

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
October 5, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Pro Tem Mr. Fischesser called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pro Tem Mr. Fischesser 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 (also serving as Clerk of Council), Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco. Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Lynd to excuse Mr. Lindeman. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Safety Service Director Patrick Ross.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None*

PROCLAMATION: *Mayor Bemmes provided a Proclamation Recognizing Life Long Resident Lois Petronio (Vedder) on her upcoming 100th Birthday. Declared October 23rd, 2021 as Lois Marie Vedder Petronio Day in the City of Reading.*

Tonight, I want to start our meeting by presenting a Proclamation to one of the most incredible individuals from one of the most incredible Reading families that I have ever met. Tonight, we have with us Lois Vedder Petronio who in 18 days will be 100 years young, but it isn't just the amount of years that she has lived it's more about what she has done with her life. Through good days and tough days, she has remained a Prayerful and Faithful Servant to her Lord and Savior. Her dad was our cities Safety and Services Director and now her grandson is serving in that role.

COMMUNICATIONS: *None*

GUEST SPEAKER: *Linda Fitzgerald (Reading Economic Development Director)*

- For 5 years Economic Development & the Safety Service Director have been working with 3 CEOs at Avecia.
- Avecia is currently located in Reading adjacent to the city owned Reading Life Science Expansion Site property.
- The financing and development history of the Reading Life Sciences Property was shared with Council.
- Noted the majority of the City Earnings Tax comes from the current 4 companies on our 50-acre Life Science Hub.
- Gave significant credit to the Law Director Mr. Stevenson for his contribution to the negotiations with Avecia.
- The use of the City Community Improvement Corp. (CIC) is critical to our sole sourcing sale of the property to Avecia.
- Reviewed a purchase agreement with Avecia for Council Ordinance using the CIC as the Agent for the sale.
- Mayor Bemmes commended the Ohio State efforts to start a program for developing "Job Ready Sites" and paid credit to Linda for that early and continued effort on this Site.
- Mr. Gertz lead a discussion on many of the main important features and financial inclusions in the Agreement.

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Lynd to go out of order to read the related agenda Ordinance. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote.

(1) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF READING, ACTING AS AGENT FOR THE CITY OF READING, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NITTO DENKO AVECIA, INC., A DELEWARE CORPORATION, FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE LIFE SCIENCE EXPANSION SITE OWNED BY THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (First Reading)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Lynd to suspend the second & third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dwight Daum 2345 East Galbraith Rd

- Asked Mr. Gertz how soon an ordinance could be written to move the Avecia sale proceeds to the 340 Fund.
- Mr. Gertz stated that the funds would have to be closed & collected prior to any Ordinance to move the funds.
- Stated that his concern was that the funds would go to the correct location and not to a place where the monies would be easily wasted presumably by the Administration or by Council.

Patrick Ormond 2720 Maple Tree Ct

- Thanked the organizations and individuals that he helped start, Walk with a Purpose.
- Discussed the Adopt a Street or a Park volunteer efforts.

James Murray 21 Magic Ln

- Addressed Council with a long history and questions for a meeting on May 7th, 2019 concerning Magic Lane.

REPORTS OF GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

Our Police Dept received more than 1300 calls for service in the last month

Our Fire/EMS department had 257 responses in the last month

Our Public Works department provides a multitude of different services for our City

Congrats to our Fire/EMS dept on receiving the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline EMS Silver Plus

Achievement Award for treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks

A lot of great events continue to go on in our City.

Our 12th annual Antique car show on September 12 was a huge success with 115 incredible Antique cars

Our Lady of the Valleys (formerly Saints Peter and Paul) Septemberfest was another great event and I want to thank the incredible volunteers who work so hard every year to make this an outstanding event in our City

Our reading Bridal Districts annual Fall in Love event on Benson Street was on September 22. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to put this event on. I made sure we as a City did all that we could to make sure Benson Street looked as good as possible and I want to especially thank our Public Works crew for getting curb work completed and helping make sure the paving of Benson from Reading Road to the Mill Creek was completed before the event

SPPA's 14th annual Running Scared 5k run is this Saturday October 9 starting at 6pm. The following streets will be closed from 6pm-7pm. West St through the Cemetery, go right on Columbia to left on Jefferson to Benson (Benson will not be closed) back on Jefferson to right on Columbia through the Cemetery to West to Bernard to Riesenberg turn around at Columbia and follow Riesenberg to walking trail to Stadium. Please support this event as all proceeds go to support SPPA K-8 education. SPPA is starting their 15th year of providing an excellent Catholic education for young students at a very affordable cost in part due to events like this This event takes a lot of hard work from a lot of incredible volunteers each year and we are incredibly blessed to have this wonderful school in our community. If you would like to participate in this 5k run/walk or donate time or money to help, please call Bonnie at 673-7225

Our Fire Departments Turkey Raffle will be on November 19 and 20 at the Haffey Fieldhouse starting at 7pm

I attended our Business Roundtable meeting at MND on Sept 15. It is always great to get together with our top employers to see how they are doing and hear what concerns they may have. Each CEO has Patrick's and my cell phone numbers

Also, on September 15, I attended our Chamber of Commerce meeting. It is always good for me to hear our Chambers updates as well as updates from our Reading Bridal District and our Reading Schools.

We finally found someone who was willing to take the position of Crossing Guard at Benson and Columbia to help students from MND and Reading Community Schools more safely cross the street. Tomorrow, October 6, our Reading Community School District is participating in a Walk to School Day. Our Police department and all of our City Employees are aware of this and will keep an eye out, as they always do, for our young students as they make their way to and from school. PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ALL PEDESTRIANS

Our Farmers Market is closed till next May but was a huge success this year and is going to continue to get better and better

Our Reading Historical Societies 32nd annual Settlement day Dinner will be on October 22 starting at 5:30 at the Haffey fieldhouse. Burchy Schulte, Don and Rose Lindeman and Every Now and Then Antique Furniture Mall will be recognized.

Our Historical Society will also be remembering and celebrating the lives of Jim Lichtenberg and Cindy Roth. Tickets are

only \$15 for adults and \$10 for children that includes a delicious boxed dinner. I have tickets if anybody needs them. Please become involved with or support our Historical Society

Several major road projects are going on in our City including, South Reading RD improvements with new sidewalks and lighting starting soon with new crosswalks and paving coming, a new bridge on North Reading RD, Thurnridge Drive improvements including new 8" in diameter water main, all new sidewalks, widen entire street 3 feet, five speed humps will be installed to slow traffic down, all new curbs and aprons, (\$1 million grant & \$1 million loan) with saw cutting for the new water main starting soon. , Benson Street was repaved using approx. \$110,000 in CDBG grant dollars (Reading Road to Mill Creek) North Street will get major work (\$566,000 total \$283,000 of this is in SCIP Grant dollars. Patrick told me council has already decided on proposals for the next round of CDBG using half of the grant for paving and ½ to address dilapidated property

It is my very strong recommendation that we set aside the majority of any additional monies we receive from the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funds in a fund to protect payroll as tough economic times could be ahead.

If we as a City are going to be as safe as we can be it will take all of us doing our part. Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and please call our Police at 733-4122 anytime you see suspicious or illegal activity

I want to thank everyone who work so hard to make our City better. Our VYO, Reading Youth Football, Reading Youth Soccer are all volunteer organizations who spend a lot of time and effort giving the youth of our community outstanding opportunities to be involved in team sports. VYO basketball sign ups at the Fieldhouse are over but if you know of any boys or girls grades k-6 who want to play please call Bonnie Rack at 673-7225.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross (Absent but the following written Report was offer and included)

- Thurnridge Drive Update
 - Adleta was delayed allowing Duke to finish gas service lines connections and has been finishing another job while Duke did that.
 - They should be starting water main work within 2-3 weeks
- Benson
 - Lids still being worked on. Some are MSD, and some are Reading's. Need to replace these
- Third St. / Mechanic
 - Letters from City/Duke being delivered describing delay of repaving to allow the City to install new water main/ curbs/ aprons

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson

- Commented on a hard two weeks of the passing of many citizens of the Reading Family of residents.
- Gas Pipeline Decision came out on September 22nd. The officials basically they liked the arguments, but they made no change. The decision is available on the Ohio Supreme Courts Website Opinion Number is 2021-Ohio-3301. There was a 7-0 decision. The Reading involvement in this Case is concluded.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz (Report given by Anthony Gertz)

- Sent to Administration and City Council the Income Tax Receipt Summary for September. Another good month. We were \$9669.00 ahead for the month compared to last year. Overall YTD we are \$653,689.00 ahead of last year at this time.
- Mr. Anthony Gertz comments concerning the comparison between 2021 and 2019 for the year to date was incorrectly reported as \$6,476,074 (2021 thru September) to \$7,630,893 (2019 End of Year). The corrected amount would be \$6,016,669 (2019 thru September) a positive correction of \$1,614,224.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith

- I reported tonight that the Ordinance is for the Fire Truck Payment of \$54K.
- The City of Reading will be doing software demos on October 18 for three companies. This is to replace the City-wide software that controls Payroll, Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets, PO Processing, and Moving Income over into a new System. Lots of analysis to be done. Excited to get this process started.
- Looking to close September tonight or tomorrow.
- Payables starting to finish up for the end of the year. It's the last big rush of purchases happening. Excited to get ready for 2022.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- The 2022 Budget has been approved by the Budget Commission.
- Suggested that all City Departments develop a Needs List for the 2022 Year.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman (Report given by Anthony Gertz)

- Wanted to let the residents of the City know that the new Water Meters have been saving the City about \$2400 per month due to the rapid reading method and that labor savings is allowing other City activities to be worked.
- Alerted all to the fact that the Reading Bridal District meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers.
- Dave Powell reported a preliminary concept rendering for the corner of Benson and Reading for an Iconic Fountain project was provided by Don to his Committee that was done by Jeff Lichtenberg. Mayor Bemmes added that there are at least two other concepts previously offered; one was a clock tower and the other a message board.

ZONING, PLANING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Contacted a company called Management Partners that provide Organizational Analysis. Looking to have them invited to a future meeting. The rendering was sent to the bridal District for comments.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- Plan on attending the October 20th Board of Education meeting. There was some discussion about the Central property and stadium during our Council of the Whole session after our last meeting and some council members had some questions that only the school could answer.
- If you would like, you can email me questions or let me know what, if any, questions you might have that you would like me to relay to the school board.
- Going to contact the school treasurer and ask to be added to the agenda. Per board policy, guests that wish to speak longer than 3 minutes need to ask to be added 10 days prior.
- Again, the meeting is Wednesday, October 20th and would need the questions before then.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- **Police:** For the month of September, the Police 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.
- **Committee Meeting:** The Health and Safety Committee met last Tuesday, September 28th, with Chief Owens and Chief Edens. The main purpose of the meeting was to obtain updates on various issues.
- **For the Fire Department:**
 - They gave a test back in August. From that 8 passed and one has been hired. Three were interviewed last Thursday. Two are still needed to fill all positions.
 - The potential proposal to supply fire and EMS services to Golf Manor has been put on hold due to inability to reach an agreement.
 - The new squad should be delivered by the end of this month. If you remember, this was the unit that was purchased from Blue Ash. The patient compartment has been totally refurbished and placed on a new chassis. Doing this, as opposed to buying a new unit has saved the city close to \$100K.
 - There may be an ordinance coming before council to purchase 6 sets of turnout gear. The anticipated cost will be around \$15K and will come out of the FD Capital fund.
- **For the Police:**
 - Applications have been submitted for two body camera grants. One is a 50/50 matching and the other is non-matching. Both allow for waiting to see if the state will fund in the 2022 budget. The anticipated cost for body cameras is just over \$31K. In car cameras would be about \$55K including install.
 - Other capital needs include continuation of the cruiser replacement program with an estimated cost of \$88K for the two vehicles and \$5K for four radar units.

- There is also concern with the phone/radio recorder. The current system has not been supported by the manufacturer since 2019. This is used by both the police and fire departments for car-to-car and foreground recording that is not being recorded by the Comm center. Anticipated cost is \$20K.
- As for personnel, they will be giving a test on the 16th of this month with plans to hire one patrolman now. They are also starting to look at some staffing restructuring.

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- New Mechanic Aaron Griffis started yesterday.
- Service Equipment will be outfitted soon for leaf collection and a notice on the timing will be given.
- There is 650 tons of salt at the Service Department and 350 tons stored at the Ohio River. Plans to order another 1000 tons for this coming year. Morton Salt was bought out and the new company could plan to make all salt stored locally.
- Requesting the Administration will support the purchase of a Mini Excavator for \$65,000 and a new 1 Ton Truck for \$38,500.

RECREATION: Tom Lynd

- Service Department is working towards lining the soccer fields. Sent thanks to the Service Department for all that they do. All agreed that the Service Department is very Talented.
- Noted upcoming events: 5K Running Scared, Historical Society Dinner on Friday, October 22nd, Halloween on October 31st 6-8 PM, Fire Department Turkey Raffle on November 19th & 20th, and Christmas Tree Lighting on December 3rd.

OTHER BUSINESS

- David Powell announced his 19th Wedding Anniversary was this evening.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS – (NONE)

READING OF ORDINANCES *(The meetings first Ordinance was moved to near the start of the Agenda.)*

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,506.28 FOR THE FIRE ENGINE FROM THE FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (242.310.5990.00) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Motion made by Mr. Lynd, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the second & third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Lynd, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-37

OTHER BUSINESS *(None)*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:26 pm.

X _____
Dennis Albrinck
 Pro Tem Clerk of Council

X _____
RANDY FISCHER
 Pro Tem President of Council