

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
MAY 16, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com

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, & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the April 18 Council Minutes made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bishop. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion made by May 2 Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Deb Wittworth (114 Siebenthaler) –

- Recently spoke with Jed Harting (President of the Board of Directors) asking about the potential construction at the Classical Academy that is said to begin in September 2023. Mr. Harting told her that information is not correct. They have not signed an agreement with the Archdiocese yet but knows they are trying to sell it. The two locations being considered are Siebenthaler and Wards Corner. Mr. Harting volunteered to come meet with the Siebenthaler community residents, but she declined his offer because she felt it should be City of Reading representatives present. Mrs. Wittworth speaks for a group of Siebenthaler residents who have been meeting regarding the prospective Classical Academy expansion and offers their assistance to the City and City Council with this. It is their position that they do not want the expansion, which would result in an additional 1,000 students. The property is not able to accommodate that addition considering fire, safety & infrastructure. Mrs. Wittworth asked Council if the City of Reading can approach the school before contracts begin or are finalized to discuss, plan and speak on behalf of the residents' concerns for this potential expansion.

(2) Sue Renderly (160 Siebenthaler) – Would like to keep the property next to the school that the nuns live in zoned as "residential." Would like to keep the lines of communication open between their group and Council on how to remedy the situation. Mrs. Renderly pointed out that speeding is still an ongoing issue on Siebenthaler and asked if they can get another speed sign going up the Siebenthaler hill from the school or a police officer to sit and monitor the traffic? Mrs. Renderly also made mention that the speed sign that is currently placed on Siebenthaler is not always on and therefore does not display the speeding information. Mayor Bo Bemmes said Chief Edens will be listening to this meeting and will check everything out and respond accordingly.

Mr. Boehner commented that the school would need a building permit to execute the plan due to the one residential house needing to become a major part of their parking and roadway. A permit would require a traffic study. Such changes that would be needed with an expansion like this would require new sprinkler systems in the buildings and a minimum of 400 parking spaces. Mr. Boehner also pointed out that after speaking with the City's Service

Department Manager, Mr. Courtney, a 6in watermain would not cover the needs of a new sprinkler system. A new 8in main would be needed. MSD would need to get involved to determine if sewer capacity is sufficient.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to put this in Dave Powell's committee to discuss the zoning question for the house that is connected to the school property as to whether it can be changed or kept "residential" zoning. Motion approved by voice vote. Mr. Powell will get in contact with Mr. Hastings.

Mr. Powell pointed out that the only way zoning can change is it has to be approved by the Zoning & Planning Commission Committee and Council.

(2) **Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut Street):** Spoke to last meeting's presentation by Tri-State Trails that requested the city contribute financially to the feasibility study. Would like to see Council agree to this contribution.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF READING, OHIO, TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-17R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND UPDATING CHAPTER 1426 OF THE READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES – EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE BY REPEAL AND SUBSTITUTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, 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. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-18

(2) AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 214 OF THE READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES IN ITS ENTIRETY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-19

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO MAKE PAYMENT TO TRI -STATE TRAILS FOR THE APPORTIONED COST OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MILLCREEK TRIANGLE TRAIL.

Motion made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Powell to add the Emergency Clause and the following to this ordinance:
"Section III This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Reading, reason being that this funding must be in place to allow project manager to meet a July deadline for additional grant applications pursuant to this important city project."

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO MAKE PAYMENT TO TRI -STATE TRAILS FOR THE APPORTIONED COST OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MILLCREEK TRIANGLE TRAIL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-20

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TOTRANSFER \$901.00 FROM THE RESERVE BALANCE ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL FUND UNENCUMBERED BALANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-21

(5) AN ORDINANCE AWARDDING A CONTRACT JOHN R. JURGENSEN COMPANY FOR THE WEST COLUMBIA AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR FIVE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS AND EIGHTY CENTS (\$547,780.80), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bishop 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. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-22

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner to add the following Ordinance to the agenda. Motion carried by roll call vote.

(6) 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 GAIL SHARP FYHRIE AND CYNTHIA SHARP BROWN, FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 13 EAST BENSON STREET, OWNED BY THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Powell clarified that this purchase agreement is for the property between the old Rally's site and the railroad tracks. The

City had previously acquired the property by forfeiture. The City now has an offer to sell this property for \$125,000, which is over the appraised value of the property. There are a series of restrictions that have been discussed during negotiations to help control the use of the property so that the desires of the community for that property can be met. The proposed purchasers are the owners of the Rally's site. The idea being that they will combine the lots and develop it within the restrictions that are currently in place with a specified time limit of 5 years. If they have not developed the property within 5 years, the City has the right to repurchase the property for the same amount.

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mr. Bishop 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. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-23

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(1) Mr. Bishop -

ESP MEDIA SATS

Viewing/listening stats from the last meeting on May 2:

Vimeo Live:

98 unique viewers

216 impressions

YouTube Archived:

69 unique viewers

Audio Archived Listeners:

173 unique listeners

Mr. Bishop also mentioned that if anyone cannot make it to the Memorial Day parade on May 29, the parade will be broadcast live on watchreadingohio.com.

(2) Mrs. Kroeger - Condolences to the families of Nancy Ramsey & Bill Manis.

(3) Mr. Thamann - Pool Sign-ups this Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. You may also come to the Haffey Fieldhouse from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 22, 23 & 24 or May 30 & 31 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to sign up if you cannot make the May 20th date and time. Beyond that, the pool is rolling out souvenir cups this year for \$5.00 each and refills will be \$1.00 for the entire year.

And, most importantly, Happy Birthday, Mom!

(4) Mr. Bochner –

Reading Public Works Council Report May 16, 2023

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

Vacall was out cleaning catch basins

City crews are in the process of locating lead line water services and exercising street valves

City crew replaced a door at the Hilltop Fire station

City crews have been painting soccer fields throughout the City

City crews have been cleaning and filling the City pool for the opening later this month

BLUE ASH HAS OPENED HUNT RD AS THEIR REPAIRS ARE DONE

City crews repaired a water main break on Waxwing Dr

City crew used the mow trim and knocked down over grown tree limbs on Hunt Rd from the Blue Ash Corp line to East Columbia Ave

City crews have been assembling bleachers for the park

City crews are going to pick up new trash cans (80) of them to go into the parks and throughout the city

City crews will be out painting traffic lines throughout the city in the next couple of weeks

(5) Mr. Bronner – Next Finance Committee Meeting, May 23 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

(6) Mr. Bemmes

– Proclamation for retiring MND teacher & coach Sr. Ruth Beddinghaus. She graduated herself from MND in 1969, and after graduation from Mt. St. Joseph University and then joining the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, she spent the next 44 years teaching Biology and Anatomy at MND. She also coached softball and volleyball that led to her induction into MND's Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations Sr. Ruth!

- From the Police Chief, reminder to PLEASE lock your vehicles and don't leave valuables inside. Please also call the police when you see any vandalism, suspicious or illegal activity.

- First Farmer's Market of the season will be Friday, May 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our Farmer's Market will go on every Friday until September 29th at the corner of Reading Road and Vine Street.

- On May 20, the Mill Creek Alliance and Yacht Club will have a "Paddle the Mill Creek" event.

- VYO Memorial Day Festival is May 26, 27 & 29 at Koenig Park with excellent food, drinks, entertainment, rides and softball games. Please come to Koenig Park and support an incredible ALL VOLUNTEER organization that keeps over 300 boys and girls busy 6-7 months a year with softball, baseball & basketball. All kids are given the opportunity to be on a team and learn the fundamentals of the game, teamwork & good sportsmanship.

- The 114 Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29, starts at 9:00 a.m. in Arlington Heights.

- Fundraising for the Hilltop Basketball Court Renovation in Honor of Chad Richmond is ongoing. As of today they have raised over \$70,000.00 and they're getting closer to getting bids for the work to be completed.

- Congratulations to all graduating students of MND, Reading High School, Sts. Peter & Paul and the Classical Academy for the 2023 year!

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Thamann, and was seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council