (Announcement made by Dave Powell): Next Laws & Contracts Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Sabrina Smith: To access the most recent Audit for 2020 and 2022 please go to:

<https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/detail.aspx?ReportID=a78c4a00-2b71-4837-bb35-7eb94f1eb502>

Then click the PDF Hyperlink. The Audit is 179 pages.

Bo Bemmes:

(1) Benson Street will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, September 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Reading Bridal District's "Fall In Love" Event.

(2) October 1, 2022: Service Department Garage will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Clean-Up Reading Day. We will NOT ACCEPT tires, batteries, oils, paints, ammunition & chemicals.

(3) October 1, 2022: Reading Settlement Day Dinner (Reading Historical Society).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Powell and was seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:52 pm. Council then proceeded to its Council of the Whole portion of the meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE:

UTILITIES LANDS & BUILDINGS REPORT (Given by Dave Powell & Andy Bronner):

The UL&B Committee wishes to address 2 subjects at a Council of the Whole meeting following next Tuesday's regular Council meeting. Thank you for your time and attention.

The first item: Duke Energy will be installing a new regulator station at the corner of Ridge and Fuhrman.

Document 1 addresses this topic and explains the details regarding the required easement purchase. I have attached the photos provided by Duke Energy (pdf).

The second item: Leaders in surrounding communities have suggested we investigate using ESP Media to record Council meetings and provide the services now provided by ICRC as a means to save money and improve quality of services. Document 2 addresses this opportunity which should yield significant savings. Links have been provided in the document to familiarize yourselves with their services.

FIRST ITEM (DUKE EASEMENT)

DISCUSSION OF DUKE EASEMENT:

What:

In the interest of public safety, Duke wishes to purchase an easement at the corner of Fuhrman and Ridge Roads to install a new, underground natural gas relief valve and regulator station. This valve keeps the pressure at residents' homes at a minimum safe constant pressure. The regulator is a fail-safe mechanism. You've probably noticed the random venting pipes in various places.

When:

The project will be completed in 2 phases, the first planned to be completed in October/November and the second in 2023. The reason for the urgency, is that another project was more complex and this one was moved ahead on the schedule.

Why:

Currently there is a smaller installation across the street at Maple Dr. that will be abandoned and covered over with soil and grass. The old one is sub-standard and undersized for current needs. This work is essential to protect homes from over-pressurization of natural gas lines.

Next Step:

Duke Energy will be compensating the City for the property at current approved values. Reading will hire a landscaping company to re-landscape the area with appropriate plantings. Duke will pay for the landscaping services.

An ordinance authorizing the purchase of the easement will be presented at the next meeting. Time is of the essence so that work can begin to complete phase 1.

SECOND ITEM (ESP MEDIA SERVICES)

BREAKDOWN OF ESP MEDIA SERVICES & COSTS

UL&B Committee was provided a strong recommendation by neighboring communities to investigate using the services of ESP Media for audio/video services for City of Reading Council meetings. Amberly, Symmes, Sycamore Townships and the City of Deer Park are among their clients.

Current Cost with ICRC: Average annual cost over the last 4 years. \$52,000

Cost breakdown ESP Media:

Length of Initial Agreement: 2-years, Subsequent Agreement Terms: 5-year option (lower cost)

Average 2-hour meeting broadcast cost: \$1,000 each Annual Cost (2x month) \$24,000

Additional time: \$250/hr.

Zoom Meeting Cost: \$500 each (ICRC Charged normal rates)

Additional time: \$250/hr.

Podcasts (Audio or Video): \$150 each

Podcast celebrity host (usually Richard Skinner, CH 12 sports): \$100

Typical length: 30m-45m with 15 minutes post-production included. Recorded at their studios on Montgomery Road (Next to The Seasons Retirement Village).

Promotional Videos (ref: leaf collection video, Amberly Village) Cost depends on length. To help with Communicating about city services, events, pool and other annual sign-up opportunities to residents. We recommend you visit <https://www.espmediasn.com/amberley-village> and view a couple of the videos ESP has produced for Amberly Village. Tax drop-off style video is a good example of something that may benefit residents.

Note regarding campaign videos: These will be paid for by candidates (about \$200 each.) Could also be done as podcasts. The Committee feels that this is reasonable that the City not pay this expense, unless Council decides otherwise.

Discussion:

Initial savings are estimated at around \$28,000/year. It is assumed that some money would be spent on podcasts and maybe a promotional video in year 1. Podcasts would be a great opportunity for Council members and Mayor Bemmes to discuss important events, construction work, new regulations, etc. It could be used as an opportunity to interview our Police/Fire chiefs, congratulate teams or businesses and promote goodwill within the City of Reading.

Next Steps:

ICRC requires a certified letter no later than November 1 to cancel services by the end of the year.

The UL&B Committee recommends that the Administration move forward with this proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mrs. Kroeger and was seconded by Mr. Thamann. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:59 pm.

X _____

Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____

Dwight Daum
President of Council