

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 6, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

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. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve November 15 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut): Expressed his opinion about Council voting to no longer use ICRC TV for the communication of the Council Meetings. Stated that a public pronouncement be made as to how citizens can view these meetings going forward. Says it's important for the community to know that the only way to view Council meetings going forward is to create an account with Vimeo.com. The contract states that the new provider only required to archive the meetings for 3 months. Urges Council to keep a recording of Council meetings.

Terry Cox (263 Burkhart avenue)

(1) Traffic on Burkhart concern. People disregard the speed radar and do not follow the speed limit of 25 mph. Would like Council to consider speed bumps.

(2) There is a 4-Family apartment building on the street in which a SWAT team was deployed to 2 weeks ago. It was a pretty scary situation and he (Terry) couldn't obtain any information about what was going on. Terry would like reassurance that the street is safe.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Don Lykins expressing appreciation of Officer Teeple:

"Chief Edens,

*I want you to know how much I appreciate Officer **Teeple** and what he did Sunday night, 11/20/2022 around 10pm. His keen senses and diligence took one more gun off the street.*

*We will never know where these thugs were headed or where they had been or what trouble they were going to cause. What we do know is: **Officer Teeple stopped them in their tracks and for that, our community is forever grateful...!!!!***

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FACTS:

Officer Teeple spotted a car headed down Galbraith with a flat fire making a loud noise around 10pm, Sunday 11/20/2022.

Teeple pursued the car and it turned down Burkhart (I live on that same block, but on 8415 Reading), where the occupants abandoned the car and took off on foot through the neighborhood, right into my back yard.

Teeple with many others combed our back yards looking for the suspects, but they were nowhere to be found.

*Although they got away, I **commend Officer Teeple** for pursuing them in the first place and most importantly, getting one more gun off the street.*

I got involved when the neighbors texted me saying armed gunmen were roaming the neighborhood and the police told them to stay inside.

I assisted Officer Teeple by looking through all my security footage, as I have a web of surveillance up and down the 8400 block of Reading, but didn't see anyone fleeing the area.

Again, good work Officer Teeple.... We certainly appreciate your diligence.

Don Lykins, 513-305-4737, dlykins@cinci.rr.com

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO DIAL 911 FOR ANY POLICE, FIRE, or EMS EMERGENCY. When calling our Police department at 733-4122 or our general offices at 733-3725 PLEASE take time to listen to the prompts informing you of your options.
- I administered the Oath of Office to our two new Police Officers Robert Hauserman and Charles Brown. Officer Hauserman will start with us on 12/12 and Officer Brown on 12/21
- Leaf pick up will end this Friday December 9. Our Public Works department will assess the leaf situation and possibly do more leaf pick ups if time allows
- Please shop in Reading and support our outstanding local businesses as they support our City our Schools and our Organizations
- Our Christmas tree lighting and Crib Dedication ceremony on December 2 was very well attended with Santa and Mrs Claus appearing at Redwine and Company on Benson Street after the tree lighting. The Benson street walk where businesses had booths and prizes also went well despite rainy weather
- The Knights of Saint John will have their annual ham raffle on December 10 and 11 starting at 7pm with the best turtle soup on earth
- Our American Legion will host the Army vs Navy game on December 10 at 3pm

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- Our Exterior Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer continues to address property issues with the goal of identifying violations and finding solutions. Please call City Hall at 733-3725 or contact Rick Martin at rmartin@readingohio.org to report any issues you feel we need to address
- PLEASE SIGN UP FOR HAMILTON COUNTIES FREE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. In addition to area wide notifications we as a city can utilize it for Reading specific notifications in case of an emergency. Please go to Smart911.com to sign up
- 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 513-733-4122 anytime you see suspicious or illegal activity or dial 911 if you feel it is an emergency. If anyone wants to become involved in a neighborhood watch program please contact me at 513-509-8619
- I want to thank everyone who work so hard to make our city better. Reading continues to be home for a lot of wonderful individuals and families who do incredible things day in out.
- If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 513-509-8619 or at rhemmes@readingohio.org.

I Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas filled with our Saviors Peace and Love.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross:

- Meeting held with Fire Chief and Assistant Chief and the Port regarding demolition and future water and sprinkler service issues. Asbestos abatement and Demo Permit has been given to Demo Contractor
- 3rd Street Update- Concrete work and restoration will be completed this week. Contractor will then be back for paving after winter weather breaks for paving
- City Hall- New flooring to replace carpets in main hallway, council room, caucus room, and auditor's office will be completed in next month
- Awarded \$50 K Lead Service Line Identification through Ohio EPA. Our water department members will complete this over the course of the next 12 months
- Regular Leaf Pickup will end after this Friday. In the meantime, you can bag the leaves, but they will come back out later this month when some of the late leaf fallers drop
- SSD Attended 2-day Ohio BWC Class...City required to do trainings and classes to achieve savings Will realize savings on the upcoming premium due to changes in job classification rating changes – approximately \$80,000-\$90,000
- MSD Stormwater Project- Phase 1 is underway and nearing completion. Phase two may begin later this month. Work will begin at the north end of Reading Road at Cooper Creek. Will have a meeting with MSD and Contractor in January regarding traffic and detour around Gahl, Gorman, North Street. Work will begin in that area 3-4 months.
- Electric and Gas Aggregation- Electric aggregation with Dynegy expired at end of December. Hoping to get new pricing program in place by spring of 2023. Objective is to have a price per KWH that beats Duke's in summer months when electricity usage is highest
- Thank you to all the volunteers and organizers of Tree Lighting, Crib Dedication, and Benson Street Walk last Friday night.
- Fire Department thanks everyone for coming out to Turkey Raffle
- Robert Hauserman and Charles Brown starting this month

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- Appropriations Adjustment and Temporary Appropriations at next meeting...will need a quorum otherwise another meeting will be required prior to year end.
- When you call our police at 733-4122 or offices 733-3725 please listen to the prompts...phone system has changed a few months ago

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson:

- There have been questions raised to several of you regarding the office allowance that I receive as Law Director. The existence of the Law Director's office allowance predates my employment. The amount prior to my employment was \$700 – \$800 per month. Upon taking office in March of 1995, I reduced the amount to \$500 per month (\$6,000 / year) and it has been included in the annual appropriation for my office by Council at that level since that time. I request the amount by purchase order/requisition at the beginning of each year. Over the course of my service it has been paid in different manners (monthly, quarterly, and annually) depending on the pleasure of the auditor or deputy auditor responsible for the payment. The office allowance that I receive is taxable income to me and I receive a 1099 form each year that reflects that payment.

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
November 2022 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison**

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$96,093	\$110,812	\$107,429	\$79,333	-26.2%
February	\$68,356	\$67,807	\$45,896	\$37,035	-19.3%
March	\$117,226	\$89,577	\$127,056	\$131,391	3.4%
April	\$415,198	\$109,428	\$221,576	\$457,756	106.6%
May	\$77,836	\$48,987	\$223,455	\$102,421	-54.2%
June	\$115,093	\$99,289	\$134,637	\$107,043	-20.5%
July	\$53,556	\$337,009	\$82,544	\$28,939	-64.9%
August	\$70,483	\$71,990	\$39,361	\$36,571	-7.1%
September	\$102,017	\$106,778	\$89,782	\$79,408	-11.6%
October	\$38,131	\$93,081	\$56,061	\$63,966	14.1%
November	\$54,158	\$76,487	\$14,763	\$64,047	333.8%
December	\$58,151	\$96,708	\$86,298		
Yearly Totals	\$1,266,298	\$1,307,953	\$1,228,857	\$1,187,910	
YTD Progress	\$1,208,147	\$1,211,245	\$1,142,560	\$1,187,910	4.0%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$555,799	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	-4.0%
February	\$418,114	\$530,926	\$462,760	\$441,735	-4.5%
March	\$403,816	\$419,609	\$413,361	\$434,394	5.1%
April	\$718,041	\$590,089	\$801,135	\$752,396	-6.1%
May	\$464,702	\$453,000	\$490,963	\$534,911	9.0%
June	\$463,205	\$441,487	\$484,864	\$470,151	-3.0%
July	\$474,774	\$433,643	\$507,334	\$501,087	-1.2%
August	\$410,495	\$519,886	\$566,411	\$591,928	4.5%
September	\$519,714	\$392,475	\$411,837	\$464,052	12.7%
October	\$457,049	\$449,639	\$549,184	\$606,041	10.4%
November	\$454,636	\$483,331	\$545,750	\$493,632	-9.5%
December	\$458,688	\$429,457	\$432,363		
Yearly Totals	\$5,799,031	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$5,979,470	
YTD Progress	\$5,340,344	\$5,253,757	\$5,951,550	\$5,979,470	0.5%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$14,888	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	308.2%
February	\$37,357	\$18,896	\$58,854	\$24,719	-58.0%
March	\$44,127	\$77,585	\$23,641	\$210,097	788.7%
April	\$146,628	\$26,014	\$137,747	\$274,272	99.1%
May	\$22,169	\$21,905	\$60,812	\$42,806	-29.6%
June	\$87,523	\$39,477	\$87,483	\$399,300	356.4%
July	\$7,829	\$95,430	\$43,735	\$15,804	-63.9%
August	\$50,022	\$80,398	\$38,207	\$22,399	-41.4%
September	\$61,612	\$77,959	\$85,263	\$336,599	294.8%
October	\$16,216	\$32,831	\$42,542	\$22,564	-47.0%
November	\$13,642	\$17,874	\$22,412	\$15,798	-29.5%
December	\$63,553	\$26,952	\$87,159		
Yearly Totals	\$565,565	\$537,579	\$699,835	\$1,413,264	
YTD Progress	\$502,011	\$510,627	\$612,676	\$1,413,264	130.7%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$666,780	\$672,741	\$837,361	\$817,383	-2.4%
February	\$523,826	\$617,629	\$567,510	\$503,488	-11.3%
March	\$565,169	\$586,771	\$564,058	\$775,881	37.6%
April	\$1,279,867	\$725,531	\$1,160,458	\$1,484,424	27.9%
May	\$564,707	\$523,892	\$775,230	\$680,137	-12.3%
June	\$665,820	\$580,253	\$706,984	\$976,494	38.1%
July	\$536,158	\$866,082	\$633,613	\$545,830	-13.9%
August	\$531,000	\$672,274	\$643,978	\$650,899	1.1%
September	\$683,343	\$577,213	\$586,882	\$880,060	50.0%
October	\$511,396	\$575,551	\$647,787	\$692,571	6.9%
November	\$522,436	\$577,693	\$582,925	\$573,477	-1.6%
December	\$580,392	\$553,117	\$605,819		
Yearly Totals	\$7,630,893	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,605	\$8,580,644	
YTD Progress	\$7,050,502	\$6,975,629	\$7,706,786	\$8,580,644	11.3%

Total Refunds	2019 =	\$135,343	2020 =	\$132,162	2021 =	\$115,450	2022 YTD Refunds =	\$169,800
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 12/01/2022

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AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

Welcome to December 2022!

Thank you all for a great year!

Please take time to look at the Ohio Auditor's Website if you want to view our previous Audits. <https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/search.aspx>

You can also view them at the Public Library by utilizing their computers.

A couple of reminders for our last meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

1. Adjustment of Appropriations – We do this every year to adjust what we spent throughout the year and other projects we took on as a City. Also, whatever Council passes through the year that was able to get done financially in 2022. Patrick does the general fund 101 and I do the non-general fund. You will have two ordinances to pass. Since the week of December 19, 2022 is a payroll week, we will not have these ordinances to you early. Both ordinances will come to you on Tuesday, December 20. They also need to pass with an emergency clause. This is because Patrick has to turn this into Hamilton County for approval. Rest assured that because you passed the permanent appropriations earlier this year that this is a settle-up from that. You can see where we stand on the reports for November that I just passed out. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Patrick and myself. When Patrick does the budget each year he does it in a conservative manner to allow for Council projects or emergency funds needed throughout the year. Most of the changes on appropriations comes from the work you did over 2022.
2. Temporary Appropriations for 2023 – Patrick will also have this ordinance for you to pass. This is to allow us to pay bills starting January 2023. Without this passed ordinance I cannot cut checks. It will be an emergency clause. The Permanent Appropriations for 2023 will be passed next year after we see what the payable landscape looks like. Every business has battled inflation and our recurring bills have changed a lot from 2019-Present. Patrick will have to turn this into the county as well.

Thank you to Andy for holding our Finance Committee Meetings throughout the year.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop *(No Report)*

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- I have been reviewing the proposed changes to the exterior property maintenance code as part of the laws and contracts committee.

I would like to schedule a Planning Zoning and Environment committee meeting after the Holidays to brainstorm how the City could become more efficient dealing with zoning and exterior property maintenance issues. Possibly even a blitz this late winter/spring to clean up issues along our main corridors.

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Next committee meeting January 3 @ 6:30 pm.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I held a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting on November 29.

On the agenda we had two items. The first being the updated Property Maintenance codes that Patrick and I have received from Paul Culter. Unfortunately, the codes did not show up correctly for my committee members and did not show the changes and new information marked in red, so we moved that item to our next committee meeting.

Regarding the second item on the agenda, we discussed the marijuana moratorium and possible dispensary. In light of and taking in consideration the concerns of surrounding businesses and residents, as well as information from our Economic Developer, I'm asking that we table the resolution and ordinances that I have on the agenda for tonight.

I have another committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 PM here in council chambers to discuss the updated Property Maintenance codes and whether or not to move forward with overturning the moratorium.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for November, 2022

- Calls for service 1007
- Auto Accidents 32
- Booking Original Charges 89
- Total Criminal Charges 117

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 6
- Arlington Heights 14
- Juvenile 1
- Reading Mayor's 67

Total Citations 88

For the month of November, there were several OVIs, some theft reports, 32 auto accidents, a couple overdoes and a few domestic violence charges.

I'd like to congratulate Officers Pichard and Teeple for their outstanding work locating a missing elderly male from West Chester.

Also, congratulations to Michelle Naish and Officer Kevin Poppe for their police department employee of the year awards they received last night at the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party.

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It is only December, but it is time to start talking summer! Beginning, Tuesday, January 3 we will start taking pool applications for concession & front desk employees as well as lifeguards. Lifeguards do not need to be certified to apply; however, they must have their certification by June 1. Concession and front desk employees need to be at least 14 years old by June 1 and lifeguards must be 15 when they take the certification classes. If you have any questions, please give Susan Slavey a call at City Hall. We will consider all rehires first then we will take applications in order they are received so it is important that you get your application in within the first couple of weeks of January. Unfortunately, we do have to turn down applicants.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF READING AS CODIFIED IN CHAPTERS 1242 AND 1270 OF THE READING CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION OF MEDICAL MARIJAUNA RETAIL DISPENSARIES AND TRANSMITTING SAME TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF READING FOR ITS REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION (SECOND READING)

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to table this resolution. Motion carried by voice vote

(2) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAW DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STRAUSS TROY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES TO THE CITY AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS FOR ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS MADE BY DON LYKINS AND ANY LITIGATION WHICH MAY RESULT THERE FROM

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-37R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-53, SECTION 624.24 OF THE CITY OF READING CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PERMIT RETAIL DISPENSARIES OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA (SECOND READING)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Powell to table this ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF READING AS CODIFIED IN CHAPTERS 1242 AND 1270 OF THE READING CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION OF MEDICAL MARIJAUNA DISPENSARIES (SECOND READING)

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Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner to table this ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**(3) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN FULL AND PART-TIME NON-BARGAINING POSITIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
(SECOND READING)**

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “no”). Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “no”).

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-38

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A STANDARD LX (DIESEL) VALVE TURNER FROM EH WACHS FOR THE WATER UTILITY DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-29

(5) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THAT THE NET PROCEEDS (AMOUNTING TO \$392,848.26) RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF READING AS AGENT FOR THE CITY RESULTING FROM THE SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF READING TO NITTO DENKO AVECIA, INC., REMAIN WITH THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF READING FOR THE PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING AND ACQUIRING OTHER PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF READING TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council