

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 17, 2023 – 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, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve January 3 (Regular) Council Minutes made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bishop. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Pat Ormond (2720 Maple Tree Court) – Agrees with Bob Ashbrock’s request to Council at the last meeting: the sidewalks at Waxwing & Hunt are slipping into the creek. This is becoming very dangerous. Requests that this matter be a priority for the City, even if it is just a temporary repair.

Bob Boehner Response: This will be discussed at the next Service Committee Meeting on January 31 at 7:00 p.m. This will have to be a grant project. This portion of sidewalk was repaired about 12-15 years ago and has lasted a lot longer than anticipated. At the next Service Committee Meeting on January 31, paving driveway to the Service Department will be discussed as well.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS: Annie Hess, Pat Ormond & Gage Bradford (Hamilton County Resource) gave a presentation to Council regarding the Reading Recycling initiative.



Working with Hamilton County

A year ago a city-wide residential recycling program began with Rumpke.

The City received an approximately \$30,000 grant to place recycling containers throughout our city park system.



This will also replace old, dated trash cans to create matching pairs that will add value to our parks.

Witt Industries has been manufacturing waste receptacles in the US since 1887.

Their products are made to be long-lasting, with US-sourced, galvalume steel that is powder coat finished.

This company is held in high regard across the country for the quality of product they make.

Their gift of \$30,000 in matching trash receptacles is incredibly generous!



Our Current System



We can be better!

(With the help of Hamilton County & Witt!)



- Decreased workload for city workers
- Same number of waste cans served
- Fewer trips to Incinerator Lane & less hauling of heavy blue barrels
- Cleaner look in parks
- City seen as an environmental role model



Things to think about...

- Pickup of cans from Witt Industries in Mason to save freight costs
- Possible construction of cement pads for can placement
- Anchors to secure cans as needed
- Purchase of clear recycling bags in addition to traditional garbage bags



Additional recommendations...

- Purchase/donation of Brute/Rubbermaid trash cans that can be stored at park shelters for park rentals to further eliminate the need for the blue barrels.



Realistic Goals

- Increase the efficiency of our city parks employees
- Rid our parks of the dirty blue barrels
- Present a cleaner, more efficient waste collection system
- Increase recycling in our public areas (over 50% of park waste is recyclable)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE 5 SETS OF BLEACHERS FOR KOENIG PARK AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00.

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

to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote .

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-05

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022 - 07 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EMPLOY CERTAIN TEMPORARY, SEASONAL AND PART-TIME HELP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-06

(3) AN ORDINANCE ELIMINATING THE TWO PERCENT FEE ON GROSS RECEIPTS OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCISEES' FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ACCESS FOR PUBLIC AND LOCAL ACCESS PROGRAMMING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-07

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:.

(1) Mark Bishop –

Statistics from the first meeting recorded and televised via ESP Media:

January 3, 2023 Meeting:

- 128 unique viewers for the last meeting
- 278 live viewing impressions
- 61 viewed archived version on YouTube
- 122 listeners on 16 podcast platforms of the audio version of the meeting

New to the City of Reading Council Meeting Videos:

- One click viewing at watchreadingohio.com
- Resolution of the meeting is now on 1080p vs. 720p
- Meeting minutes scrolling on the screen at the beginning of the meeting
- Ordinances showing on the screen for public viewing

Update on ICRCtv archived meetings:

- All meetings from 2015-2022 have been archived on our server and shared with the City of Reading
- The 2015 meetings are now archived on the City of Reading YouTube page.
- 2016-2019 will be archived this week on the City of Reading YouTube page.

(2) Shelly Kroeger: Next Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23 @ 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

(3) Bob Boehner: Received a complaint that there is a personal turck/vehicle parking at the south side of the

Popeyes parking lot.

(4) Bo Bemmes:

- On January 1 we held our Treasurer/City Council Inauguration with Ohio Supreme Court Justice Pat Fischer administering the Oath of Office to each member in attendance. I had the honor of administering the Oath to our new Treasurer Brenda Owens and City Council member Katie Eadicicco as they couldn't attend on January 1st
- Also, on January 1 we turned our Police Dispatch over to the Hamilton County Communication Center saving us substantial dollars without negatively effecting services. We maintained two Police Clerks who take calls when they are available. When calling 733-4122 if you get the automated attendant recording and want to get immediate help press 1 and it will go directly to Hamilton County Communication Center dispatch or press 2 if you want to leave a message or talk to an officer
- City wide recycling starte
- Our \$2.2 million Thurnridge Drive project was completed using 1 million in grant dollars. A new eight inch in diameter water main was installed replacing an aged three inch in diameter pipe. All new sidewalks, curbs, driveway aprons and new pavement were installed along with speed humps to slow traffic down.
- We repaved North Street with one half of the total project being paid for through a grant.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation installed a new bridge over Cooper Creek on Reading Road completed at no cost to City
- Duke Energy paid us \$460,000 to repave 3rd street which will happen as soon as weather permits
- New 8" in diameter water main installed on 3rd street with new curbs and aprons
- We repaved Benson street from Reading Road to Lockland using CDBG grant dollars
- We received a \$25,000 safety grant for Police body worn cameras and Police car cameras
- We received a \$50,000 grant to locate lead water lines and have begun doing the work
- We received \$100,000 through a Municipal Road Fund grant to repave Fuhrman Road from Sanborn Court to Columbia Avenue. We are waiting to see if we receive any State Capital Improvement grant dollars to complete this project and if we don't we will apply for a zero percent interest loan
- We placed \$392,000 aside for economic development from the sale of our former Nivison property to Avecia
- A \$265,000 SORTA grant was awarded to us to repave Columbia Ave from Reading Road to Lockland
Koenig Park restrooms were remodeled.
- We Applied for an NFL grant (\$250k)
- We Applied for a Safe Routes to School grant.

- We worked with the Port Authority to get millions of dollars in grants to address EPA issues, demo work and asbestos removal at the former Dow Chemical site to prepare for new businesses (with the goal of 400 new jobs/\$500,000 in new earnings tax revenue)
- We worked with ODOT, Cincinnati, Amberly & Sycamore Township for improvements on South Reading Road
- We finished our 14th year providing Fire/EMS services for Arlington Heights
- We finished our 3rd year providing EMS services for Amberly Village
- We increased staffing for our Fire/EMS Department for the 1st time since 1978
- We finished our 3rd year providing Arlington Heights Police services and signed a new 5-year contract
- Public Works constructed a new salt storage bin that will hold 1000 tons of salt
- We purchased a new dump truck, mini backhoe and pickup truck for Public Works
- We purchased a refurbished leaf vac
- We purchased two new Police Cruisers
- A new roof was installed and the exterior was painted on Historical Society building
- The Haffey Fieldhouse has a new roof, exterior paint was applied and a new concrete entry walk was installed
- Purchased new Payroll/Finance software to replace outdated
- We accomplished many IT improvements.
- We replaced ICRC with ESP Media for City Council broadcasts/recordings saving approx \$25,000 per year
- The 112th annual Memorial Day Parade was awesome
- 2022 was the first full year of Reading Community Arts Center being open
- Finished our 7th year being Self Insured as a part of the Ohio Benefits Cooperative saving us over \$300k

Recommendations for 2023:

- Continue to build and maintain a healthy Rainy Day/Reserve fund.
- Continue to aggressively work on getting new businesses/jobs on the former Dow Chemical site
- Continue to work with Avecia to get new jobs on the former Nivison property.
- Continue to work with General Tool on their future expansion plans.
- Continue to get our Safety and Services Departments the tools they need while living within our means.
- Continue to proactively maintain Law and Order in our Community with the manpower and equipment we are given. I want to thank our Mayors Court Magistrate, our Law Director, our Mayors Court Clerk and our Police Department for operating an efficient, fair and effective Court.
- Continue to evaluate installing Field Turf and a new Track at Vets Stadium vs other major projects. We will meet soon with our Reading Community School Reps, Reading Youth Football and Reading Youth soccer to seek their

support and financial help to see if Field Turf is feasible.

- Continue to evaluate total replacement of our aging City Pool
- Continue to evaluate and address our pressing needs for our Parks.
- Continue looking into, with our VYO, a new Gym/Rec center next to our VYO/Haffey Fieldhouse
- Continue to work with our Business Roundtable, Chamber and RBD to attract new businesses.
- Continue to find ways to help/improve our Building and Ext Prop Main Depts
- Continue our strong working relationships with our Schools.
- Continue to aggressively seek Grants and continue our success rate in getting them.
- Continue to prioritize Road, Water Main and Sewer projects and find funding to complete.
- Continue to do all we can to keep our City as neat, clean and litter free as possible
- Continue, as best we can, to prepare our parks for festivals, picnics, family gatherings, parties and reunions. We also, with the resources we are given, will continue to prepare our athletic fields, our stadium and our fieldhouse for all to use. We continue to have limited manpower and dollars to spend in our Parks and Recreation facilities and ask for everyone's patience, understanding and help so we can all get the most possible out of what we have.
- We will meet with MSD soon to see when their sewer project on Reading Road will begin with the reminder that two lanes of Reading Road will be closed for a goon part of this yuear.

I want to thank everyone again for all that you do to help make our City the best that we can be

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Boehner and was seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 pm.

X_____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X_____
Dwight Daum
President of Council