CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
MARCH 02, 2021 – 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER
President of Council Cris Nesbitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
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. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Mel Gertz, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 2 (Regular), February 3 (Special), February 16 (Regular)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None.
COMMUNICATIONS – None

CHIEF OF POLICE (BRYAN EDENS)
Wolfcon Body and in-car camera System

- The body camera and in-car system provided by the same company Wolfcom.
- The company has been in business for over 19 years and is contracted with the US department of defense for body cameras. Over 1,500 agencies across the US use this system.
- The system would include 10 body cameras the first year. Starting the 3,d year we would receive 10 additional body cameras that could each be activated for an additional fee or be kept as spares or rotated out with the other body cameras.
- Included is 7 in-car cameras that work in tandem with the body cameras. Both can be triggered to automatically turn the cameras on in the event that an officer activated their emergency lights or draws their weapon.
- The video from the car automatically downloads to the server when the officer returns to the station.
- Includes an in-house computer server which eliminates the need to purchase cloud storage each month. lf more space is needed, then additional computer hard drives can be purchased saving money as the hard drive can be purchased once for a few hundred dollars where cloud storage is several thousands of dollars each year. (Average cost of cloud storage is a minimum of 52500 a year)
- Officers can review their video but cannot edit the video.
- Remote live viewing of the camera. lf an officer is calling for help on the radio administration and other authorized uses can live stream that officers body camera video.
- The camera is equipped with an emergency button that would notify dispatch of the officers GPS location and give the dispatcher a live feed from the officer's camera.
- Cameras have live GPS and monitor location in the event of a foot pursuit.
- The body cameras allow an officer to push a button and speak directly with dispatch if there is a problem with the radio. Officers can also contact other officers via the body camera. (each camera include 1 GB of data a moth for this feature.)
- Facial recognition software is installed which can alert officers that a person has an alert attached to them (agency programed)
- Unlimited technical support and online training.
- 3 year on site support for the data server.
- Redaction software included. Can be set up to automatically purge video as determined by the retention policy.
- Officers are able to create entire case files on the system for court. (download photos, documents, add outside video, etc)
- Complete system for all cameras, software, licenses, server for the 5 years is $546,191.29
- Cost per year after the 5 years would S2s0 per activated camera. (S+zso f or Ll cameras 10 body cameras and 7 in car cameras)

City recommendations:

- Hire part time person to redact and prepare video request from public and courts. (15K - 20K / year)
- Server replacement every 5-7 years at a cost between 5K - 1Ok. t Apply for body camera and in car camera grants prior to purchase to minimize the cost to the City and taxpayers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Fischesser to enter into Executive Session for purpose of discussing contracts with the Service Department. Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Council entered into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Albrinck, seconded by Mr. Powell to come back to regular session from Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Anthony Gertz

- Have not received anything from the Budget Commission regarding the 2021 Budget.
- Gave brief review of some of the specific City funds

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Don Lindeman

- **RECYCLING:** Before we move forward with a ballot issue in November for curbside recycling for the entire city, we are asking for some cost updates from waste and recycling companies. I will be reporting on any progress in the future. I would appreciate any comments from the general public on this matter.
- **WATER MEETERS:** We are almost 100% complete installing the new water meter system. Thanks too the Public Works Department and other water department employees they were successfully installed and are performing up to expectations.

I met with other members of Service Committee (Mr. Albrinck Chairperson) and with several members of the public works department and Mr. Courtney, chief of Public Works on 2/23/21 to discuss personnel and equipment needs. I'll let Mr. Albrinck go into details. I again want to commend the public works department for an outstanding job of keeping our streets clear of snow and our citizens safe during the heavy snow and ice that we have had in the past couple weeks.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- I have been doing research into the fee schedule for the building department and have come across something else that should be addressed. The council minutes section on the City's web site needs work. It was very frustrating to me trying to do research on an ordinance and I imagine it is pretty frustrating to anyone else attempting to find something. I plan on working with our Clerk, the President of Council and the Administration to try and improve things.

Anyone that has driven Maple Drive in the last year or so is aware of the dip in the pavement near the top of the street. I recently have noticed 811 utility markings in the area so I suspect some work may be occurring soon.

LAWS AND CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- The laws and contracts committee had a productive meeting last Thursday. We are definitely got off to a good start. I'm meeting with Patrick on Friday to discuss some of the items that we talked about during the meeting and Mr. Powell and I are comparing the registered rental lists from the Fire Chief and Hamilton County.

I'd like to schedule another committee meeting for next Thursday, March 11 at 6:30pm if that date and time works for Mr. Powell and Mr. Gertz.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: Randy Fischesser

- Since we have spent time for the body camera presentation by Chief Edens, I will not have a report this evening.
I would like to thank Chief Edens for taking the time to address council this evening. I will update council on the police and fire run statistics for February at the next meeting

SERVICE: Dennis Albrinck

- **STAFFING:** There are presently 13 employees plus Darrell Courtney in the Service Department. This is one employee under the minimum staffing requirement. This number is based on the formula of one driver for each of the six snow routes times 2 in the event of a 24 hour snow removal effort plus a mechanic for each of the shifts. We presently have only one mechanic who is presently responsible for the maintenance of over 80 vehicles and piece of equipment in the City. IT IS IMPERATIVVE THAT A TEST BE GIVEN IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH AN ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR MECHANIC AND TO HIRE AN INDIVIGIBLE AS SOON AS LIST IS ESTABLISHED. It is recommended that a test be given for truck driver in the event an employee leaves the city's employ for any reason.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:

1. 1/2 ton pickup to replace a 2003 model that has 160,000 miles on it. Rusted through. $25,000-$30,000,

2. One ton dump truck to replace Unit 30 (1998- 77,000 miles) and Unit 69 (2001- 88,000 miles). $85,000 dressed out with plow and spreader.
3. Small one ton pick up to replace vehicle used to clean parks. Present one in 22 years old. $20,000-$25,000).
4. Mini-excavator for water main breaks and other uses. Attachment can be purchased for uses such as use as a Motrim to replace a 40 year old tractor that presently is used. This purchase could come from the Water Fund. $70,000.
5. Street sweeper. Present one is 30 years old and rusted through and parts are not available to make repairs. A smaller one than the one we have is recommended. $275,000.
6. Mulcher. We only have one and it has an excessive amount of running time and is breaking down more often. $75,000 from Street Fund.
7. Pull behind Valve Turner. Such an automatic turner would make things easier, more efficient, and safer. All water valves are expected to be inspected and exercised every year. $65,000 from the water fund.
8. Listening device to locate water main breaks. Our present one is in need of replacement. $4,500. This should be purchased immediately from the Water Fund.

SALT REPORT: We have ordered a total of 1,218.99 tons of road deicing salt at $69.69 per ton which totals $84,950.02. We presently have approximately 700 ton in the salt bin. We have used 1200 tons of salt this year compared to approximately 250 tons each of the last two or three years. This has saved the City about $100,000 in salt cost the last couple of years. A price increase is expected for next year.

PARTIAL LIST OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

1. Snow and Ice removal
2. Roadway Maintenance and repair
3. Catch basin inspection, cleaning, repair, replacement, initial installation of new ones
4. Storm sewer inspection, cleaning, repair, replacement, initial installation of new ones
5. Traffic Signal maintenance, repair, timing, installation
6. Street and Roadway signage installation, inspection, repair, replacement
7. Water main repair, maintenance, installation
8. Water valve recording and mapping, inspection, exercising- everyone every year
9. Vehicle maintenance and repair for all departments
10. Equipment maintenance and repair – 80 plus vehicles and pieces of equipment
11. Office cleaning
12. Street sweeping
13. Sidewalk repair and installation
14. Curb inspection, repair, and installation
15. Parks and Recreation Facilities – 10 in number
16. Facility maintenance
17. Grass cutting, landscaping, and tree trimming
18. Litter pickup
19. Garbage and recycling collection around town in parks and city streets
20. Community Pool maintenance
21. Light post painting
22. Street line painting
23. Crosswalk painting
24. Leaf pickup
25. Brush pickup
26. Creek debris cleaning
27. Tree trimming and removal
28. Stump grinding
29. Overnight truck setting and removal
30. Ballfield lining and striping and grass cutting
31. Water pump house maintenance
32. Water reservoir repair and maintenance
33. Park equipment inspection, repair, replacement
34. Ballfield lights inspection repair and replacement
35. Scoreboard maintenance and repair
36. Fencing inspection and repair – perimeter and backstops at ballfields
37. Christmas decorations and nativity set up
38. Road blockage and detour set ups for special events or emergencies
39. Guardrail installation and maintenance
40. Water meter installation and repair

RECREATION: Tom Lynd
- The pool sign-ups are currently scheduled for the first three Saturdays in May from 10-noon.
- We are still trying to make a decision on the annual Easter Egg Hunt. If we don't have the Easter Egg Hunt, we will have an Easter parade like last year.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS
MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes
- No Report

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross
- Gave an update on the Duke Pipeline.
  - Will be on weekly calls with the project manager who is onsite of the Pipeline project.
  - Streets will be blocked but he's ensured that the public will be able to get around
  - Reminded everyone that we are still appealing this at the Supreme Court but they were given an allowance to proceed. He will continue to work with them in an effort to lessen the impact.
- Storm Water on Hunt Road has started. They anticipate that by March 22 they will be doing the roadwork part of their repair and Hunt Road will be closed.

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson
- No Report

TREASURER: Mel Gertz
- February 2021 Financial Update: Total collected - $1,404,87.00 (8.9% ahead of 2020)

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith
- In the Auditor's Office we are working on the GAAP for 2020 which is the first part of our auditing process. This process will take time through May. I want to remind Council and Administration that my software will become obsolete in 2025. Patrick, Diane, and I started investigating this in 2019 and early 2020 and it came to a halt because of COVID-19. This new system with help with automation, efficiency, and help each department make purchases faster and more streamlined. A new software will have to purchased and the start-up process complete to start utilizing this new software. Something else in my office is the addition of multiple vendors, more than before. This is because companies have gone out of business or acquired and/or time it takes to get items. A new vendor profile has to be created or decided that this will be a one and done purchase so a 99999 code can be used. This is a lot of extra work for the Auditor's Office and our Department heads. Being able to set this up electronically will be something that is desired with the purchase of a new software system. Thank you for your time and I hope everyone has a great March.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS
(1) A RESOLUTION SETTING GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion made by Mr. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Lynd, Mr. Albrinck, Mr. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "Yes" and Mr. Gertz voting "No"). Motion made by Mrs. Fischesser, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Lynd, Mr. Albrinck, Mr. Lindeman, Mr. Fischesser & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "Yes" and Mr. Gertz voting "No"). .

RESOLUTION ADOPTED **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-09R**

READING OF ORDINANCES

OTHER BUSINESS
Mr. Fischesser: I wish to extend my condolences o Mike Hardewig and his family on the passing of his mother, Shirley Stall. Shirley was an active member of the Fire Department Auxiliary during its existence. Mike is one of our recently

retired firefighter-paramedics. Her Mass of Christian Burial will be at OLSH Church Thursday, March 4th at 10:00am.

Mr. Gertz: Asked for an update from Safety Service Director Patrick Ross about (1) Status on the CDGB money for the new restrooms at Koenig Park (2) Update on the pole at the corner of Bolser and Columbia (3) Update on adding sidewalks to the West side of Reading Road (4) Update on the removal of trees on Thurnridge Drive & (5) Update on the purchase of the property across the street from City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:47 pm.

X Carla Kacher

CARLA KACHER
Clerk of Council

X Cris Nesbitt

CRIS NESBITT
President of Council