

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 21, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Mr. Nesbitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President 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. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to excuse Mr. Lindeman. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 7 (Regular)

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Patrick Ormond (2720 Maple Tree Ct)

Thanked the departing Council Members for their time and courage while on Council. Mentioned to Dave Powell and Katie Eadicicco (returning Council Members) that there's a lot of work to do in 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS: *None*

GUEST SPEAKER: *None*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None Requested*

Auditor, Sabrina Smith: Mentioned the need for a Special Council Meeting to be held due to the final budget Appropriations Adjustments ordinances needing to be passed before the end of the year. The Budget Committee is meeting on December 31st so it has to be turned in to them before then. Her goal is for her (Non-General Fund Ordinance) and Patrick Ross (General Fund Ordinance) to get these items into Council's hands this weekend so it can be voted on as soon as possible.

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mr. Albrinck to schedule a meeting for Monday, December 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, for the purpose of passing the final budget Appropriations Adjustment ordinances. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: *None*

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES OF PAY FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022 AND THEREAFTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Gertz, to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote.

TREASURER: Mel Gertz: Detailed that this ordinance is being brought to the floor because "there are to excellent people that run the day-to-day operations in the Treasurer's Office (Deputy Treasurers, Michelle Kramer and Shannon Hoelmer). Michelle has worked in the Treasurers Office for 30 years and Shannon was hired 7 years ago. They both do an outstanding job - through all the pandemic, all the changes and rules... bottom line is, the last time we passed an Ordinance to give them a pay increase was in December of 2015 (6 years ago). Since then, the only increases they've had are cost of living increases. Currently, they're making \$29.11 an hour. With this ordinance, their annual salary is going to be \$64,000.00 a year (\$30.77 an hour), a 5.6% increase. They are so deserving of this, and we've got such great professionals in that office that run the day-to-day operations, that I am totally is support of this. I tried to keep this reasonable and after not having any raise for 5 years, a 5.6% increase isn't too unrealistic. I've discussed this with them, and they are happy with it."

Mr. Albrinck asked if they are salaried employees and Ms. Smith confirmed they are. Mr. Gertz explained that during tax season, if they work over 12 hours they get “comp time” but do not receive “over time pay”. Mr. Gertz pointed out that we are in the middle of implementing electronic filing (a few months ago Council passed an ordinance so we could buy the software to implement electronic filing) and if all goes well we’ll have electronic filing operational before the end of the calendar year or in early January. This should help with some of the foot traffic when residents are paying their taxes.

Mr. Tony Gertz pointed out that in 1978, the City of Reading changed the policy of having a Tax Commissioner in Reading with the Treasurer and with an additional political appointment. Since then, the Treasurer is “fundamentally” the Tax Commissioner. Many other communities have a Director of Finance or a Tax Commissioner making \$75,000.00 a year or more with a Deputy Treasurer making \$60,000.00 - \$65,000.00 a year. Many years ago we eliminated that job and merged them into the department we currently have (City of Reading Treasurer making \$10,800 a year). For the last 40 years, the Treasurers office has been operating very economically and they do an excellent job. 5.6% raise may seem steep but considering all the work and comparing it to other communities, the percentage seems fair to him.

Motion made by Mr. Gertz, seconded by Mr. Powell to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-47

TREASURER: Mel Gertz: Gave month to date update on collections: December collection: \$542,737.00 (running a little over \$64,000.00 ahead of 2020). 2020 Year to date: \$8,249,523.00 (running 11% ahead from 2020, or \$795,565.00.)

OTHER BUSINESS

2022 Inauguration will be at 12:00 p.m. on January 1 at Haffey Field House.

Mr. Nesbitt thanked the City of Reading for the 7 elections that he was elected in and he is completing his 14th year on Council. He commented that it was nice to be on Council, to learn things, enjoy the changes, understand what is happening in the City and he recommends it to anyone who has the time to volunteer and get involved with the City. There is a great Council coming in

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:54 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Cris Nesbitt
President of Council